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## Cardin Fundraising Outpaces All Rivals

By ROBERT BAIRD  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Maryland Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin has raised millions more in campaign funds than his nearest rival, according to year-end campaign financial reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

Cardin's campaign reported raising \$697,000 for the October-December quarter, bringing the total funds raised in 2011 to more than \$3.1 million, and \$4.2 million for the 2006-2012 election cycle. Republican former Secret Service Agent Daniel Bongino raised the second-highest total, \$130,000.

Cardin's campaign has \$2,664,270 on hand as of Dec. 31. Some of his largest contributors include employees and their families of The Time Group and Goldman Sachs.

Cardin, who is serving his first term and who enjoys the support of President Barack Obama, faces eight Democrats in the primary on April 3: Richard Blagmon, a Naval Reserve officer from Upper Marlboro, is relying on personal loans worth \$12,500. None of the remaining Democrats -- Blaine Taylor, JP Cusick, Christopher Garner, Ralph

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Ajoa Osei and Victoria Justus, seventh graders at Murray Hill Middle School, dress up their school lunches with salsa. "I pick whatever tastes good," said Justus. "I don't really pay attention to the nutrition of it."

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LIZZY MCCLELLAN

## Maryland Schoolchildren May Get Calorie Counts for Lunch Items

By LIZZY MCCLELLAN  
Capital News Service

LAUREL - At Murray Hill Middle School in Laurel, nutrition information is posted to a bulletin board for students to peruse as they stand in line for lunch. The board displays nutritional facts for each meal offered, including calories, protein, vitamins and minerals.

Some students glance at the board as they pass by, but many do not, such as 12-year-old Victoria Justus, who said she enjoys the healthy meals

her school provides, but does not care to check on the food's calorie content.

Others, like Samuel Gibson, 12, agree that calories are less useful in making healthy choices.

"I think about the same things my mother makes for me for dinner," Gibson said.

Still, more Maryland students may get the opportunity to see the numbers behind nutrition, if legislation passes requiring all public schools to post on their menus the calorie content of food items served.

Regulations have already passed in some counties, such as Montgomery, requiring this information. Last year, chain restaurants across the United States faced a similar federal mandate for their menus.

"The time is probably right to do it here" at the state level, said Delegate Doyle Niemann, D-Prince George's, the bill's sponsor. "Obesity is a serious problem among our children."

In Maryland, 28.8 percent of children are overweight or obese according to the Childhood Obesity Action

Network's 2009 State Obesity Profile, giving the state the 15th lowest obesity rate in the nation.

Niemann said that telling students how many calories each food item contains will help them make healthier decisions.

However, Mary Klatko, federal legislative chair of the Maryland School Nutrition Association, said the change would be "overkill," and the

See **LUNCH**, Page A3

## Monitoring Employees, Students Concern Legislators

By MIKE BOCK  
and JOSH COOPER  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - When former correctional officer Robert Collins was asked to turn over his Facebook login information to a superior, he was concerned that his rights were being violated.

Last year, Collins allowed the superior to look at his account in order to get a promotion, but he went to the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland with his concerns.

It was "an inappropriate invasion of my privacy," said Collins in a phone interview Thursday. "I felt as if I didn't have a choice in the matter."

Concerns about employers accessing private social media information - as well as university officials checking up on college athletes - has prompted Maryland lawmakers to draft several bills that would cut down on the practice, which some consider to be an invasion of privacy.

One Senate bill would restrict employers' access to employees' private information. A similar House bill would only apply to state employees.

And separate House and Senate bills would restrict uni-

See **MONITOR**, Page A3

## Peruvian Army Special Forces Amputee Receives Bionic Knee For Lost Leg

BY AARON CARTER  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Sitting in the garden of a local hospital, Carlos Felipa Cordova said that after explosions lifted him off his feet and slammed him to the ground, he reached for his Galil assault rifle and stood to fire on Shining Path guerrillas hidden in the dense Peruvian jungle.

"I fell down," he said through a translator, recalling that day in 2010. "Then, I looked down and my leg was gone."

He pointed to his other leg and motioned with his hands that it was open, fleted by shrapnel. His left arm was also splayed, immobilized by splintered mine fragments.

Tuesday, Cordova, 30, from Lima, Peru, heads home with a new left leg: the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System, manufactured by Ottobock Healthcare and customized to fit him by Nascott, an Elkridge Orthotics and Prosthetics company.

Now that the Peruvian military has paid



Carlos Felipa Cordova, walks in National Rehabilitation Hospital's Therapeutic Garden with Nascott Prosthetist Erin King and Nascott Certified Orthotic Fitter Dora A. Cortez. Cordova, 30, a member of the Peruvian Army Special Forces, lost his leg after being ambushed by Shining Path insurgents in the Peruvian jungle.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON CARTER

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## Baltimore Mayor, WSSC Tell Senate of Water Woes

By VARUN SAXENA  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Cumbersome EPA mandates are driving up costs as municipalities and providers struggle to maintain and upgrade Maryland's water infrastructure, Baltimore's mayor and the state's chief water utility officer told the Senate Tuesday.

"Cities need some flexibility in meeting the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act," said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife chaired by Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md.

The subcommittee is part of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Rawlings-Blake said that progress has been made in this area since she became mayor in 2010 due to a new EPA approach to regulation.

Still, Rawlings-Blake, the co-chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Water Council, said that "you will see a frustration beyond belief" from mayors across the nation in "dealing with the fiscal realities of trying to meet these mandates."

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission CEO Jerry Johnson agreed, saying, "Do you continue to replace these water mains and the other systems that you know are going to go bad or do you let them lan-

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### INSIDE

#### Diabetes Education

If Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard has it her way, diabetes education will be embedded into the curriculum of all public schools across the state. Under a bill introduced by her, HB 9, diabetes education will be worked into the fabric of all public schools in the State of Maryland. Diabetes is on the rise in Maryland. **Community**, Page A3

#### Aging Water Infrastructure

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin led a hearing to discuss the wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs of local municipalities, rural communities, and other similar jurisdictions. Witnesses at the hearing outlined the great challenges faced by these communities to maintain and improve their water infrastructure. **Opinion**, Page A4

#### The Intercounty Connector

Governor Martin O'Malley announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) recently awarded ICC Constructors, a joint venture based in Bethesda, the contract to design and build the final segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200). **Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review

The key to enjoying the delightfully absurd "Wanderlust" is accepting that it does not take place in the real world. Real people have motivations for what they do, and their actions have consequences. "Wanderlust" is populated by characters from a sketch-comedy show who make bizarre decisions. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What caused Solyndra, a leading American solar panel maker, to fail last fall and what are the implications for U.S. alternative energy industries?

-- Walt Bottone,  
Englewood, NJ

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Morningside elections coming up in May

Morningsiders go to the polls on May 7 to fill two Town Council seats currently held by Terry Foster and Sheila Scott.

Those planning to run for the Council had to submit a petition at the Town Hall by 5 p.m. Monday, March 5. To be eligible to run, he or she must be at least 21 years old, have resided in the Town for at least a year, shall not have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, and be a registered Town voter.

For Morningside residents not yet registered in the Town, there will be a special registration at the Town Hall on April 2, from 1:00 to 9 p.m.

