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O'Malley's Budget Targets Top Earners

Plan Would Begin Capping Deductions for Marylanders Making More Than \$100,000

By DAVE NYCZEPIR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Gov. Martin O'Malley is proposing capping income tax deductions and rolling back income tax exemptions for Maryland's highest earners as part of his plan to close the \$1 billion hole in the state's \$14 billion operating budget.

O'Malley's plan would begin capping deductions for Marylanders making more than \$100,000 and reduce exemptions for singles making more than \$100,000 and couples making more than \$150,000.

The exemptions would disappear for singles at \$125,000 and couples at \$175,000.

The governor said that only two out of every 10 Maryland residents would receive a smaller amount in their refund check as a result.

"In order to get us through this recession in advance of other states, and in order to protect the priorities of the people of our state and the futures of our children, there are difficult things we need to

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PHOTO BY JAY BAKER

Governor Martin O'Malley addresses a 2012 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Governor Unveils 2012 Legislative Agenda

Plan Includes Capital Program to Support 52,000 jobs; Legislation to Promote a More Sustainable Future and Continue Maryland's Health Care

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley unveiled the Administration's 2012 legislative agenda focused on job creation, innovation, sustainability, health care, and equal protection under the law, just days after releasing the Administration's FY 2013 budget proposal focused on many of the same priorities.

"To move Maryland forward, we must be willing to make the modern invest-

ments our modern economy requires to create jobs," said Governor O'Malley. "This session, our legislative agenda will help us create jobs for Maryland families, protect the quality of life for all Marylanders, and continue our push for a more sustainable future. Together, we can expand opportunity today, so that our children can compete and win the jobs and opportunity of tomorrow."

In July, Governor O'Malley announced that he is sponsoring legislation for marriage equality, a bill that would ensure equal protection under the

law for Maryland's same-sex couples who wish to marry and their children while providing exemptions for religious institutions.

The Governor's agenda includes legislation to create jobs through innovation, infrastructure investments, regulatory reform, and public-private partnerships.

The Administration's legislative package also includes bills to promote a more sustainable future for Maryland.

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Education Funding Divides Leaders

Counties are Responsible for Splitting Costs with the State

By TIM EBNER
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Cash-strapped Maryland county leaders say they can't afford to pay their share of rising costs for schools and are asking the state to back off of a requirement to match state education funding dollar-for-dollar.

Counties are responsible for splitting education costs with the state. But, education groups say about a third of Maryland counties are not matching state funding at the level required under Maryland law.

That includes two of Maryland's largest school districts, Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties, and five smaller districts - Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Wicomico counties - according to an analysis by the Maryland State Education Association.

County leaders say they can't fully match state funding because they have been hit hard by a reduction in property tax and income tax revenue over

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Park Service Looks to Expand Deer Killing to DC's Rock Creek Park

By VARUN SAXENA
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Rock Creek Park officials are waiting for National Park Service approval of a plan that allows them to employ sharpshooters to reduce the deer population in the Washington section of the park, as is done in Montgomery County.

Approval may come as early as Feb. 13.

Without action to control the deer population, Rock Creek Park will become nothing more than a "tangle of trees" that don't represent the native habitat because of overgrazing by deer, said Park Ranger Nick Bartolomeo.

Rock Creek Park rangers and biologists fenced areas of the park to protect them from deer. They found that the undergrowth in the protected

areas was healthier and more diverse.

Rock Creek Park follows the Rock Creek from Lake Needwood in Rockville to the edge of the Potomac River in Georgetown. It widens in the northwest corner of D.C. to cover the entire area between Oregon Avenue and 16th Street. It also expands north of Norbeck Road in Rockville.

If approved, the sharpshooting will occur on winter nights, when the park is closed. It will be conducted by specially trained biologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Safety is the primary concern," Bartolomeo said.

His staff will patrol the park to make sure that no one is in the area when the sharpshooting occurs.

Still, the public expressed



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY VARUN SAXENA

A car drives by a deer crossing area in Rock Creek Park near Van Ness in Northwest Washington.

safety concerns during the public comment period from July to November 2009. Ethical issues were also of concern.

The National Park Service received 2,560 comments on various aspects of the plan. Opponents outnumbered supporters by a ratio of about three to one.

The goal of the plan is to reduce the deer population from about 80 per square mile to 15-20 per square mile

because that is the level at which scientists have determined the forest will regenerate, Bartolomeo said. There are about 375 deer in Rock Creek Park.

Sharpshooting will occur for at least three years. Nonlethal methods will be considered in subsequent years.

The service will also con-

See **DEER**, Page A7

Program Brings iPads to County Classrooms

By TIM EBNER
Capital News Service

NEW CARROLLTON - Instead of solving math problems with pencil and paper in Christina Jerome's 8th grade classroom at Charles Carroll Middle School, students add and subtract with a simple swipe of a finger.

They're using iPads to take notes, study for quizzes and review homework, part of a federally-funded experiment that county leaders say should serve as a national model for integration of new technology into the classroom.

"I can't stand paper," said Jerome, who uses the tablet computers to get instant feedback on student performance in class. "If I have the students use the eClicker app on the iPad, I can immediately see how many students got the right answer and which students need help."

Using a \$1.3 million stimu-

lus grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Prince George's County is providing iPads to 3,000 students at four middle schools



PHOTO BY APPLE

Apple's iPad

where a majority of pupils qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, known as Title I schools.

The program is aimed at preparing students for a digi-

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INSIDE

The Next Generation

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department will begin training the next generation of firefighters and emergency medical personnel in the fall.

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Small Business Program

The legislative compromise on a short-term payroll tax extension dominated headlines in late December, but few journalists heralded a provision that was included in the bill that will help small businesses and boost America's economy: the six-year reauthorization of the Small Business program.

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Foreclosures Are Down

Maryland foreclosures last year hit the lowest level since the collapse of the national housing market in 2007, according to year-end data from RealtyTrac, and the state's foreclosure rate now ranks in the bottom tier in the country.

See the fourth quarter report.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review

The 9/11 terrorist attacks may eventually serve as source material or inspiration for dozens of movies, fact-based and fictional. But so far, with only a few exceptions, filmmakers have been hesitant to address the subject directly.

Ten years later, still movies don't mention 9/11 explicitly.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I understand that some companies are now looking to cut down forests and burn them as "biomass" for generating electricity. Is nothing sacred?

-- Audrey Barklay,
Newark, NJ

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Andrews' West Gate to reopen for pedestrians

The West Gate at Joint Base Andrews is due to open for pedestrian use this month. After Sept. 11, 2001, it was considered a security risk and was closed. Opening now, with more security in place, it will offer a safe dropoff location for personnel using Metro. It will provide easier access for some of the 3,000 or so who are relocating to Andrews through the Pentagon's base realignment.

The West Gate, which is on Allentown Road across from the Andrews Manor Shopping Center, was built in the 1940s. It used to have heavy vehicle traffic. It is hoped that now, with more pedestrians around, the shopping center will see new commercial opportunities—like restaurants, a bank, a drug store, a Woolworth's.

Neighbors

Dwight "Chipper" Holloway flew in from London for a five-day Christmas holiday with his parents, Dwight and Ruby Holloway of Skyline.

Some of you may remember my neighbor Virginia Stine. She was a member of Bells Church and had a kindergarten there for a few years. Anyway, she writes that she turned 90 in May and had successful cataract surgery in November. She lives alone, except for her 24-pound cat Pierre and a new kitten someone left on her porch.

Condolences to Winnie Lanehart, of Skyline, on the death of her brother, Leroy Bowie, a retired Navy man who passed away Jan. 11 in Glen Burnie.

Reminders

The price of a first-class stamp is now 45 cents, up one penny. However, from now on, all first-class stamps will be

Forever stamps—good for first-class, forever. Each additional ounce is 20 cents; postcards, 32 cents; first class to Canada and Mexico, 85 cents; other international destinations, \$1.05. How many of you remember when you could mail a letter for three cents, and a postcard for a penny?

Coming up

Mount Calvary Catholic School, 6704 Marlboro Pike in Forestville, is hosting a Valentine's Cabaret on Saturday Feb. 11, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Sponsored by the Home and School Association to benefit the Technology Department. Music will be by The Amazing DJ 640. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Free set-ups. Call 301-735-5262 for information and tickets.

Celebrate Darnall's Chance's Scottish heritage and partake in a cozy winter afternoon tea on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. Come enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland. Capacity is limited. Reservations and payment (\$20) are required in advance. Call 301-952-8010. Darnall's Chance is at 12800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro.

Remembering Christa

Christa McAuliffe was an American teacher from Concord, N. H., and one of the seven crewmembers killed when the Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight on Jan. 28, 1986.

She had been selected from more than 11,000 applicants to participate in the NASA Teacher in Space Project, was selected and became the first teacher in space. She was slated to conduct experiments and teach two lessons from space.

What's relevant to us on the

26th anniversary of the tragedy? Her first teaching job was at Benjamin Foulois Middle School in Morningside.

May they rest in peace

Jack W. Schoen, 82, formerly of Morningside and Suitland, died Jan. 13 at his home in Waldorf. He was born in Washington to Thomas and Pearl Schoen. He was retired as manager for Columbia Auto Parts. His wife Catherine, sons Charles and Michael, daughters Donna Schoen and Eileen Culpepper preceded him in death. Survivors include son Timothy, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), which took the lives of four of his children.