In the event there are no candidates for office by March 5 at 5 p.m., the deadline will be extended 15 days.

A bit of history: The Town of Morningside became a municipality in 1949. Its first mayor was June Stocklinski and the first Council Members were Thomas Austin, Duncan Fleming, C. W. Mueller and R. C. Stevenson.

### Colonial Tavern Dinner

Darnall's Chance House Museum is hosting a mid-18th century tavern dinner on March 17, 7-9 p.m., in Upper Marlborough. Enjoy colonial food and spirits and, after dinner, listen to Ship's Company sing sea chanties and tavern songs of the period. Reservations and payment are required in advance: \$35 (\$42 for non-County resident). For information or reservation, call 301-952-8010. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in

### Upper Marlboro. Neighbors

If you go to the new Queen Latifah/Dolly Parton film, "Joyful Noise," look for my daughter Elaine Seidman and her daughter Rose who were extras in the movie. Director Todd Graff, a college friend, invited them to Atlanta for the filming.

Eighth-grader Senar Tesfay is the Grand Prize winner in St. Philip's annual Science Fair. Other top winners are Emmanuel Strother, grade 8; Ana Walton, grade 7; and Majesty Gaither, Grade 6.

Condolences to Robert and Megan Hay on the death of Megan's father, Jim McBeath, who died Feb. 26.

### Changing landscape

Former Morningsider Peg Richardson sent out an email featuring a photo of a huge posted sign: "Warning! Tree removal in Maryland without a MD tree expert license issued by the Department of Natural Resources is illegal. Unlicensed contractors will be reported to DNR police and prosecuted." I believe in saving trees but this is news to me.

A site plan has been submitted for development at the Smith Home Farm, to include 1,080 single-family and townhouse lots on 265 acres on the north side of Route 4, between Presidential Parkway and Melwood Road, near Andrews.

Ellie's Paperback Shack in Waldorf closed its doors Dec. 30 after a 35-year run. It was founded by Ellie Fortney of Morganza and was the only used-book store in Charles County.

And speaking of books, the closed Border's in Waldorf is

### now a Books-A-Million. May they rest in peace

Wesley Robert Kyser, 58, of Calvert County and formerly of Skyline, was found dead in the woods near Tate Road in Calvert County last fall. The State Medical Examiner's Office believes the cause of death was natural, according to a press release. Wes grew up in Skyline, one of the three sons of Russell and the late Eleanor Kyser. I first met him when he was in Mrs. Irene Smith's kindergarten with my son Mike. And I came to know him better as one of my Cub Scouts when I had them as Webelos. Years ago he lost a foot in a motorcycle accident, just one of the many troubles that plagued him through life.

Alice Nelson Smolinski, 96, longtime resident of Camp Springs, died at her home in St. Leonard, Md., on Feb. 18. A native of Escanaba, Mich., she moved with her family to Washington during the Great Depression. She married in 1936 and had a career with the Navy Department. Her husband Edward Smolinski died in 1989. Survivors include sons Donald, Thomas and Robert Smolinski, five grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Karen (Elborne) Stern and Harold Titus, March 2; Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor, March 4; and Roy Derrick, March 6.

Happy 53rd anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman on March 4, and happy anniversary to Larry and Susan Frostbutter on March 5.

## Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Legislative Update

### Van Hollen Opening Statement at Hearing on Strengthening Health and Retirement Security

Washington, DC — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, delivered an opening statement at the House Budget Committee hearing on Strengthening Health and Retirement Security with Richard S. Foster, Chief Actuary of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I especially want to thank our two witnesses for their many years of dedicated public service as federal employees. Thank you for joining us today. I look forward to your testimony on the important topic of how best to strengthen our health and retirement security programs.

"This Committee has done a lot of work over the years to investigate the significant long-term budgetary challenges stemming from the growing costs of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We know that the aging of the population plays a role, as do fast-growing health care costs. I think we can all agree that more needs to be done to restrain the rate of health care cost growth — not only to put the federal budget on a sustainable path, but also to make quality health care more affordable for all Americans and to improve our economic competitiveness.

"The question is not whether to address these issues, but how? The long-term budgetary challenges of our health and retirement security programs do not exist in a vacuum. They are part of a larger debate that gets to some fundamental questions for our society: Which mix of revenue and spending policies will best fulfill our twin goals of economic vitality and meeting the health and retirement security needs of an aging population? When it comes to deficit reduction and putting the federal budget on a sustainable path, who should bear the burden?

"I believe strongly that we must address these challenges using a responsible, balanced approach. We need to have shared responsibility as we move forward.

"President Obama's budget gets us off to a good start. Under the President's budget, the deficit declines as a share of the economy and the debt stabilizes as a percentage of the economy over the next decade. The President reaches these targets with policy choices that balance the need to make wise investments to spur job growth in the near term and provide security for the middle class with the need to put the budget on a fiscally sustainable path. The President's plan adopts the cuts to discretionary spending included in the Budget Control Act. It saves over \$600 billion in mandatory spending, including changes aimed at improving the efficiency of Medicare and Medicaid spending. But it also eliminates special interest tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest Americans. It asks our highest earners to

return to the same tax rate that

was in place during the Clinton Administration, when the economy was booming. In short, the President's budget takes a balanced approach.

"It is this balance that our Republican colleagues object to. The overwhelming majority of our Republican colleagues have signed a pledge saying they won't close one special interest tax loophole or ask millionaires to pay a cent more for deficit reduction. And because they don't want millionaires to pay more, they put the entire burden of reducing short-term deficits as well as long-term debt on the backs of middle-income taxpayers and seniors. Indeed, if last year's budget is any indication, the Republican plan will slash our investments in education, science and research, and infrastructure — key drivers of innovation and economic growth. And it will force seniors on Medicare to absorb the rapidly rising costs of health care, while slashing Medicaid assistance to low-income and disabled individuals by over \$700 billion. I would remind my colleagues that the median income of seniors on Medicare is under \$22,000.

"There is a key difference between the Republican and Democratic approaches to Medicare. The Republican approach would end the Medicare guarantee of a package of benefits specified in law, and replace it with a voucher for the purchase of private insurance that would fail to keep pace with health care costs over time. Future beneficiaries would either have to pay thousands more dollars out of their own pockets on premiums for a plan that provides the current Medicare benefit package, or else buy plans that may leave them significantly underinsured.

"We have no reason to believe that unfettered market competition will result in affordable, acceptable coverage for seniors. Prior to the creation of Medicare in 1965, almost half of all American senior citizens had no health insurance. And health costs were rising steadily back then. And yet, the market didn't respond to the cost constraints faced by seniors and develop an affordable insurance product that provided them adequate protection. Insurers didn't rush to cover individuals over 65 years old. Since 1965, we have had several experiments with private competition within Medicare, through the Medicare Advantage program and its predecessors. And what we found is that in many areas of the country, private plans simply could not compete with traditional Medicare unless we paid them more than traditional Medicare.