Ronald George Cunningham, 69, of La Plata, died Dec. 31 in Boston. He began his teaching career at Crossland High in 1964 as a social studies teacher. He later taught at Surrattsville and was principal of Bladensburg and High Point high schools. He served as Deputy Associate Superintendent of Schools in Charles County. He was a member of the Kiwanis, Elks, Rotary Club and United Way. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Mary Anne Cunningham and a son.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my great-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; Lisa Call, Jan. 29; David Call, Martha Kline and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30; Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; Skyline Citizens President Stanley Holmes and Wilma Martin, Feb. 2.

Will the groundhog see its shadow?

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

SOUL FOOD FESTIVAL

It's our Soul Food Dinner on Saturday, February 18, 2012 (12 Noon until all dinners are sold) at St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD. Dinners are Chicken \$11.00, Chitterlings or Pig Feet \$13.00, Fish or Barbeque Spare Ribs \$13.00. All dinners include potato salad, sweet potatoes, green beans, black-eyed peas and bread.

The Festival is sponsored by St. Philip's Church and Asbury United Methodist Church. Points of contacts are Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260/ (301) 888-1475 or Michele K. Chase (301) 888-2510. Please call (301-888-1536) day of dinner.

OLD MARYLAND FARM

Come visit the Old Maryland Farm located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774. This is an educational farm with year-round livestock displays that include cow, ponies, chickens, ducks, and many more. There are animal feed machines for 25 cents. Walk thru their interpre-

tive gardens and stop at the Barn Cat Gift Shop to shop for unique farm gifts. You can also pick up their seasonal farm brochure. Call for schedule and information concerning curriculum-based school programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade, and farm programs for youth groups and organizations, pony rides, birthday parties and more activities. Telephone number is 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544. Hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM; Saturdays, 9:00 AM -4:00 PM, Sundays, 11:30 AM-4:30 PM.

SHOW: HARRIET TUBMAN

Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 4:00 PM Surratt House Museum Show: Harriet Tubman-Meet the Amazing Woman. Harriet Tubman the "Moses of Her People" led slaves to freedom, served as both spy and scout for the Union during the Civil War, and was a nurse for fugitive slaves. Join Gwendolyn Briley-Strand as she discusses the life of this remarkable woman. The

Surratt House museum address is 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735.

CHANGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Many volunteer opportunities can be found through the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation. Volunteering is a healthy habit and if you would like to volunteer in your community you can get a complete list of opportunities, visit www.pgparcs.com/Volunteers. To get more information, contact the Department's Volunteer Services and Community Partnerships Coordinator at 301-446-3321.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, MD will have their Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (5:00 PM-7:00 PM). Adults pay \$7.00, children \$5.00 (12 years and under) children free (5 Years and under). Benefit for St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Congresswoman Edwards' Statement on President Obama's State of the Union Address

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement following President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address to Congress.

"President Obama's State of the Union address is a call to action to create jobs, make investments in American manufacturing and generate a green economy. I am particularly thankful for the President's leadership on initiatives I have fought for in the House of Representatives: spurring research and development, incentivizing domestic manufacturing, and investing in green jobs. These are pathways to create good, high-wage jobs, make necessary investments to increase productivity, and ensure short- and long-term economic prosperity in a 21st Century global economy. Homeowners throughout Maryland will support the President's focus on investigating misconduct in home mortgages and on modifying the tax code to one that is fair and simple for the middle class and ensures that the wealthiest few pay their fair share.

"Under President Obama's leadership, we have seen 22 months of consecutive job growth, 3.2 million private sector jobs added, and a manufacturing sector that is creating jobs for the first time since the 90s. The President and

Democrats in Congress know a lot more needs to be done to give our middle class and working families the future they deserve. Tonight, President Obama put forth a blueprint on how to achieve just that."

Congresswoman Edwards Highlights Need to Address Citizens United on Two Year Anniversary of Supreme Court Ruling

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) released the following statement regarding the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling on January 21, 2010. In response to the decision, Congresswoman Edwards and Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers (D-MI) introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, H. J. Res 78. It would reverse the Supreme Court's unprecedented application of the First Amendment to corporations allowing them to spend unlimited money to influence elections. The amendment would give specific authority to Congress and the states to regulate corporate expenditures on political activity.

"Two years ago, the Supreme Court's flawed ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding legal precedent and granted corporations equal rights to that of an individual to participate in our electoral process. Just as Justice John Paul Stevens



warned in his dissenting opinion that the ruling could 'undermine the integrity of elected institutions around the nation,' we are now seeing the devastating effects at the start of the 2012 presidential primaries. Super PACs are funneling staggering amounts of money into attack ads with zero transparency or accountability, and it will only get worse in the general election.

"The American people must be in control of our democracy instead of those with the greatest financial resources. We have an obligation to take action to reign in the role money plays in politics, and that is why I was proud to join with Ranking Member Conyers (D-MI) to introduce our Constitutional amendment, H. J. Res 78. Americans understand the importance of maintaining integrity in our electoral process and is why such efforts receive bipartisan support. We must once and for all ensure that individuals determine our politics, not corporations or money. The time to act is now."

Congressman Chris Van Hollens' Legislative Update

Van Hollen Statement on the State of the Union

Washington, DC - Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, today issued the following statement on President Obama's State of the Union address:

"Tonight, President Obama laid out the stark situation our nation faces - we are at a crossroads. Will we invest in America's future and help working families build a better future for themselves and their children? Or will we go back to politics that worked for the wealthiest and Wall Street but failed Main Street? I believe the President has put forth a

clear path to give every American a fair shot at success and allow every child a chance at a better future.

"Our economic recovery has come a long way, but there is no question that we still have work to do. Putting Americans back to work and spurring economic growth is priority number one for President Obama and Democrats in Congress. The President's four pillars for a country and an economy built to last - American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values - are an important blueprint for a successful future for our nation. At the same time, we must work now to put in place a bal-



anced plan to reduce the deficit over the long-term.

"The American dream is not dead - but it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to achieve. I hope that my Republican colleagues will work with us to rebuild an economy that works for everyone, not just special interests. There is simply too much at stake."

Neighborhood Events

FREE Weatherization Assistance Offered to Eligible County Residents

Largo, MD --- The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is offering free weatherization assistance to eligible low income households in Prince George's County. Free installation of energy conservation measures to reduce heat loss and air infiltration will be made to households that meet minimum income requirements and who are elderly, disabled or have a family with children less than 5 years of age. The program is provided through a grant from the US Department of Energy. The County can provide up to \$6,500 per home in energy efficiency measures.

"Our qualified energy auditors will determine which measures need to be installed to increase the home's efficiency based on the results of the audit, then our trained and certified weatherization staff will come in and properly weatherize the house," says Eric C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development.

Some of the energy efficiency measures include: insulation of attics, floors, walls, basements and crawl spaces; caulking/air sealing around windows, doors and crawl spaces;

wrapping hot water heaters and pipes; making hot water system improvements; and addressing health and safety items. The weatherization staff provides energy conservation education to homeowners that participate in the program.

Since the program's inception, the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development has weatherized 283 county homes, spending an average cost of \$5,447 per home. By participating in this weatherization program, county residents can reduce their utility bills by an average of 30 to 35%, reduce their energy consumption and reduce their cost of home maintenance. The weatherization program is not a home repair program and all homes must be structurally sound before any energy conservation measures can be installed. The County gives special priority to elderly homeowners and families whose income is no more than 60% of the state median income or less.

To determine eligibility to participate in the program, county residents can visit the Prince George's County Government website, go to the Department of Housing and Community Development and click on Weatherization Assistance at www.princegeorgesmd.gov.

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Tax strategies in a tough economy

For most of us, income tax calculations don't change much from year to year. But thanks to the roller coaster economy of the past few years, many people have undergone major life changes that can have a significant impact — good or bad — on their taxable income and how they should file taxes.



Even though April 17 (this year's tax-filing deadline) is a ways off, it's never too soon to start planning your strategy, particularly if you experienced financial hardships in 2011 that could affect your taxes. The IRS has a handy guide called "The What If's of an Economic Downturn" (search www.irs.gov) that reviews the tax impacts of different scenarios such as job loss, debt forgiveness or tapping a retirement fund.

Here's a roundup of common economic challenges you may be facing and their possible tax implications:

You lost your job. Remember that unemployment benefits, severance pay and payout of accumulated vacation or sick leave are all considered taxable income, so if you didn't have taxes withheld from these payments, be prepared for a potentially nasty tax bill.

If you withdrew money from your regular IRA or 401(k) account to cover expenses, you'll owe income tax on the amount, plus an additional 10 percent penalty unless you're over age 59 1/2 or meet special circumstances. Also, outstanding 401(k) loans must be repaid (usually within 60 to 90 days of termination) or they'll be counted taxable income — plus be subject to the same 10 percent penalty.

The good news is that many public assistance benefits such as welfare, food stamps and disaster relief payments don't count toward taxable income. Read the IRS's "Tax Impact of Job Loss" for details (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4128.pdf).