"I firmly believe that converting Medicare into a voucher system that doesn't keep pace with health care costs is a huge mistake for our seniors. We cannot solve our budget challenge simply by unloading the costs and financial risk associated with health care onto elderly and disabled individuals. The goal of reform should be to reduce cost growth within the health system, while protecting the essential benefits that Medicare covers. The Affordable Care Act laid a solid foundation, through measures such as more bundling of payments, penalizing unnecessary hospital



admissions, and giving physicians and other health care providers incentives to organize themselves differently so they can provide high quality, coordinated, efficient care. These kinds of reforms change Medicare to reward value and quality of care instead of quantity of care. But there is plenty more that can be done.

"For example, we need to improve the coordination of care for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. These individuals account for 37 percent of combined Medicare and Medicaid costs, even though they represent only roughly 1 in 10 of the combined Medicare and Medicaid beneficiary population. They are more likely to live with multiple chronic conditions, and are three times more likely to be disabled.

"It is no surprise that these individuals make up a large share of Medicare and Medicaid spending, because they are, in general, sicker. However, some of these extra costs result from misaligned incentives between Medicare and Medicaid and a lack of coordination between the two. For example, nursing homes often can benefit financially by offloading certain costs onto hospitals. This is bad for the budget and it undermines the well-being of a vulnerable population. The Affordable Care Act begins to address these problems, but there may be further actions that Congress can take to give a boost to these reform efforts.

"We are open to other ideas that address specific sources of wasteful spending. What we are not open to is simply transferring all of those costs to seniors on Medicare without dealing with the underlying costs driving the entire health care system, of which Medicare is a very important part.

"Social Security's financial outlook also deserves our attention. It is not a major factor in our current deficit, but it does have a long-term shortfall that will need to be addressed. I believe we ought to address it well before we face a crisis and we ought to do so in a bipartisan and balanced manner.

"I would also like to take a moment to clarify incorrect claims that were continually made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about the extension of the payroll tax cut to 160 million working Americans. In their opposition to this tax cut, they claimed it would reduce the amount in the Social Security Trust Fund. That is simply not true. As Mr. Goss has said before, the law is set up to make sure the Social Security Trust Fund is held completely harmless.

"So thank you again, Mr. Foster and Mr. Goss, for your testimony today. As we work to put our house in fiscal order over the long-term, we must ensure that our social safety nets are not shredded in the process. Your insight into these programs is key as we debate these important issues."

## Brandywine-Aquasco by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

### UPPER MARLBORO COMMUNITY CENTER

The Center Fitness Room hours are Monday thru Thursday 6:30 AM-10:00 PM, Friday 6:30 AM- 7:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM. The center is closed on Sundays. The Center is located at 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact number is 301-627-2828 and TTY 301-203-6030.

### BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM

Registration for the 2012-2013 Before and After School Extended Learning Programs school year will begin May 22, 2012. All sites require a minimum of 45 registrations to begin operations. Prince George's County Public Schools is committed to quality Before and After Care services for our children and families. For more information contact Central Office at 7600 Jefferson Avenue Landover, Maryland 20785. Office telephone number is 301-636-8412.

### SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTERS

There are five senior activity centers that offer a wide range of services and programs for age 60 or older. Educational classes, recreation classes, special events, and social activities are offered Monday-Friday. The Department of Family Services, Aging Service Division provides limited transportation and nutritious hot lunches at the centers. Call 301-265-8450 for more information and reservations.

### COUNT ON US MATH SHOW

"Count on Us" the live Mathematics homework help line television call-in show, airs Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 PM on Comcast channel 96 and Verizon channel 38. Students can also e-mail their questions to PGCPs teachers at cou@pgcps.org.

### SMARTLINK

Visit your local Community Center to establish a Smartlink account. Register for classes and programs on line www.pgpcps.com or via telephone 301-583-2665.

### ANNUAL WORLD DANCE

### SHOW CASE

The weekend performance for the Annual World Dance Showcase will be on March 17 at 8:00 PM. Washington area dancers will highlight the broad cultural richness of talent found in our nation's capital at this 10th annual gathering. Tickets cost \$12 per person and \$10 for seniors and students. The event will be held at the Publick Playhouse located at 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784.

If additional information is needed please call 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312.

### BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC

Meetings for the Association are on the third Wednesday of each month thru June, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Media Center at the Brandywine Elementary School. Membership dues are \$30 a year per household. Checks can be sent to Brandywine North Keys Civic Association, Inc., PO Box 321, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. (Visitors are welcome to attend meetings.)

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# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Empty Homes Need Additional Insurance

There are many reasons why someone might leave their home unoccupied for months at a time: Maybe you moved to another state and your old house is languishing on the market; or you can no longer afford your mortgage so you're working out a short sale and couch-surfing at your sister's house; or you struck it rich and are taking a six-month, around-the-world cruise.



In each case, there's one very important person you should call well before locking the door that last time — your insurance agent.

"Many people don't realize that their standard homeowners policy won't provide full coverage if their home sits unoccupied for a certain amount of time," says Ruth Stroup, a Farmers Insurance Group agent from Oakland, Calif. "The timeframe varies by state and insurance carrier, but typically it's 30 or 60 days. After that, you could be liable for losses related to theft or vandalism."

Unoccupied or vacant homes are considered a higher risk by insurers because no one lives on site to maintain and protect the property. We've all seen news reports of abandoned or foreclosed homes that have been stripped of their fixtures, overrun by squatters or simply vandalized.

Also, if you're hoping that your insurer simply won't notice your house is unoccupied, think again. As Stroup points out, "Insurance companies increasingly are doing routine inspections at policy renewal time. If they find that the property is unoccupied, chances are your policy won't be renewed."

So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation? First, check your homeowners policy for language regarding unoccupied or vacant homes. Once you know that your house will be empty for more than the allowable time — and before the deadline passes — contact your insurer to find out whether they offer vacant home insurance. They may be willing to make special provisions depending on the projected duration of vacancy. If your carrier doesn't offer such coverage, find one that does.

Foreclosure or short sale. This is grim but critical information to know if you're losing your home through a foreclosure or short sale: Even if you've already moved out, you're still responsible for insuring the property until you no longer officially own it. "If a prospective buyer slipped and fell, you'd be liable for damages since you're still technically the owner," says Stroup.

Landlord insurance. Many homeowners prefer to rent out their property until the real estate market rebounds. From the insurer's perspective, this is preferable to leaving the house vacant, although it's still considered riskier coverage because tenants are less likely than owners to protect and maintain the property.

Landlord insurance covers the structure of the building as well as any personal belongings you leave on the premises against hazards such as fire, water damage, lightning, etc. It will reimburse you for lost rental income if the home becomes uninhabitable.

"Landlord policies are structured differently than homeowners coverage but often cost about the same," says Stroup. "Homeowners policies typically provide considerable coverage for personal property, which you probably wouldn't need here because your renters are responsible for insuring their own things."

To protect your current and future assets, always have sufficient loss and liability insurance on all your property and possessions. Better safe than sorry.

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

## Delegate Howard Introduces Diabetes Education Bill

Near-death experience of Navy Vet launches Diabetes Awareness Project

RODERICK C. WILLIS  
FreeState Media

If Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard has it her way, diabetes education will be embedded into the curriculum of all public schools across the state. Under a bill introduced by her, HB 9, diabetes education will be worked into the fabric of all public schools in the State of Maryland.