Lowered income. If you took a big pay cut or lost your job in 2011, it might lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) enough to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a "refundable" tax credit, which means that if you owe less in income tax than your eligible credit, you'll not only pay no tax, but actually get a refund for the difference. To learn more, search EITC at www.irs.gov.

Forgiven debt. Many people don't realize that when you borrow money from a bank or other commercial lender and the lender "forgives" the debt, you generally must count the forgiven amount as taxable income.

There are several exceptions to the rule, however: For example, the Mortgage Debt Relief Act of 2007 generally allows taxpayers to exclude up to \$2 million in forgiven mortgage debt (\$1 million if married filing separately) on their principal residence if it came through mortgage restructuring, foreclosure or a short sale. The mortgage exclusion is set to expire at the end of 2012 unless Congress intervenes.

Other exceptions include: Debts discharged through bankruptcy; or, if you are insolvent when the debt is cancelled, some or all of it may not be taxable. (Insolvency means your total debts are greater than the fair market value of your total assets.) For more information, search for Mortgage Debt Forgiveness at www.irs.gov.

Taxes are the last thing you want to worry about when facing financial hardships. Just be sure you're prepared for the possible tax implications if your income or debt situation has changed in the past year.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

Prince George's County High School Fire/EMS Department Cadet Program

By MARK BRADY
PGC/EMS Press Information

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department will begin training the next generation of firefighters and emergency medical personnel in the fall.

The High School Fire/EMS Department Cadet Program was jointly announced at a press conference on Friday, January 20, 2012, at the Fire/EMS Training Academy in Cheltenham. County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety Barry Stanton were on hand for the event. Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor, state, "One of the things we need to do better, and we recognize this, is to recruit more of our youth. We need to get into the schools and get them interested in service and that's what this program is going to do is to get us out there and give youth a fighting chance that they may not have otherwise had."

The High School Fire/EMS Cadet Program commences

with the 2012-2013 school year and will recruit up to twenty-four 11th graders at Charles Flowers High School in Springdale. It is expected that upon entering 12th grade, those students will continue into the second year of the program. Subsequently, an additional twenty-four 11th graders will enter the program, making a total of forty-eight participants.

This two-year program will allow students to take fire and emergency medical services classes, while providing 17 college credits to those who successfully complete the curriculum. Additionally, students will graduate from the program with all necessary training to be nationally certified as firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

"We are equipping our students with the necessary tools to succeed, while helping the county to meet future public safety workforce needs," said Dr. William R. Hite Jr., Superintendent of Schools.

"This is not only about helping in public service, it's helping our education system making our children career and college ready." Sated County

Agenda from A1

Following the 2011 regular session, the Governor created a task force to study the impact of the use of septic systems in Maryland, and the extent to which they contribute to the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. Governor O'Malley is reviving the push for septic legislation this year with the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012, a bill that implements a four-tiered comprehensive plan to guide growth on central sewer and septic systems and ensure the land use and pollution impact of future Marylanders is minimized. The Governor will also

iPad from A1

tal future, said Meri Robinson, technology specialist for the county's Title I office.

"The tools and apps that the iPad affords give students a unique advantage. It helps to support and prepare them for the 21st century and a global society," she said.

Across the state, a variety of devices are being used in school districts, including a pilot program in Harford County that is testing popular tablets and e-readers, like the iPad, Kindle and Nook.

"Districts are considering many factors such as the availability of content for the device, the amount of professional development and training required for instructional use, and if the device will enhance instruction and personalize learning," said Angela Swainson, instructional technology specialist with the Maryland State Department of Education.

One of the main obstacles to providing more students with tablet computers is funding, Swainson said. While the state has some funding for school technology programs, there's considerable need for federal support.

The federal Enhancing Education Through Technology program has traditionally provided funding for technology in Maryland

fight to protect the State's family farms by raising the exemption for some agricultural properties, and work to secure the future of the Chesapeake Bay through the Bay Restoration Fund.

Governor O'Malley will again seek legislation to promote offshore wind in Maryland. This year's legislation will enable the State to harness the wind off Maryland's shores and create thousands of jobs by establishing an offshore wind energy credit (OREC) within the Renewable Portfolio Standard program.

In the FY 2013 budget, the Administration will invest to provide access to health care for

schools. But money from that program will not be available until Congress approves funds in the long awaited reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

In Prince George's County, the iPad program trained teachers this summer to use the device and to apply it to their curriculum. Teachers also learned how to monitor student activity on iPads before the devices were introduced to classrooms in August.

"The students see the advantages, and they use it responsibly for the most part," Jerome said. "In my class, you can use the iPad as little or as much as you'd like, but most prefer it," she said.

Each teacher has access to administrative controls that allows them to watch students and track their activity. Jerome conducts weekly checks of students' iPads and will take away the device if it's being misused.

At the beginning of the school year, students signed a contact with a list of rules making them liable for damage to their iPad. Students are not allowed to take them home at the end of each day.

Janise Mead, who teaches a 6th grade language arts class at William Wirt Middle School in Riverdale, said she was surprised that the county would issue middle schoolers



PHOTO BY MARK BRADY
PGCDF Deputy Fire Chief Ben Barksdale, Fire Chief Marc Bashoor, Dr. William Hite and County Executive Rushern Baker after "sealing the deal" in the burn building.

Executive Baker, he concluded by saying, "It's an exciting day for Prince George's County."

Charles Flowers High School was selected partly because of its close proximity to the Department's newest facility, St. Josephs Fire/EMS Station #806. The station, which is adjacent the school, has both a training tower and classroom. Students can walk the 200 or so yards to the station where they will receive instruction in fire and emergency medical services.

On Friday, PGCPS and Prince George's County offi-

are focused on strengthening our communities by creating jobs and improving the health and wellbeing of all Marylanders," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Our legislative proposals will advance innovative ideas and tools to encourage private sector investment in job-creating public infrastructure projects, continue Maryland's nationally recognized leadership in implementing health care reform, and to address health disparities by expanding access to primary care in underserved communities. I look forward to working with the General Assembly and all stakeholders to build consensus around these important priorities."

"Governor O'Malley and I

expensive tablets.

"I thought it was a little odd to give students \$500 iPads, but I soon realized that they already know how to use smartphones similar to the technology," she said.

By developing her reading curriculum around the device, Mead said she has been able to personalize learning to each individual student.

"Often, they are able to find apps and tools on their own," she said.

Heidy Canales, one of Mead's 6th graders, said the iPad has been useful for taking notes, reading stories and looking up definitions during reading assignments.

"It's a way to be creative. I can add pictures to my notes, change the text or organize them in the ways I want," she said.

When the bell sounds at William Wirt, the iPads travel with students. Canales and her peers load them into a mobile charging station, which is wheeled between math, science and reading courses.

While county officials say the program has been successful so far, it still faces some challenges, Robinson said.

The schools are responsible for paying to fix damaged iPads and for replacing worn-out earbuds and covers for the devices. County officials want to put iPads in the hands of students at more schools, but

are focused on strengthening our communities by creating jobs and improving the health and wellbeing of all Marylanders," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Our legislative proposals will advance innovative ideas and tools to encourage private sector investment in job-creating public infrastructure projects, continue Maryland's nationally recognized leadership in implementing health care reform, and to address health disparities by expanding access to primary care in underserved communities. I look forward to working with the General Assembly and all stakeholders to build consensus around these important priorities."

it's unclear where funding will come from. "Because federal funds are not renewed each year, it's a wait and see approach, but there is a plan in place if we receive additional funding support," Robinson said. Next year, the program plans to move ahead with full iPad integration in the four Title I middle schools - Charles Carroll, William Wirt, Buck Lodge Middle School in Adelphi and Nicholas Orem Middle School in Hyattsville. By next year, the county will select a textbook partner in order to offer digital copies of textbooks on the iPad. The county school system is also exploring the possibility of supplying iPads to feeder elementary schools, so that students are prepared when they enter one of the four middle schools. While funding is a major part of the equation for programs like the Prince George's county iPad program, teachers, like Jerome said they constantly look for free technology resources to use in schools. Jerome makes use of free Google software, which allows her to email and share documents with her students. "We use the technology, but in the end it's still about good teachers. Our goal is to meet students where they are comfortable and create a learning environment," she said.

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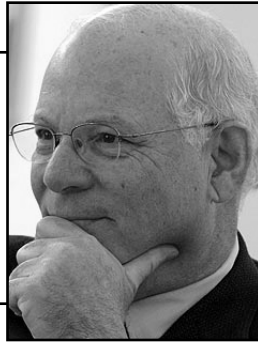
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COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST
A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



Federal Program Helps Small Businesses Become More Innovative

The legislative compromise on a short-term payroll tax extension dominated headlines in late December, but few journalists heralded a provision that was included in the bill that will help small businesses and boost America's economy: the six-year reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

The SBIR program helps empower our nation's small entrepreneurs by funding a major federal Research & Development endeavor, creating new jobs and growing our economy. As a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I have been a long-time supporter of this highly successful program.

Small businesses — which are often underrepresented in government R&D programs — employ 41 percent of our nation's high-tech workers and generate 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large firms. By harnessing the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses and giving them the funding they need to be innovative, the SBIR program has spurred job growth and the development of advanced technology, like clean energy and life-saving therapies and devices. Because of the SBIR program, every federal department with an R&D budget of \$100 million or more is required to award SBIR funding to small businesses.

Since its inception in 1983, the SBIR has provided small businesses in Maryland with more than \$1.5 billion in funding. These federal funds are a testament to the ingenuity of Maryland's 440,000 small businesses and they have helped make our state an epicenter of technological innovation in America.

Thanks to the SBIR program, small businesses in Maryland are at the forefront of national defense research, new life-saving health care technologies and the search for clean energy technologies. I have been fortunate to visit companies in Maryland that have put SBIR funding to good use, including BioFactura of Rockville, which received \$1 million from the Department of Defense to develop new treatment for the adverse effects of the smallpox vaccine.

Another Maryland company, Frederick-based Biological Mimetics, is using SBIR funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a vaccine for the rhinovirus, which causes the common cold in 20 million Americans each year. These two initiatives are just two examples of countless other SBIR-funded projects underway in Maryland and throughout the United States.

The reauthorization of SBIR brings much needed stability and certainty to the program, which had not received an extended authorization in more than a decade. Prior to reauthorization of the program, small businesses who depended on SBIR funding experienced 14 painful short-term extensions since 2008.

Small entrepreneurs in Maryland and around the nation now can be sure that Uncle Sam will stand behind them as they continue working to bring their ideas to the marketplace — innovative ideas that will create jobs and help our economy recover while making us a safer, stronger and more secure nation.

To Be Equal
Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Etta James: Matriarch of the Blues

"At last...My love has come along. My lonely days are over. And life is like a song." Etta James' rendition of her signature hit record, "At Last."

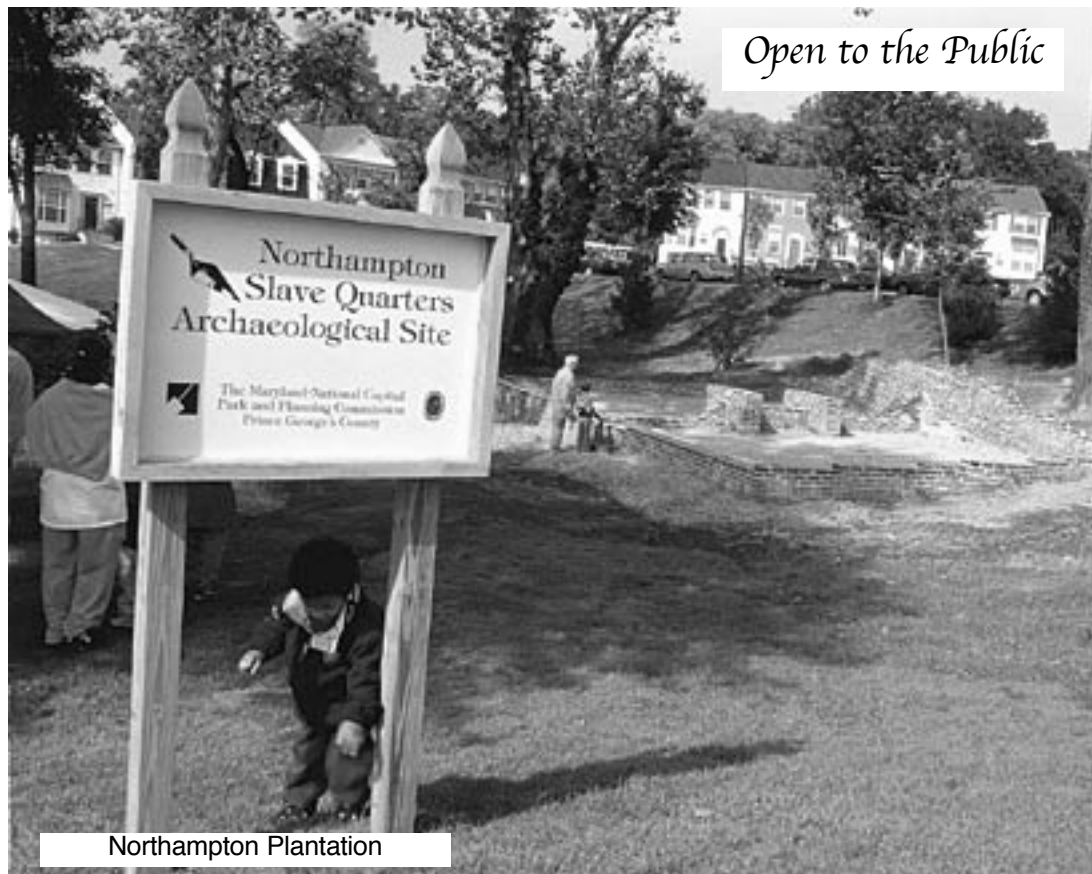
On January 20th, the legendary Matriarch of the Blues, Etta James, died at the age of 73 in her hometown of Riverside, California. In a life filled with struggle, heartache and illness, Etta James was able to carve out one of the most eclectic careers in recording history and earn a place of royalty in the annals of American music. Many young people today may only know Etta James through Beyonce's acclaimed portrayal of her in the 2008 movie, Cadillac Records. Born Jamesetta Hawkins in 1938, she began singing in church at the age of 5. She released her first recording, Roll with Me Henry, at the age of 15. In 1960, she signed with Chess Records and had a long list of R & B, jazz, blues and pop hits, including "Something's Got a Hold on Me," "All I Could do was Cry," and her 1961 soulful rendition of "At Last," which became an iconic pop standard. President Obama and the First Lady appropriately chose "At Last" for their first dance at their inaugural ball in 2009.

In her 1995 autobiography, "Rage to Survive," which she co-authored with David Ritz, Etta James described her struggles as the daughter of a 14-year-old single mother, growing up in poverty, facing both sexism and racism, and her bouts with drugs, jail and rehab that threatened several times to end her career. Speaking of the rage she developed and that was

common to many African Americans of her generation, she wrote, "Rage. You can hear it in my music. It's always been there. I had it when I was a little kid. I have it now. I've been racing, raging through life as long as I can remember."

Fortunately, Etta James was able to channel that rage into her music. Her life is a lesson in overcoming adversity and never giving up. Due her range of styles and the diversity of her repertoire, she did not fit neatly into any musical category. She was a 1993 inductee into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, joined the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999 and entered the Blues Hall of Fame in 2001. She toured with the likes of Jackie Wilson, the Rolling Stones, and jazz flutist, Herbie Mann. And her six Grammy's include one for Best Jazz Performance and one for Best Blues album. Rolling Stones Magazine ranks her 22 on its list of the 100 greatest singers of all time. She inspired generations of singers who came after her, including Bonnie Raitt, Brandy, Kelly Clarkson and, of course, Beyonce.

In her later years, Ms. James developed several debilitating health problems, including dementia, diabetes and leukemia, which was the cause of her death. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Artis Mills and two sons, Donto and Sametto James. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and we join all Americans in mourning the passing of a true musical genius, America's Matriarch of the Blues, Ms. Etta James.



Open to the Public

Northampton Plantation

From the 1600's to the mid-1800's, large tobacco plantations dominated the economic and social life of Prince George's County. One of the most prominent plantations in the county was Northampton. Today, all that remains of Northampton are the ruins of the main plantation house, outbuildings, and two slave quarters. In 1673, Charles Calvert, Esq., the third Lord Baltimore, granted Northampton Plantation, a 1000-acre tract of land, to Thomas Sprigg. Northampton was the home of the Sprigg Family and their slaves and servants for nearly 200 years.

Child Watch
 by Marion Wright Edelman



Tough Immigration Laws: Tough on Children

Alabama has passed the toughest immigration enforcement law in the country. Now children born in the U.S.A., American citizens, are living in fear. Some children are afraid to go to school. According to Bill Lawrence, principal of Foley Elementary in Foley, Alabama, "Most of these kids are American citizens. American citizens attending American schools, afraid." He continued, "A child in fear can't learn." Children in his school were terrified Mom and Dad would not be home when they got home from school.

The new law, HB 56, requires people to have proof of legal status for almost every interaction in their lives, and it's already having dire consequences for many of Alabama's children. As the Center for American Progress explains, "Alabama's new 'show me your papers' immigration law is ripping apart families in the state." More than half of the estimated 120,000 undocumented immigrants who live in Alabama—2.5 percent of the state's population—live in 'mixed status' families. But consider the children: 85 percent of the children of undocumented immigrants live in 'mixed status' families, often meaning the children are citizens but one or more of the parents are not. The result is that thousands of Alabama parents and children now live in constant fear of separation.

Among its many requirements, HB 56 requires elementary and secondary schools to determine the immigration status of incoming students and their parents and authorizes the school to report them to federal authorities. As the head of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, put it, "Educators should not be put in the position of being immigration law enforcers. Teachers should be safety nets, not snitches—guardians, not guards."

HB 56 requires police and some government officials to demand proof of legal status if they have "reasonable suspicion" a person may be in the country illegally, including dur-

ing routine traffic stops or arrests, and criminalizes unlawful presence. It also makes it a felony for an illegal immigrant to conduct a business transaction with any governmental body in the state; nullifies any contract an undocumented person enters into, including applying for a loan or signing a lease; and makes it a crime for unauthorized immigrants to apply for or solicit work. Advocates and community members reported that hundreds of Latinos did not report to work or attend school when the law first passed, and hundreds of families fled the state.