"With the increase of diabetes and childhood obesity in the state of Maryland, it is imperative to incorporate education about this rapidly growing disease", stated Delegate Howard. "Diabetes is on the rise in Maryland, and the most efficient way to educate the public about this disease is to start in the public school system. Diabetes is often called 'The Silent Killer' and affects approximately 28.8 million residents in the United States or about 8.3 % of the U.S. Population according for the Center for Disease Control".

Delegate Howard herself has



PHOTO BY RODERICK C. WILLIS  
Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard

diabetes and fellow Ways and Means Committee member from Baltimore, Delegate Melvin Stukes, also suffers from the disease.

"I know the dangers of diabetes and this disease is not to be ignored", said Delegate Stukes. "I was rushed to the hospital with a sugar count that exceeded 500 and had to stay for five days to get my sugar level under control. Diabetes can be a tricky disease and many people who have the disease don't even know they have

it. I support Delegate Howard's HB 9 and encourage the school systems around the state to embrace this diabetes education initiative."

Delegate Howard introduced the bill last week and testified before the Maryland House of Delegates' Ways and Means Committee. Testifying on behalf and in favor of HB 9, was Maurice Hunt. The Annapolis resident recently had a near-death experience with diabetes, often called "The Silent Killer"

A 911 call by neighbors brought the paramedics to his door and rushed him to Anne Arundel Medical Center and an otherwise healthy 26 year old veteran from the Navy was fighting for his life.

With no prior history of diabetes, Maurice Hunt had a sugar level that exceeded 1600. According to Dr. Kanak Patel MD, Anne Arundel Medical Center Emergency Room Physician, Had he arrived 30 minutes later, his kidney and liver would have shut and he

may have suffered brain damage and then died.

"I thought I had a bad stomach virus for a few days, but had no idea I had the onset of diabetic ketoacidosis," said Hunt "I was loosing weight, vomiting and was thirsty. Since this near-death experience, I have vowed to educate myself and others about the symptoms and treatment of diabetes", continued Hunt.

Hunt's experience has inspired him to launch The Diabetes Awareness Project, and he is taking his message about diabetes detection, prevention and maintenance around the state. "The Diabetes Awareness Project" will hold a series of gospel concerts, symposium and diabetes expos to educate the public across the Maryland on the dangers and treatment of this disease' said Hunt. "I feel as though God gave me a second chance at life, and that I have been called to spread the word about the dangers of diabetes and how it can impact the young as well as the old".

### Water from A1

guish while you go forward and focus on the other parts of the system that you are being required to do because of an EPA order? And those are very difficult (questions). You have to do it with a finite number of dollars and resources that you have available."

Maryland's water infrastructure is aging. A quarter of WSSC

pipes in Prince George's and Montgomery counties are more than 50 years old. There are 1,700 breaks and leaks in an average year. Johnson said that pipe maintenance costs are \$21.6 million dollars a year.

Cardin said he is encouraged by the new integrated planning approach to regulation that is being adopted by the EPA. The integrated planning approach will give cities more flexibility

in complying with EPA mandates. It will allow them to focus on meeting the most beneficial mandate first, instead of pursuing each mandate with equal urgency, said Rawlings-Blake.

She suggested that Baltimore be a pilot city to test the new approach.

Cardin promised to help officials "get through the administrative, bureaucratic issues so that we can look at results."

Cardin is trying to restore funding to the State Revolving Loan funds program through which the federal government gives municipalities low-interest loans to fund water infrastructure projects.

Rawlings-Blake said that Baltimore's six-year capital improvement program faces a \$4 billion funding shortfall.

WSSC's 2012 fiscal year capital budget is about \$600 million.

### Lunch from A1

bill should be rewritten to require schools to post the calorie count per meal instead of for each individual item.

In Howard, nutritional content for each entire meal is posted in the school cafeteria, said Klatko, who is also director of food and nutrition services for the county. Information about individual food and drink items is posted online for those who want more specific counts.

"I've got information about nutrition all over the dining room," Klatko said. "Some stu-

dents stop to look at them, but not a majority of them."

Klatko said she would rather address the issue by taking nutritionists into the classrooms to explain healthy eating than by posting calories per item.

"You usually need an educational component with it," said Erin Hager, a pediatrics professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She gave as an example the approach she used with a research team in the Challenge! project, which used interactive methods to educate students about making healthy choices.

"We try to engage them

through their peers and the rest of the school food environment," she said, referring to nutrition skits and interactive programs.

Until recently, all U.S. schools were required to meet a minimum calorie count per lunch of 645 for elementary and 819 for middle and high schools, a guideline determined in 1966 with the Child Nutrition Act, which aimed to prevent childhood hunger. The Agriculture Department has recently added numerous new requirements, as well as updates.

The new requirement for calories in lunch is 550-650 for

elementary, 600-700 for middle and 750-850 for high school students. These numbers represent one-third of the average daily energy requirement for children of these ages.

Under the new guidelines, schools will be required to offer more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, offer only fat-free or low-fat milk, limit calorie counts based on student age and decrease the amounts of trans fat, saturated fat and sodium in foods.

It is because of these new, more specific calorie guidelines that a published count would be unnecessary, Hager said.

### Monitor from A1

versity administrations from checking students' private communications.

Sen. Ronald N. Young, D-Frederick, said his bill, which applies to all employers, is about protecting civil liberties.

"This practice is stepping on constitutional rights," Young said. "They don't have the right to come into your house and listen to your telephone calls or read your mail."

It amounts to a subtle threat, he said.

"If you apply for a job and they ask you for this information and you're thinking, 'If I don't give it to them, I'm not going to get the job,' it's a form of intimidation," Young said.

Various businesses and groups, including the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, T. Rowe Price and the Maryland Retailers Association, oppose the Senate legislation because it does not exempt employer-supplied hardware or Internet services.

"It's too vague," said Jeff Zellmer, legislative director for the Maryland Retailers Association.

The ACLU of Maryland supports the bill.

"We think it's a huge emerging field of law," said Melissa Goemann, the ACLU's legislative director for the state. "We are seeing some legislation like this in other states, and with the explosion of social media I think it's inevitable that this is going to become a really big issue."

Bradley Shear, a Bethesda-based lawyer who specializes in, among other areas, social media law, said he supports the bill.

"I think it's a win-win for everyone involved," Shear said. "It demonstrates that Sen. Young really understands the legal ramifications of this issue."

He too sees this as a civil liberties issue.

"It's starting to get really troublesome, these issues. People still have an expectation of privacy, and these bills go a long way in that direction," Shear said.

Delegate Shawn Z. Tarrant, D-Baltimore, is pushing a bill that would accomplish the same goals as Young's bill, but would only apply to state employees. And like Young, Tarrant also has a bill that would prohibit the practice of universities requiring some college students, particularly athletes, to give their email or social media usernames and passwords to university staff.

"Students should be able to attend college with a reasonable sense of privacy," said Tarrant. Information that is publicly posted would not be protected under the bill.

Athletes who play for college teams often fall under stricter scrutiny from coaches and school athletic departments than regular students. Monitoring athletes has become more common in recent years after a highly publicized NCAA investigation revealed a number of improper communications and ethical violations by the University of North Carolina football team in 2012.