The Department of Justice, civil rights and church groups all filed legal challenges after the law went into effect last summer. So far, federal courts have temporarily blocked several provisions of the law, including the provision requiring K-12 school officials to determine students' immigration status and that of their parents, and the provision that makes it a crime for immigrants to fail to complete or carry an alien registration card. But the state of Alabama has been allowed to go forward with many other sections of the law. Now, as law enforcement agencies are clarifying procedures on what parts of the law to

enforce and the law is being further reviewed in federal court, many parents and workers are not taking chances.

The Center for American Progress has created lists of the "Top 10 Reasons Alabama's New Immigration Law Is a Disaster" for the state's government, economy, community safety, public health, faith communities, rule of law, education, and families. They point out fear has led many parents to sign power of attorney documents to allow friends or family members to legally care for their children if they are deported. If parents are deported many U.S. citizen children may be forced into foster care, though "Alabama state officials themselves are concerned about the potential impact on the already overburdened state foster care system." Shattered Families, a recent report by the Applied Research Center, noted that more than 5,000 children nationally who are currently in foster care have parents who have been detained or deported. The Center for American Progress also points out that when breadwinners are deported from mixed-status families "U.S. citizen spouses and chil-

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Maryland Foreclosures Continued to Plummet in 2011

State's Foreclosure Rate Now Ranks in the Bottom Tier in the Country

By PRESS OFFICER
DHCD

The reforms enacted in Maryland under the leadership of Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. Before those reforms, foreclosures sped through the courts, sometimes taking as little as 15 days. Families found they had lost their home before they fully realized what was going on.

Today, the process takes an average of 634 days, one of the longest in the nation. New York ranks first with an average 1,019 days. The extra time gives financially beleaguered homeowners additional time to consult with foreclosure prevention counselor and attorneys to learn more about their options. Some analysts warn however that there may be a future upsurge as pent-up foreclosures work their way through the system.

On Jan. 12, the Maryland Foreclosure Task Force issued its final report recommending additional reforms, including tax incentives and the creation

Maryland foreclosures last year hit the lowest level since the collapse of the national housing market in 2007, according to year-end data from RealtyTrac, and the state's foreclosure rate now ranks in the bottom tier in the country.

See the fourth quarter report.

There were 14,421 foreclosure events in Maryland last year, the California-based real estate monitoring firm reported. That's compared to 42,446 events in 2010; 43,248 events in 2009; 32,338 events in 2008; and 18,879 events in 2007. In 2006, the last full year before the crisis struck, Maryland had 3,094 events. "Events" include notices of default, foreclosure sales and lender purchases, but individual households are not counted more than once in the data.

A significant factor in the fall in foreclosures has been



PHOTO BY DHCD

Maryland foreclosures last year hit the lowest level since the collapse of the national housing market in 2007.

of a statewide registry that would help move foreclosed and vacant properties back onto the market quicker. The panel also urged lenders to adopt industry best practices, including greater use of loan modifications.

Visit DHCD's MDHOPE website to learn more about

the resources available to homeowners through programs such as foreclosure mediation and the HOPE Counseling Network. Since 2007, the network has helped more than 70,000 homeowners, achieving positive results in 92 percent of the cases completed.

Funding from A1

the last few years.

Even with budgeting shortfalls, local leaders still need to uphold their commitment to school funding, said Delegate Norman Conway, D-Wicomico.

Conway, who chairs the House Appropriations committee, and other state legislators are expected to meet Friday in Annapolis to listen to county leaders' concerns about education funding.

"We called the meeting because we're getting some indications that there are some challenges for the counties that are not on the positive side," Conway said.

The push by education groups and some legislators to force counties to spend more money on education comes as Gov. Martin O'Malley moved this week to shift more of the burden of paying for education to local governments.

On Wednesday, O'Malley released a proposed budget that would require counties to pay about half the total cost for teacher pensions, which makes up a sizable share of the state's education budget and is estimated to cost \$946 million in the next fiscal year.

"The stakes of this conversation just got a lot higher if the governor is preparing to shift pension costs to counties," said Michael Sanderson, executive director for the Maryland Association of Counties. "You are forcing them [the counties] to come up with a big pile of cash for a commitment to school funding. Suddenly the stresses of their budgets get much worse."

School funding has been a top priority for O'Malley. In his proposed budget for the next fiscal year, the governor wants to spend approximately \$5 billion on education - an increase of \$109 million over last year - and more than \$373 million on new construction projects for schools.

County leaders say the sputtering economy has weakened their tax base, forcing them to make tough spending decisions that have affected schools.

In Montgomery County, cuts to school funding have resulted in crowded classrooms, frozen teacher salaries and reductions in hours for more than 5,000 part-time staff, according to the Montgomery County Education Association.

"Our ... funding now is \$70 million less than what it would have been had Montgomery County funded schools at the required level set by the state," Tom Israel, executive director of the Montgomery County Education Association said.

Counties are required to fund education at the same level as the previous year to be awarded an increase in state aid. This requirement, known as "maintenance of effort," ensures that state funds are matched each year by local governments.

In Talbot County, where the primary source of revenue comes from property and income taxes, officials did not match maintenance of effort funding this year for the first time ever.

The county spent approximately \$32 million on education funding this year, a cut of \$1.8 million from the year prior.

"It's a very tough decision to cut school funding. Obviously education is a high priority, and we take it very seriously," county manager John Craig, said.

For several years, Talbot County has seen a drop in revenue, primarily due to a cap on property taxes, Craig said. The county budget decreased by more than \$20 million over the last five years, he said.

Like Talbot, most counties spend about half of their budget on schools. And since the county cannot tell school boards how to spend money they allocate, county leaders feel shut out of the process, Sanderson said.

"We've reached a point where the counties are almost irrelevant in the budgeting process. They wish to save money, consolidate services, equalize benefits for school employees and have school staff participate in furloughs, like almost every other department in every county, but for education we can't," he said.

But state education advocates say the counties are taking advantage of what they call a loophole in the maintenance of effort requirement, allowing them to reduce school funding without penalties.

The advocates say the state should penalize the counties by reducing the amount of state funding that goes to their general budgets.

"The current maintenance of effort requirement is completely illogical. It's the school system that loses out in the end," Israel said.

Counties that don't spend as much on schools as the year prior are ineligible for an increase in state aid, Israel said. Montgomery County's decision to undercut school funding would exclude the district from receiving \$26 million in state funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

Not all counties receive an increase in state aid each year. Aid is tied to student enrollment rates. In counties like Talbot, where enrollment dropped, no additional state funding was awarded this year, giving county leaders less incentive to match state spending, Craig said.

Both state legislators and county leaders want changes in the maintenance of effort law. Legislators on the House Appropriations and House Ways and Means committee are expected to meet Friday to discuss changes to the current maintenance of effort law.

Delegate Sheila Hixson, D-Silver Spring, chair of the House Ways and Means committee, said Friday's meeting

will provide legislators a chance to listen to all of the complaints and concerns around maintenance of effort. Representatives from county school boards, teacher unions and county associations are expected to be on hand.

"Nobody is going to say that they think maintenance of effort is perfect. There will certainly be disagreements about fixes and what the actual problems are," Sanderson said.

Currently, the state Board of Education allows counties to apply for a one-year waiver that would allow them to avoid penalties if they don't match state funding at the required level.

Waivers are usually granted for short periods of financial hardship. But, Sanderson said, the waiver process does not account for the long-term financial struggles that counties now face. He wants counties to be granted longer-term waivers.

Meanwhile, state and county education advocates say there's no incentive for counties to apply for waivers because they can simply ignore the law without penalty if they're ineligible for an increase in state aid. The advocates want to close that loophole by imposing a penalty on the general county budget if education funding is reduced.

"Our sense is that there's a lot of momentum to fix maintenance of effort. We have had intensifying conversations with state legislators and there seems to be recognition that the law needs to be fixed," Israel said. "State education shouldn't supplant local funding."

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Business Exchange

by William Reed



Coke and the Scheme to Depose the King

How far should corporate social responsibility go? Can groups seeking to depose Swaziland's king use Coca-Cola to help do it? Citing charges of "human rights abuses" and "looting of the national wealth" groups opposed to King Mswati are seeking the world's support in their demand that the beverage behemoth "withdraw its support" from him.

Mswati III (born Makhosetive Dlamini on April 19, 1968) is the King of Swaziland and head of the Swazi Royal Family. He succeeded his father Sobhuza II as ruler of the kingdom in 1986 at age 18. Mswati III is one of the last absolute monarchs in the world. He has the authority to appoint the prime minister, members of the cabinet, and the judiciary. The king is the means by which state policy is enforced, as well as the mechanism for determining the policy of the state.

The Swaziland Democracy Campaign says: "Coca-Cola must know they're doing business with the wrong people ... Their profits don't help the average Swazi while the king is getting richer by the day." The king's opposition is steeped in efforts to get him to accept "democratic reform." Labor unions and pro-democracy campaigns have joined forces to stage noisy public protests calling for political change. The king's critics also blame him for "poor economic management" and "widespread corruption."

It seems that Swaziland activists ascribe too much power to Coca-Cola. A country the size of Connecticut, Swaziland has an annual GDP of \$3.65 billion, mostly from agriculture, forestry and mining. Swaziland has excellent farming and ranching land, and 80 percent of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture. The Coca-Cola Company is a \$15 billion a year transnational and the concentrate that is the most important ingredient in the company's African product comes from a huge industrial plant in Mapatsa, Swaziland that it has operated since 1987. Coke is not in Swaziland to arbitrate its politics, it is there because of favorable taxes and an abundance of cheap

labor and raw sugar.

The consensus is that "Mswati isn't likely to be deposed." Swaziland has a population of 1.4 million homogeneous people who share language, culture and loyalty to their king and country. There are no tribal conflicts; the country is stable, orderly and at peace with her neighbors. The Socialist People's United Democratic Movement is Swaziland's largest opposition party.

Coca-Cola has 160 plants and 7,000 employees in Africa, but it's "not the boss" of the King of Swaziland. The kingdom is a land-locked country in Southern Africa, bordered on the north, south and west by South Africa and to the east by Mozambique. Reports show that 63 percent of the population lives on less than US\$2 per day, and 30 percent live in extreme poverty. The nation, as well as its people, is named after the 19th century King Mswati II. The capital city, Mbabane has a population of 50,000.

Mswati III is not about to abdicate his throne. According to the former CEO of the Office of the King, Mswati III earns a salary as head of state, has investments within and outside the country and owns an unspecified amount of shares in different companies within Swaziland. King Mswati is reportedly worth \$200 million. This does not include about \$10 billion that King Sobhuza II put in trust for the Swazi nation during his reign, in which Mswati III is the trustee.

King Mswati has more than 200 brothers and sisters and the task of taking care of them all. So beyond Coke, Mswati's fate is in profits from the royal-owned company, Tibiyo TisukaNgwane, established by his father, King Sobhuza II to provide for his offspring. Nearly 60 percent of Swazi territory is publicly held by the crown in trust of the Swazi nation. All seems in accord with the law of the land as Mswati enjoys wealth through the Tibiyo Tisuka parasitism investment companies and extensive shares in numerous businesses, industries, property developments and tourism facilities.

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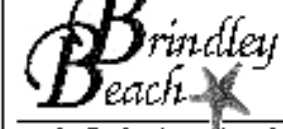
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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"

"EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE"

C+

Rated PG-13 for a little profanity, some intense themes. 2 hrs., 9 min.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks may eventually serve as source material or inspiration for dozens of movies, fact-based and fictional, just as World War II and the Kennedy assassination have. But so far, with only a few exceptions, filmmakers have been hesitant to address the subject directly. To their credit, they've been even more cautious about using 9/11 as the background for a story that didn't need to be about 9/11. Ten years later, the general policy is still that movies don't mention 9/11 explicitly unless there's a good reason for it.

"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close" might be the first major film to break that unspoken rule, and I'm not sure it even knows it's doing it. For while this is the story of a young boy whose father died in the Twin Towers, it's really just about finding closure and moving on after a senseless and unimaginable loss. Nothing about the drama's execution suggests that it is, at its core, a September 11th story. The kid's dad might just as well have died in a car accident.

The thing is, I enjoyed Jonathan Safran Foer's poignant 2005 novel. It felt like a 9/11 story, not like a story about grieving that happened to use 9/11 as the backdrop. Somehow it lost that flavor in its transition to the big screen -- maybe because so many of the boy's interactions with fellow New Yorkers, which contributed thematically, had to be cut for time. What we're left with, as adapted by Eric Roth ("Forrest Gump," "Munich") and directed by Stephen Daldry ("Billy Elliot," "The Hours"), is a well-

meaning but perfunctory story that doesn't justify its use of what the boy calls "the worst day."

The boy, Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn), is an unusually precocious 11-year-old who almost certainly has Asperger's syndrome, though the movie devotes one line of dialogue to establishing that he doesn't. (But really, he does.) He's bright and methodical, has a mind for details and figures, and isn't very good at reading other people's feelings. His adoring father, Thomas (Tom Hanks), used to create elaborate scavenger hunts for him to test and strengthen his mind, and the two were inseparable. (We see them in flashbacks interspersed throughout the film.) Thomas died on 9/11, leaving behind not just Oskar but a grief-stricken wife, Linda (Sandra Bullock), and an elderly German mother (Zoe Caldwell).

Now, some months later, Oskar finds a small envelope in his father's coat pocket, and in this envelope is a key. Written on the envelope is the word "BLACK," which Oskar decides is a name. Desperate to maintain any remaining connection he has to his father, Oskar resolves to find the lock that goes with the key, first tracking down this "BLACK" person.

This leads Oskar to have numerous encounters with strangers (whom he usually avoids) and to travel all over the city (ditto). His experiences tend to be overly precious, as when he meets one Abby Black (Viola Davis) and has a conversation with her about elephant tears while her husband moves out of their house. Nothing about the exchange is plausible. Not a bit of it feels like real life. The same goes for his subsequent



Drama. Oskar (Thomas Horn) is convinced that his father (Tom Hanks), who died in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, has left a final message for him hidden somewhere in the city. Feeling disconnected from his grieving mother (Sandra Bullock) and driven by a relentlessly active mind that refuses to believe in things that can't be observed, Oskar begins searching New York City for the lock that fits a mysterious key he found in his father's closet. His journey through the five boroughs takes him beyond his own loss to a greater understanding of the observable world around him. -- (C) Warner Bros

meetings with horseback riders, people in prayer circles, a deaf man, and all the others who appear in his Searching For The Lock montages.

Things start to look up when Oskar meets the elderly man (Max von Sydow) who rents a room from his grandmother. Simply called the Renter, the mysterious old fellow doesn't speak, but uses hand signals and notepads to communicate. He accompanies Oskar on some of his travels and helps him to feel more comfortable doing things like using public transportation.

Oskar narrates the film in his distinctive, numbers-obsessed, nerd-in-training motormouth fashion. I find him sympathetic and fascinating, and I'm curious to see what becomes of the intense young actor who plays him. But the character can rub people the wrong way. Nearly everyone I've talked to who dislikes the film -- and there are many who dislike it a lot -- cites Oskar as the deal-breaker, finding him irritating and

obnoxious. I didn't have the same reaction, but I can see how someone who doesn't like the kid wouldn't be able to tolerate the movie.

Even as one who likes the kid, I didn't feel the emotional catharsis that the film obviously intended. The boy's mother disappears for most of the film, and the explanation for it is contrived and false-sounding, a disappointing end to what could have been a sweet subplot about Oskar and Mom bonding after their loss. The old man who doesn't talk disappears too, for no good reason. Oskar keeps being left alone to flounder through his grieving process, and it's all just a little too fanciful and unrealistic to be satisfying.

I don't think the film is disrespectful to the memory of those who died on 9/11, because I think the film is earnest. Misguided, maybe, but not intentionally calculating or phony. Regardless of which specific tragedy launches it, though, Oskar's journey doesn't ring true.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Joe Paterno: The God who fell

Joe Paterno's most fervent supporters always described "JoePa" as more of an educator than a football coach. The Brown University graduate with the English literature major, it was said, always wanted to make people around him think and learn. Now, following his passing at the age of 85, the all-time winningest coach in Division I college football history has given us another puzzle to ponder: When assessing a legacy, how much should one scandal be weighed alongside decades of service? Should a single moral failure, no matter how vast, be enough to actually undo the decades of good works that preceded it? The lives touched? The scholarships funded? The community constructed?

In Paterno's case, he became victim of his own nurtured legend. He was felled by our perception of who he was, which we all believed would be a predictor of his actions when faced with difficult choices. This was more than a coach. This was a campus Sun King who never complained about the feel of the crown. The statues of Paterno on the Happy Valley campus, the academic courses that bear his name, even the Peachy Paterno ice cream for sale at the campus creamery, elevated Paterno beyond comprehension.

Yet the legend wasn't built just around wins or championships. The reverence many Penn State alumni hold for the man was less about unbeaten seasons, the record thirty-six bowl appearances, or showers of confetti. It was about a standard of morality and ethics that became inseparable from the Nittany Lion brand. As Aurin Squire wrote, "When Penn State won the NCAA championship in 1987, it was seen as a victory for the Constitution, flag pins, and whole milk."

This is what made last fall's grand jury report accusing revered longtime assistant coach Jerry Sandusky of being a serial child rapist so devastating to Paterno's entire legacy. JoePa, upon hearing from grad assistant Mike McQueary that he witnessed Sandusky committing statutory rape in the showers, did everything required of him by law. He informed those above him, telling the head of campus police and the school president, both of whom are now out of work and under indictment. That was the minimum he had to do and the minimum is what he did. But according to our conception of who this man was supposed to be, there was no authority above Joe Paterno. There was instead an expectation that this man of integrity would without hesitation do far more than just fulfill his minimum legal requirements. Is that fair? When it's your statue on campus and when the buildings bear your name, most would say hell yes.