Because many of the violations were facilitated through social media, the NCAA changed its policy to recommend, but not require, monitoring of athletes' social media sites.

No Maryland schools require students to provide universities with account passwords or other private information.

Doug Dull, associate athletics director for the University of Maryland, said the school does not require athletes to share private information like Facebook passwords with university officials, although each team has its own guidelines for social media

monitoring.

Some schools use third-party companies like Varsity Monitor and UDiligence that monitor students' social media accounts on their behalf.

Sam Carnahan, CEO of Varsity Monitor, said schools often choose to monitor athletes' profiles as a way to encourage positive behavior and to protect athletes' reputations.

Carnahan also said Varsity Monitor works within the confines of social media sites' terms of use to scan for potentially damaging information that could be made public.

"We have nothing to do with private information," like e-mails or personal messages, Carnahan said.

The bills also address concerns of liability, said Shear. If an employer has access to an employee's social media account, and sees something suspicious but does not report it, they may be liable if that person commits a crime.

"If an employer wants to have access to our private electronic content, then they create a legal duty to police that," Shear said. "If they see something and don't report it, they may become liable."

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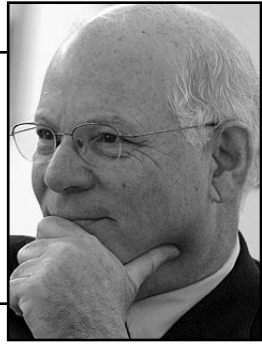
# COMMENTARY

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

### Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



## Cardin Calls for Federal Commitment Help With Aging Water Infrastructure

Washington, DC — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, led a hearing to discuss the wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs of local municipalities, rural communities, and other similar jurisdictions. Witnesses at the hearing outlined the great challenges faced by these communities to maintain and improve their water infrastructure.

"Our nation's water resources are at increasing risk. Our drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is aging and overburdened. A number of densely populated cities are served by pipes that are at least 100 years old. This is a problem that cannot be ignored," said Senator Cardin. "Mayors across the nation are charged with replacing aging infrastructure and meeting the demands of a growing population while simultaneously coping with the aftermath of an historic recession. The federal government must fulfill its responsibility to provide clean and safe water for all Americans."

"It is in the federal government's economic interest to invest in water infrastructure. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. For the most part, the President's recently proposed budget demonstrates this administration's

commitment to preserving clean water for our communities. Significant cuts to the State Revolving Funds, however, are worrisome at a time when many communities are struggling to meet water needs on severely constrained budgets."

Testifying at today's hearing were Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor, City of Baltimore and co-chair of the Water Council for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Water Council held a summit in late October on water issues facing American cities. Also, Jerry N. Johnson, General Manager, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. WSSC is working to find cost effective solutions to their drinking water and wastewater needs for an urban setting. And Kathy Horne, Executive Director, Alabama Rural Water Association. A member of the National Rural Water Association, which has member affiliates in 45 states, including Maryland, ARWA provides assistance to rural systems and provides technical training and support.

This hearing, "Local Government Perspectives on Water Infrastructure," is a part of the follow up to the December 2011 water infrastructure hearing chaired by Senator Cardin, which explored the problems and opportunities inherent in our nation's water infrastructure through a national lens.

### To Be Equal

#### Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



## Octavia Spencer Wins Best Supporting Actress Oscar

*"I'm just going to live in this moment because it's never happened before and lord knows it may never happen again."*

Octavia Spencer, 2012 Academy Award -- Best Actress in a Supporting Role

Octavia Spencer brought the gilded audience at Hollywood's Kodak Theater to its feet Sunday night as she tearfully accepted the Academy Award for Best Actress in a Supporting role for her portrayal of Minny Jackson, a proud, outspoken maid in the Oscar-nominated movie, "The Help." Ms. Spencer, whose break-out role in "The Help," comes after years of mostly small parts in dozens of films, was overwhelmed with gratitude for the honor and thanked Steven Spielberg, her home state of Alabama and her fellow cast members, including Viola Davis who was nominated for Best Actress.

Spencer becomes only the 13th African American to win an acting Oscar in the 84-year history of the Academy Awards and just the sixth Black woman since Hattie McDaniel took home the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1940 for her role in "Gone with the Wind." We congratulate Octavia Spencer for her achievement. Her performance in "The Help" sheds new light on what life was like for Black women domestics in the South during the dawning days of the 1960s civil rights movement. The dignity and strength of the characters she and Viola Davis portray give new perspective to the unique struggles of African American women, and demonstrate the overwhelming power of faith, community and sisterhood.

We are also encouraged by the Academy Award winning success of previous Black women actors, including Hattie McDaniel, Hailie

Berry, Mo'Nique, Jennifer Hudson, and Whoopi Goldberg, who have broken the Oscar color and gender barriers. But, this small sorority of Black women Oscar winners makes it clear that Hollywood has a long way to go in diversifying the content of its story-lines as well as the color of its characters, especially for African American women. It might help if the Academy diversified its own ranks. More than 90 percent of its members are white, more than 75 percent are male.

While there have been several movies in recent years like "Red Tails," "Hotel Rwanda," "Malcolm X" "Glory" and "Invictus" (about the life of Nelson Mandela), that cast black men in heroic roles, there have been few films about black women heroines.

USA Today film critic, Bill Goodykoontz, pointed out in a recent column that, "People of color too often find only narrow aspects of their lives and history represented in mainstream film, if represented at all." James Braxton Peterson, director of Africana studies at Lehigh University added, "While we must applaud the outstanding performances by Ms. Davis and Ms. Spencer, we cannot ignore the fact that once again African Americans are being recognized in Hollywood for playing limited...roles."

This fact was not lost on Octavia Spencer who remarked after accepting her award, "I hope it's the hallmark of more for young, aspiring actresses of color, and by color, I don't mean just African American. I mean Indian, Native American, Latin American, Asian American. I hope that in some way I can be some sort of beacon of hope..." We applaud Ms. Spencer for her Academy Award and we echo her desire that Hollywood create more quality roles for deserving Black actors and actresses.



### Open to the Public

A trading place. a place to fish. a canal and town. an amusement park. a place to discover nature. during the past ten thousand years, the great falls of the potomac has been the location of all of these, and more. from trading to recreation, people have been drawn here for thousands of years. The reasons why people come to great falls, both in the past and in the present, are as varied as the people themselves.

### Prince George's Publick Playhouse for the Performing Arts

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Medicaid: Help in Hard Times

February marks the third anniversary of the Child Health Insurance Program

Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), which has made significant improvements in health coverage for millions of children. About two-thirds of all uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but are not enrolled due largely to bureaucratic barriers. CHIPRA has addressed those barriers head on by including performance bonuses to encourage states to simplify their enrollment procedures and meet targets for enrolling the lowest income children. Millions of dollars in outreach and enrollment grants also have helped target eligible but uninsured children and connect them with health coverage. CHIPRA has extended the reach of these critical child health programs that together served more than 43 million children in 2011—children like Jyla Bell.