When it was further demonstrated that Sandusky continued to be a presence on campus, in the locker room and even on Joe Paterno's sideline with young children by his side, damning questions rose to a din: how could JoePa have been content with silence, given the possibility that children continued to be at risk? Did Joe Paterno, and the campus leadership, care more about their brand than anything that resembled human morality? Was a football program that had become the economic, social, and cultural center of an entire region, more important than all other concerns? Had abused children become, in the view of Penn State's leadership, an unfortunate collateral damage necessary to keeping the cash registers ringing? The conclusions most people drew were not kind.

In the end, after decades of service, Penn State fired Paterno with a cold 10 pm phone call, causing a low-frequency campus riot. Since then, Penn State's leadership has gone out of their way to protect "the Nittany Lion brand" (their words.) Joe Paterno was in the end far less important than what Joe Paterno had built. In the end, it was just business.

Paterno was able to give one last interview to the Washington Post's Sally Jenkins last month. He defended himself by claiming confusion because he'd "never heard of rape and a man." For a football coach who always took pride in his own academic worldliness and erudition apart from football, this, to be kind, strained credulity. Paterno in his last days was sounding like yet another fallible person in power, corrupted by their deification. We've seen this character throughout American history. It was thought that Paterno had more character than to be just another character.

Let Paterno's last teachable moment be this: if your football coach is the highest paid, most revered person on your campus, you have a problem. If your school wins multiple championships, and a booster drops money to build a statue of the coach, tear it the hell down. And if you think children are being raped, the minimum just isn't good enough, no matter whether or not you wear a crown.

Bowie State Moves Up To #19 in NABC Division II Poll

NABC/Division II Coaches Poll (Jan. 24, 2012)	Record	Points	Pvs
1. Bellarmine (Ky.) (8 first place votes)	16-1	200	2
2. West Liberty (W.Va.)	16-1	190	3
3. Metropolitan State (Colo.)	17-1	184	4
4. Tarleton State (Texas)	16-1	178	5
5. Lincoln Memorial (Tenn.)	17-1	161	6
6. Winona State (Minn.)	17-2	157	8
7. Kentucky Wesleyan	15-2	146	1
8. Southern Indiana	15-2	140	7
9. Northern Kentucky	15-2	129	9
10. Midwestern State (Texas)	15-1	128	13
11. Colorado School of Mines	15-2	126	12
12. Alabama-Huntsville	14-3	112	15
13. St. Cloud State (Minn.)	15-2	101	17
14. Missouri Southern	16-3	95	16
15. Christian Brothers (Tenn.)	14-3	86	11
16. Indiana (Pa.)	13-3	78	10
17. Shaw (N.C.)	15-2	64	23
18. Western Washington	17-3	51	22
19. Bowie State	13-3	46	21
20. Hillsdale (Mich.)	15-2	45	14
21. Indianapolis, (Ind.)	14-3	35	NR
22. West Georgia	17-3	34	NR
23. Fort Hays State (Kan.)	13-4	24	25
24. South Carolina Aiken	13-3	21	19
25. Alaska-Anchorage	13-4	13	NR

Delano Johnson Gets High Marks at NFLPA All-Star Workouts

CARSON, Calif. -- The first practice of the week in pads was the most physical and most intense of the NFLPA All-Star workouts.

The action was best in "The Pit," a drill matching offensive and defensive linemen one-on-one.

Some of the biggest programs in the country are well represented on either line, but it

was the small-school prospect that made the splashiest plays.

The most physically imposing player on either roster was Bowie State University's Delano Johnson. Johnson has a chiseled build and looks the part of an NFL athlete. Listed at outside linebacker, Johnson practiced primarily at that position but was also occasionally

shuttled to defensive-line drills to try his hand at rushing the quarterback. He showed speed but at the request of coaches

resorted to attacking blockers with explosive upper-body strength later in practice. A passionate player whose enthusiasm made him popular with teammates and coaches, Johnson is undeniably raw but

his size, strength and speed will draw interest from 4-3 and 3-4 teams alike.

Johnson put his name in the Bowie State record book in 2009, tying the Bulldogs all-time record for blocked punts/kicks in a season and became BSU's all-time career blocked punts/kicks leader in 2010.

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Calendar of Events

February 2 - February 8, 2012

Nimbaya! Drum & Dance Workshops

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 10 am & 12 noon;
African drumming workshop: 10-11:30 am (participants supply their own drum); African dance workshop: 12 noon-1:30 pm (dress to move)
Event Description: Here's a wonderful opportunity for African drummers and dancers to train with the amazing Women Master Drummers of Guinea. Space is limited.
Ages: 13 and up Fee: \$15/class
Location: *Publick Playhouse*
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
Information: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312

Rivers and Memories

Date and Time: Saturday, March 24
Public Reception: Saturday, February 4, 4-7 pm
Event Description: Please join us as we celebrate the art of E.J. Montgomery and Lilian T. Burwell, two long-time, prominent artists who have had great influence on our art community. Each with their own approach, their artworks are a lyrical, rich, and highly developed explorations into the expressive elements of color and space.
Ages: All ages Fee: FREE
Location: *Brentwood Arts Exchange at Gateway Arts Center*
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood 20722
Information: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Basketball League Registration: Boys or Girls - Select Teams

Date & Time: Ongoing through February 9, 2012
Description: Boys & Girls ages are invited to register teams for a competitive basketball league. Competition is open to all teams including AAU, Boys & Girls Club, CYO, M-NCPPC Community Center, County and Non-County teams. The schedule will consist of 8 regular season games and playoff games.
Ages: Ages groups: Girls: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7; Boys: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7
Fee: \$600/team. Please no individual registrations.
Information: Byron Thompson at 301-446-6818 or Paul Hall at 301-446-6811.

Black History Month 2012 Exhibit: "Reading, 'Riting and Race Revisited: Rosenwald Schools in Prince George's and Surrounding Counties"

Date and Time: Saturday, March 17;
Public Reception: Sunday, February 5, 2-4 pm
Event Description: This year's exhibit will profile African American schools built with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. Through historic photos and artifacts, the exhibit highlights a list of Rosenwald schools that were featured in "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2002. The exhibit's centerpiece includes the recently renovated Ridgeley Rosenwald School, which is considered to be one of the county's best examples of this type of educational facility.
Ages: All ages
Fee: FREE
Location: *Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

PUBLICK PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2012-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publick Playhouse 2012-2012 season: Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.
In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm.
Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18. Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.
Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students
Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class.
On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.
The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division. For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit arts.pgpc.com

EARTH TALK ... "Cutting down forests for biomass fuel"

Dear EarthTalk:

I understand that some companies are now looking to cut down forests and burn them as "biomass" for generating electricity. Is nothing sacred?

-- Audrey Barklay,
Newark, NJ

In theory, burning biomass (any kind of plant material) to derive energy is a carbon-neutral endeavor, meaning that the carbon dioxide released during the process is in turn absorbed by other plants and put to use in photosynthesis—and as such does not contribute to the greenhouse effect. Biomass is also flexible: It can be turned into ethanol to power up automobiles, or can be burned like coal to generate heat and/or electricity. Factor in that biomass feedstock is usually inexpensive, widely available and a seemingly perfect alternative to the carbon-spewing, foreign-derived fossil fuels we rely on so much these days.

Typically unmarketable trees, brush and logging debris becomes the feedstock for biomass processing plants or for coal-fired power plants equipped to "co-fire" with plant material. But environmentalists warn that some timber companies and their utility and state customers are taking things too far by levelling entire forests—including some within publicly owned national forest land—to generate more feedstock for otherwise underutilized biomass energy production facilities.

Among the negative environmental impacts, chopping down forests to burn for ethanol

production—even if replanted as tree plantations—is like biting the hand that feeds you. "Natural forests, with their complex ecosystems, cannot be regrown like a crop of beans or lettuce," reports the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental group. "And tree plantations will never provide the clean water, storm buffers, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services that natural forests do."

Another negative for biomass is that burning it, like coal or anything else, produces air pollution including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and a variety of toxic substances. According to NRDC, these pollutants increase the incidence of asthma, heart disease, lung cancer and other respiratory ailments, and premature death.

But perhaps most troubling about plans to cut down forests for biomass feedstock is taking carbon neutrality out of the equation, given the fact that tree loss in and of itself is already responsible for some 20 percent of the world's total carbon pollution. "When biomass is harvested from forests, carbon stored in the soil is released into the atmosphere," reports NRDC. "This is in addition to the carbon that is emitted when the wood is burned for energy. And there's no guarantee the lost trees will ever be replaced."

NRDC concedes that there is still a place for biomass in the alternative energy universe, but cautions that "only biomass that is carefully chosen, grown responsibly, and efficiently converted into energy can reduce carbon and other emis-



CREDIT: HEMERA COLLECTION/THINKSTOCK

In theory, burning any kind of plant material for energy is a carbon-neutral endeavor, but chopping down forests for ethanol is unwise because they cannot be regrown quickly. And tree plantations don't provide the clean water, storm buffers, wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services that natural forests do. Pictured: A wood biomass plant.

sions compared to fossil fuels." The group would like to see Congress put in place tighter regulations on biomass harvesting and processing. "Biomass can be harvested and utilized in ways that reduce pollution and protect forest habitats, but only with sustainability safeguards and proper accounting for carbon emissions—including carbon released due to deforestation," concludes NRDC. CONTACTS:

NRDC, www.nrdc.org.
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Council Member Toles Joins State's Attorney for Announcement of Conviction Under CB-18-11

New Public Safety Law, Sponsored by Council Member Toles, Targets Illegal Dance Halls

Prince George's County Council Member Karen R. Toles (D) - District 7, joined State's Attorney Angela D. Alsobrooks and Major George Nader of the Prince George's County Police Department at the Hyattsville Courthouse on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, for the announcement of guilty pleas by defendants accused of violating

Council Bill 18-2011, public safety legislation targeting illegal dance hall operations in Prince George's County.