Jyla, age nine, has cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, and a mood disorder. Her left side is weak and she has holes in her spine and wears a back brace for support. She also has trouble retaining information. Her mother Amy, whose income is below the federal poverty level and who has serious health needs of her own, can't afford private health insurance or education. Forty years ago, a child with Jyla's physical and mental disabilities may well have been placed in an institution but today, the child health safety net—including Medicaid—makes it possible for Jyla to live at home with her mom and older brother Cornez and attend public school.

Medicaid provides hundreds of millions of children who are poor or have disabilities with comprehensive health coverage enabling them to become productive, taxpaying members of society. Without Medicaid's strong protections, coverage guarantee, and individualized health and mental health care, many of these children would go uninsured, increasing costs for states and local communities. Medicaid is the single largest health insurer for children, providing health coverage to almost 35 million low income children and another 1.4 million children with disabilities. Together Medicaid and CHIP—the Children's Health Insurance Program—insure one in three children, six in ten low income children, and four in ten children with special

health care needs. Health coverage costs more than \$14,000 a year for a family of four—almost as much as a parent would earn working full time at minimum wage. About 85 percent of uninsured children live in working families for whom private health coverage is financially out of reach.

Jyla and her family live in a modest attached home in a subsidized housing development on the east side of Kalamazoo, Michigan, as Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Julia Cass learned when she met the family while on assignment for the Children's Defense Fund. Amy grew up in a two-parent household, graduated from high school, and attended a junior college. What stopped her upward trajectory was her health. At about the time Cornez, 11, was born, she came close to death from an enlarged heart and irregular heartbeat. For a while, she was on the list for a heart transplant and was in and out of the hospital.

Jyla's serious needs also make it harder for Amy to get ahead because they require so much extra time and attention. Amy realized something was wrong a few months after Jyla was born. "She didn't use the left side of her body," she said. "She didn't reach like a normal baby. She didn't want to interact as much, and she was in pain a lot of the time." Amy began taking her to specialists who diagnosed her with cerebral palsy and juvenile arthritis. Just recently, doctors discov-

ered the holes in her spine. "They think she may have spina bifida," Amy said. She takes Jyla to specialists in orthopedics and rheumatology in Ann Arbor two or three times a month who help ensure she has the equipment she needs including a special stroller and back and foot braces.

Now that Amy's own health has somewhat stabilized—she had a minor stroke a few months ago—she's also back on the path she had to abandon 11 years ago. She is attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College and studying health care administration with the aid of a Pell grant and student loan. The loan is part of the family's income, along with Jyla's \$674 a month in Social Security disability. They also get food stamps. "Some people ask me why I don't apply for disability myself," Amy said. "I want to work. I can't stand or lift or push or pull, but I think I can be in a doctor's office coding and billing." She goes to college part-time because of Jyla's needs. Jyla often wakes up in pain at night, and that keeps Amy up as well. Some days, especially when the weather is cold, the arthritis is so painful that Jyla doesn't go to school at all. Jyla's brother Cornez is an A student who proudly displays an award for outstanding academic excellence signed by President Obama and dreams of going to Morehouse College

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## O'Malley Announces Contract to Construct Final Segment of the Intercounty Connector

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

*Construction between I-95 and US 1 in Prince George's County to support up to 1,000 jobs*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (February 28, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) recently awarded ICC Constructors (IC3), a joint venture based in Bethesda, the contract to design and build the final segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200). The \$89 million "Contract D/E" will complete the ICC by constructing a one-mile segment between I-95 and US 1 in Prince George's County. "Projects like the ICC address our State's infrastructure needs so the next generation can benefit from an improved transportation system," said Governor O'Malley. "Construction of this final segment will support up to 1,000 jobs for our families, open the door to new economic development opportunities in northern Prince George's County, and provide a congestion-free option for residents traveling between the US 1/I-95 corridor and the I-270 corridor."

In addition to supporting 1,000 jobs, the project also includes an On the Job Training

(OJT) program with up to two dozen entry-level employment opportunities in construction trades. The recruits will have the opportunity to reach "journeyperson" status and graduate from the program with transportation skills, increasing their future employment options.

"The additional mile of highway will provide new access points to the ICC from U.S. Route 1 and Virginia Manor Road, providing Prince George's County residents safe, reliable, and convenient access to employment opportunities from U.S. Route 1 to the I-270 high-tech corridor and will improve access to the County for commuters traveling east. This also will relieve traffic congestion for motorists along the Route 1 Corridor and in and around the Laurel area. When completed, this final segment of the ICC will improve access to the business community and expand economic development," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker III. "The jobs supported by the construction and the OJT program are great news for Prince George's County."

The ICC is the state's first all-electronic toll road, ultimately from I-370 to US 1, in which drivers pay with E-ZPass. Operated by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), the ICC provides reliable and relatively congestion free travel between Prince



PHOTO BY DOUGTONE, FLICKR  
The \$89 million "Contract D/E" will complete the ICC by constructing a one-mile segment between I-95 and US 1 in Prince George's County.

George's and Montgomery counties. A trip that used to take 47 minutes from Laurel to Gaithersburg now takes 17 minutes on the ICC, a 64 percent time savings that significantly improves mobility for employees and businesses.

The final segment of the ICC will connect to Virginia Manor Road with a partial interchange and to US 1 near the Muirkirk MARC commuter rail station with a signal-controlled intersection.

Construction will also include separated parallel lanes along I-95 between the ICC and MD 198 interchange for traffic to safely merge at exits.

Engineering design work is underway, with construction starting by late spring of this year. The project is scheduled for completion late 2013/early 2014, weather permitting. At

\$89 million, Contract D/E is within the \$2.5 billion budget of the entire 18.8-mile ICC.

The joint venture IC3 team consists of Shirley Contracting Company, LLC; Clark Construction Group, LLC; Facchina Construction Company, Inc.; and Trumbull Corporation. IC3 was one of three prime contractors that built the first segments of the ICC. The first segment of the ICC, from I-270 to Georgia Ave. (MD 97), opened to traffic Feb. 2011. The next two segments, from Georgia Ave. to I-95, opened to traffic on Nov. 21, 2011.

For more information on ICC operations and E-ZPass, visit [www.mdt.maryland.gov](http://www.mdt.maryland.gov). For more information on ICC construction, please call toll-free at 866-462-0020, or visit [www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com).

## Hybrid Technology Moves from Road to Water

By DREW GROSSMAN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Hybrid engines aren't just for cars anymore. Hybrid engine systems are slowly catching on with environmentally-conscious sailors, replacing less-fuel efficient diesel motors on sailboats.

The setup -- a diesel generator paired with an electric motor -- allows sailors to stay out on the water longer, bypassing the need to return to the dock each night to recharge. And it burns less fuel than a diesel motor by itself, pumping out a fraction of the pollution.

"Yes, you're still using diesel, but you're using it efficiently," said Sally Reuther, who co-owns Annapolis Hybrid Marine, a three-year-old company that sells hybrid engine systems.

Like hybrid boat engine systems, hybrid cars caught on slowly when they were first introduced in the United States. In 2000, hybrid cars represent-

ed .06 percent of all vehicles sold in the United States, according to the federal government. Last year, they accounted for 2.11 percent of all vehicles sold in the country.

Currently, the number of hybrid boat engine systems sold in this country is so small that the National Marine Manufacturers Association does not collect data on hybrids. But boating industry experts said they expect to see many more sold in coming years.

"Everybody is thinking in terms of making this technology work," said Susan Zellers of the Marine Trade Association of Maryland. "We all have to get there eventually."

As with other green technologies, Zellers said that she thinks boaters are interested in hybrids but are hesitant to switch because of the cost. Hybrid engine systems cost between 10 percent and 15 percent more than a traditional setup, industry experts said,

though they save owners money on gas and maintenance.

A 36-foot sailboat with a traditional diesel engine can go 350 miles on 50 gallons of fuel, according to Elco Motor Yachts, a New York company that makes electric boat engines. The same boat with a hybrid system can go more than three times as far -- 1,100 miles -- with the same amount of fuel, according to the company.

Hybrid manufacturers also said they needed to do more to educate boat owners accustomed to buying traditional diesel engines.

"At first, the response was very skeptical from people who would look at the technology at the boat show," said David DiQuinzio, who co-owns Annapolis Hybrid Marine. "But in the space of a year-and-a-half we have seen a shift where instead of, 'Oh, this will never work' or, 'Maybe five or 10 years from now this will be for real,' more and more people are beginning to see this works

now." Most hybrid cars use an electric motor at low speeds and a gasoline-powered engine at higher speeds. A hybrid boat does not have two motors, instead using a diesel generator to charge batteries that power an electric motor.

Unlike with a traditional diesel boat engine, the electric motor warms up instantly.

"It's all electronic, it's all computerized. You turn the key and it's ready to go. Instant torque," Reuther said.

There is no vibration, no noise and no smoke from the motor.

Sailboat owners are the primary target for hybrid engine systems. The systems are an especially good alternative for sailors who do not want to return their boat to dock each night to charge.

In some hybrid systems, the diesel generator also powers all of the on-board electronics like the lights, kitchen appliances and electronic navigation tools.

## The Best of New York Furniture in Baltimore

Baltimore, Maryland (February 2012) – The Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) will explore the work of 19th century New York furniture makers Duncan Phyfe and Charles-Honoré Lannuier on March 1st. MDHS has rare examples of their furniture as well as some of the best Baltimore made furniture.

Peter M. Kenny, Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts and Administrator of The American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York will speak on "The Best of New York Furniture in Baltimore: Neoclassical Honoré Lannuier and Duncan Phyfe" with a selection of their furniture from

MDHS's collection along with images on March 1, 6 pm, at the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St. Tickets are \$40 with an open bar reception following the talk. For more information, contact (410)-685-3750 or [mdhs.org](http://mdhs.org).

During the first decades of the nineteenth century, Duncan Phyfe and Charles-Honoré

Lannuier were the acknowledged leaders of the New York furniture trade. Both immigrant craftsmen, they established a distinctive New York style of cabinetmaking that incorporated contemporary European design. Americans throughout

See FURNISH, Page A6

### Business Exchange

by William Reed



### Know Before You Owe

Dez Bryant provides a good economic example of what is happening to Blacks across America. In heavy debt after leveraging his first-year salary to pay for "bling-lifestyle" amenities, during the National Football League (NFL) lock-out, the 24-year-old wide receiver had to turn to payday lenders to help him keep up his game. Desmond Demond "Dez" Bryant started spending on his salary as a NFL player when he was drafted in the first round of the 2010 NFL Draft.

During the 18 months before Bryant signed with the Dallas Cowboys, he bought at least seven men's watches and two more for women. He paid \$65,500 for a diamond cross made of white gold and \$60,000 for a custom charm. He ordered a set of dog tags made of white gold and diamonds, and all sorts of other rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces in various shades of gold. Bryant got it all through a line of credit with the understanding that he'd settle up once he signed the pro contract that paid him \$8.5 million.

While we hold them out to be "successful", most people don't know that a third of NFL players live paycheck to paycheck. Or, that by the time NFL players have been retired for two years, 78 percent have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce. Within five years of retirement, 60 percent of former NFL players are broke.

We all don't have to be buying gold grills; but Bryant shows how cash and credit poses problems for not only rich Black athletes but, normal folks in the hood as well. More people are using payday lenders to secure essentials critical to daily life, and pay for medical emergencies, tuition fees and house bills that include water and electricity. There are more payday lending stores than McDonald's and Starbucks combined. Payday lending has grown into a \$40 billion industry.

The popularity of the short-term loan product has grown significantly since the early 1990s. America has 23,000 payday loan stores and there

seems to be an increasing demand for them. Nearly 20 million Americans use payday lenders that charge, on average, \$16 for a \$100 two-week loan.

If you have a job, it's easy to get one of these high-interest loans. No credit check, car title or other collateral is needed. All you generally need is some proof you have a steady job, a driver's license and a checking account. Usually, you're asked to write a post-dated personal check payable to the lender for the amount you want to borrow, plus a fee. You either repay the loan before your next payday or the lender cashes your check.

Prudent thinking is recommended before you sign up for a "payday" type of loan. If you're having trouble paying the rent, mortgage payment or other monthly bills, talk to current creditors to develop a new payment plan. If you must pursue a payday loan; shop several lenders, find the best loan, then read the loan application/contract carefully and correct any errors. Never make inaccurate statements about your financial condition. Walk away from any lender who offers to falsify information or asks you to sign a loan application where spaces have been left blank. Understand what you sign – be sure that the terms of the loan as written in your contract match what the lender has told you.

On the other hand, it would be wise to look at opportunities to participate in ownership and the profits of payday loan stores and kiosk locations. Half of America's payday loan stores are owned by independent entrepreneurs who put together approximately \$25,000 to open their store. Payday operators can expect to break even in 15 months if they are able to plan and pay out \$8,000 a month to pay rent, utilities, one to two employees, signage, advertising, payroll taxes, software, computers, and office supplies and are able to build up to a portfolio of \$60,000 in loans.

(William Reed is president of the Business Exchange Network and available for speaking/seminar projects via the BaileyGroup.org.)

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### "Wanderlust"

"WANDERLUST"

B+

Rated R for abundant harsh profanity and lots of nudity, some strong sexuality and crude language.

1 hr., 38 min.

The key to enjoying the delightfully absurd "Wanderlust" is accepting that it does not take place in the real world. Real people have motivations for what they do, and their actions have consequences. "Wanderlust" is populated by characters from a sketch-comedy show who make whatever bizarre decisions are necessary for the premise to play out.

A couple of married urbanites fall on hard financial times and spontaneously move into a commune with a bunch of goofballs? Sure! They engage in the whole "free love" thing without having a real conversation about it first? Why not! A hippy-dippy messianic leader suddenly turns greedy and conniving? Okay!

Normally such thin plotting would be grounds for stern criticism, but not here. For one thing, I suspect that if you told the filmmakers their movie doesn't make any narrative sense, they would agree with you and say, "So what?" For another thing, the movie is frequently hilarious. You ideally want a comedy to be really funny AND tell a real story, but if you can only achieve one or the other, I'll take the laughs.