"The enforcement and penalty provisions of CB-18-2011 allow County law enforcement officials to charge and convict managers of clubs who operate dance halls without a license and this is what has happened in the criminal matter involving the MSG club," said Council Member Toles. "The fact that four MSG managers involved in this matter have pled guilty and

been formally sentenced for their crimes is evidence that this new law is needed and working."

"Public safety is a top priority of the County Council. I want to commend my colleague, Council Member Toles, State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks and the Prince George's County Police Department for their collaboration and hard work in bringing this day to fruition," said Prince George's County Council Chair Andrea C. Harrison (D) - District 5.

"Today demonstrates a big step in our efforts to prosecute violators of CB-18-2011. Dance halls that operate illegally routinely violate fire codes, liquor laws and other regulations and they are a danger to our community," said State's Attorney Alsobrooks. "The acceptance of the pleas today is among only the first steps in removing these illegal dance halls from our community and we hope to use CB-18 to shutter additional illegal dance halls in the near future."

Deer from A1

consider contraceptive controls, if those methods meet its criteria, Bartolomeo said.

Montgomery County already uses a combination of sharpshooting and hunting to control its deer population.

At the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park, where the deer population was cut significantly between 2001 and 2007, farming is profitable again, said Rob Gibbs, the

county's natural resource manager.

But human-deer conflict remains a problem. In 2010, there were almost 2,000 deer-vehicle collisions in the county, according to an annual report on its deer management program.

"We are looking at moving the deer management program farther down county (toward the D.C. border), but it's not going to be happening soon," Gibbs said, citing budgetary

constraints.

Gibbs said the deer management program is gradually expanding into urban areas and smaller parks, but cautioned that safety concerns are a constraint.

Gibbs supports the proposal to allow sharpshooting of deer on the D.C. side of Rock Creek Park, and said it will "complement" Montgomery County's efforts.

"In order to maintain the full diversity you need to manage

the population otherwise you'll end up with a forest of deer and not much else," he said.

Approval of the plan would mark the end of a lengthy process that began in 2005. Public comments were taken into account and a lengthy environmental impact statement was created.

Sharpshooting of deer already occurs in the U.S. National Arboretum in D.C., Bartolomeo said, and has proceeded without incident.

Budget from A1

ask of one another in these difficult times, and this is one of them," O'Malley said.

Though O'Malley's budget proposal is not reliant upon raising the state's gas tax, he said this is still under consideration, as is an increase in the flush tax on sewer bills.

His critics were quick to point out these taxes would add up.

"It's death by incrementalism," Sen. David Brinkley, R-Frederick, said.

Also controversial is the governor's plan to shift half the burden of teacher pension costs from the state onto county governments.

Though the state will take on 50 percent of retired teacher Social Security costs in turn, the proposal projects \$239 million in additional costs for local governments.

"I have become convinced that some better sharing of that

responsibility is in order, primarily because the counties are much closer to the negotiating table than the state is," O'Malley said.

O'Malley attributed his change of heart largely to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.'s argument that contract negotiations are the major drivers of teacher retirement costs.

"I'll only be satisfied when it's enacted into law," Miller said, when asked if he was pleased with the governor's newfound stance.

The governor stressed that job creation remained his No. 1 priority while drawing up his budget proposal, going so far as to say this budget was the best at creating and supporting jobs since the recession began.

His plan would allocate \$373 million towards school construction, the second-strongest investment he's made and one he claims will spur job creation. However, an increase

in the gas or flush tax could conflict with this aim, according to critics.

"He doesn't know how to create a private sector job," Brinkley said of the governor.

The senator would rather see O'Malley stay out of the private sector's way and allow government projects like InvestMaryland to fund innovative startup companies - generating jobs through business growth.

While O'Malley stressed a balanced approach to the budget, opponents assert he hasn't addressed the root problem - spending.

His proposal includes \$610 million in reductions and cuts to the General Fund, but the budget is still set to grow by 1.9 percent in FY 2013.

"There's different ways to look at it," O'Malley said, when pressed on the budget increase. "You won't find another administration in the history of our state that has restrained spend-

ing as steadily, that has made as many cuts as we have made, and you can cross the numbers all you like."

Warren Deschenaux, the General Assembly's chief budget analyst, is pleased with the governor's proposed changes to the spending line.

Chief among these are the reductions in Medicaid, which will save the state money if implemented this year and continually thereafter, Deschenaux said.

He predicts the gap between revenues and spending will be down to about \$400 million by year's end, bringing Maryland closer than it's been in years to being structurally balanced.

"That's tantalizingly close to concluding our dance with the structural deficit," Deschenaux said. "It might even make us think that if we just did a little more we could be done."

Capital News Service's Kelsey Miller contributed to this report.

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Child Watch from A4

LEGALS

NOTICE

IVERSON SQUARE CONDOMINIUM

vs.

MICHAEL HAWKINS

Plaintiff

Defendant

In the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
Case No. CAE 11-24385

Notice is hereby given this 26th day of January, 2012, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of the property located at 2823 Iverson Street, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748 which is the subject of these proceedings, made and reported by Danny Brooks, Trustee, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 27th day of February, 2012, next, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in the Prince George's Post newspaper, published in said County once in each of three (3) successive weeks before the 27th day of February, 2012; next.

The report of sale states the amount of sale to be One Hundred Dollars and 00/100 (\$100.00), subject to a prior recorded Deed of Trust, dated February 10, 2009, recorded February 24, 2009, among the Land Records of Prince George's County, in Liber 30390, folio 585, in the amount of \$130,507.30 through January 4, 2012, another prior lien dated December 6, 2001, filed December 17, 2001, in the amount of \$436.04 through January 13, 2012, another prior lien, dated November 24, 2008, filed December 12, 2008, having an original sum \$8,951.97, another prior lien, dated February 25, 2009, filed April 15, 2009, having an original sum of \$8,448.50 and another prior lien, dated March 5, 2004, filed March 9, 2004, in the amount of \$11,751.88 through January 4, 2012, being the highest bid received for the property.

MARILYNN M BLAND
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, MD.

True Copy—Test:
Marilynn M Bland, Clerk
103108 (2-2,2-9,2-16)

NOTICE

Edward S. Cohn
Stephen N. Goldberg
Richard E. Solomon
Richard J. Rogers
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 208
Towson, MD 21204

Substitute Trustees, Plaintiffs

v.

Ablasse Soumahoro
8117 Fenwick Court
Laurel, MD 20707

Defendant

In the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
Case No. CAE 11-27373

Notice is hereby given this 26th day of January, 2012, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, that the sale of the Property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 27th day of February, 2012, provided a copy of this notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Prince George's County, once in each of three successive weeks before the 27th day of February, 2012.

The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be \$444,971.62. The property sold herein is known as 8117 Fenwick Court, Laurel, MD 20707.

MARILYNN M. BLAND
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Md.

True Copy—Test:
Marilynn M. Bland, Clerk
103103 (2-2,2-9,2-16)

SMALL ESTATE NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY V SIMMS

Notice is given that Richard Vernon, whose address is 6215 Forest Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20785, was on January 24, 2012 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Shirley V. Simms who died on October 29, 2011, with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this Notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this Notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of decedent's death; or

(2) Thirty days after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice.

Any claim not presented or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

RICHARD VERNON
Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
P.O. BOX 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772

Estate No. 89072
103102 (2-2)

NOTICE

Edward S. Cohn
Stephen N. Goldberg
Richard E. Solomon
Richard J. Rogers
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 208
Towson, MD 21204

Substitute Trustees, Plaintiffs

v.

Pleze Coleman
10103 Wigan Drive
Clinton, MD 20735

Defendant

In the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
Case No. CAE 11-25934

Notice is hereby given this 26th day of January, 2012, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, that the sale of the Property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 27th day of February, 2012, provided a copy of this notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Prince George's County, once in each of three successive weeks before the 27th day of February, 2012.

The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be \$80,100.00. The property sold herein is known as 10103 Wigan Drive, Clinton, MD 20735.

MARILYNN M. BLAND
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Md.

True Copy—Test:
Marilynn M. Bland, Clerk
103104 (2-2,2-9,2-16)

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law that's having a chilling effect on Alabama classrooms."

As one U.S. citizen son put it: "At school we were taught about the Civil Rights period. This is the same thing—it's happening again. I make good grades, so does my brother. We are normally at the top of our class. I try my hardest to be good. The people making this law, they need to put themselves in our shoes and think about how they're splitting families." As a slight ray of hope, there is pressure mounting in the state to repeal HB 56 or parts of it in the state's legislative session. The irony of an era of fear, repression, and profiling repeating itself in Alabama is not lost on many onlookers. For those who refuse to return to that era in Alabama or any other part of America, the time to speak up is now.

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

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