"Wanderlust" comes from the surreally subversive people behind TV cult favorites like "The State" and "Stella." David Wain is director and co-writer, as he was for "Wet Hot

American Summer," "The Ten," and "Role Models," and he shares screenplay credit with regular collaborator Ken Marino. If you're familiar with any of the titles just mentioned, you'll have a pretty accurate idea of what to expect here: appearances by Michael Ian Black and Michael Showalter, gags ranging from the satiric to the nonsensical, individual scenes that function as comedy sketches, and a general sense of looseness bordering on anarchy.

Paul Rudd, who's worked with this team several times before, and Jennifer Aniston, who's just beginning to test the waters of R-rated comedies (loved her in "Horrible Bosses"), star as George and Linda, a happily married Manhattan couple who can't afford the city lifestyle anymore. While driving to Atlanta to stay with George's materialistic, rat-race-loving brother (co-writer Marino), they stumble upon an idyllic rural commune inhabited by a couple dozen hippie types who seem quite content with their way of life. George and Linda are welcomed with open arms.

Is all of this an excuse to make fun of truth circles, smug vegans, and hummus-eating tree-huggers? Yes! The large cast of funny actors create a world of oddball characters, then roam around in that world to see what happens. Seth (Justin Theroux), the commune's leader, speaks of leaving behind the cares of modern society, but has pagers and fax machines as his point of reference. Carvin (Alan Alda) is the burned-out hippie who founded the place 40 years ago with a bunch of his buddies. Eva



George (Rudd) and Linda (Aniston) are an overextended, stressed out Manhattan couple. After George is downsized out of his job, they find themselves with only one option: to move in with George's awful brother in Atlanta. On the way there, George and Linda stumble upon Elysium, an idyllic community populated by colorful characters who embrace a different way of looking at things. Money? It can't buy happiness. Careers? Who needs them? Clothes? Only if you want them. Is Elysium the fresh start George and Linda need? Or will the change of perspective cause more problems than it solves? -- (C) Universal

(Malin Akerman) is big on the everybody-has-sex-with-everybody aspect. Wayne (Joe Lo Truglio) is a nudist and a wine-maker, and the only person in the group who is either of those things. The pregnant Almond (Lauren Ambrose) is married to Rodney (Jordan Peele), and is very proud of the fact that their relationship is biracial. Other characters, like Kerri Kenney-Silver's Kathy, are like utility players, doing whatever kind of daftness is called for at the moment. Would it be funny to have someone possess no sense of personal boundaries and to sit and watch while George uses the toilet? Okay, in this scene, that's how Rodney and Kathy are.

There are also some great laughs in the scenes with George's brother and sister-in-law (Michaela Watkins). The

latter hates the joyless drudgery of her McMansion lifestyle as much as her husband loves it, and passes the days drinking margaritas and expressing darkly comic resentment.

For a while George and Linda seem like the sane people in a sea of crazies, but eventually these characters are revealed to be as thinly drawn as the others. I admit that's a little disappointing, yet I can see the reasoning behind it. No, it doesn't make any sense that George and Linda would buy into the "open marriage" element of communal living. But unless they do, we can't enjoy the hilarity that ensues! The movie's hands are tied, you see. Believe me, a world deprived of the scene where Paul Rudd prepares for a liaison by talking to himself in a mirror would be a sad world indeed.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Follow the Urine! Ryan Braun Makes a Kind of History

Something historic happened this week in the world of sports and, for once, I'm not talking about Jeremy Lin. Milwaukee Brewers slugger and reigning National League Most Valuable Player Ryan Braun, appealed and beat a looming fifty game suspension for failing a steroid test. This marks the first time in history that a baseball player has successfully challenged a steroid-related penalty.

"I am very pleased and relieved by today's decision," Braun said in a statement. "It is the first step in restoring my good name and reputation. We were able to get through this because I am innocent and the truth is on our side. We provided complete cooperation throughout, despite the highly unusual circumstances. I have been an open book, willing to share details from every aspect of my life as part of this investigation, because I have nothing to hide. I have passed over 25 drug tests in my career, including at least three in the past year."

Braun beat the suspension because of a bizarre set of circumstances surrounding his drug test that seems like the plot of an awful movie that could be called Brotherhood of the Traveling Urine Sample. As ESPN reported, "The collector, after getting Braun's sample, was supposed to take the sample to a FedEx Office for shipping. But the source said the collector thought the FedEx Office was closed because it was late on a Saturday and felt the sample wouldn't get shipped until Monday. As has occurred in some other instances, the collector took the sample home and kept it in a cool place, in his basement at his residence in Wisconsin."

Yes, the reigning National League MVP and arguably the highest profile player to ever test positive for steroids, had his good name destroyed and it was all based around a piss test left in a cold, Wisconsin basement. As Barry Petchesky of Deadspin wrote, "If the procedure is so f—ked up that some dude can keep a jar of Ryan Braun's pee in his fridge over the weekend, then maybe Major League Baseball should worry less about Ryan Braun's appeal and more about a chain of custody that relies on a courier knowing the hours of his local Kinkos."

The response to Braun's acquittal by Major League Baseball has been nothing short of spiteful. MLB's official comment was, "While we have always respected that process, Major League Baseball vehemently disagrees with the decision." Behind the scenes, they have been described as "enraged" with the arbitrator's decision.

The US Anti-Doping Agency CEO Travis Tygart said, "It's frankly unreal. And it's a kick in the gut to clean athletes... To have this sort of technicality of all technicalities let a player off... it's just a sad day for all the clean players and those that abide by the rules within professional baseball."

It's not just Major League Baseball and their professional urine brigade that's up in arms. Reporters like Mike Lupica of the New York Daily News have made clear that, acquittal or not, Ryan Braun has not cleared his name. "Understand something: The overturning of Braun's fifty-game suspension doesn't mean Braun is clean, no matter what he says or how many times he says it or what he expects reasonable people to believe. He wasn't exonerated. He was acquitted. There's a difference."

But as Sports Illustrated's Joe Sheehan also wrote, quite logically, "This, by the way, is how it's supposed to work. If the penalty is 50 games and millions of \$, the process better be PRISTINE."

Baseball executives are sour they didn't get to lower the hammer and are saying that Braun was only found not guilty because of a "technicality." But as Gabe Feldman from the Tulane Sports Law Center wrote, "Chain of custody a 'technicality'? It's critical to fair drug policy, and is mentioned 33 times in the MLB drug policy."

Major League Baseball is more upset because they need scalps to justify to Congress, sportswriters and the minority of fans that care that they are serious about cleaning up the game and drug testing isn't mere window dressing. As the baseball writers dean, Peter Gammons wrote, after Braun had already been convicted in the press, "What the Braun test result tells is that the Commissioner's Office and the players don't care if it's the MVP or a 4A utility infielder, they want a level playing field. Thus, in a sense, this speaks for the sincerity of the program, that it doesn't protect the faces of the sport or anyone's favorites, that Ryan Braun gets no different treatment than some kid in the Dominican Summer League."

Very noble. Yet amidst all the steroid hysteria, is a person, Ryan Braun, who actually has rights. In baseball commissioner Bud Selig's worldview, that means he has the right to shoot himself up with painkillers, chew tobacco and drink himself blind, but no right to use even prescribed steroids. If that's the kind of world the union wants to collectively bargain, then that's their choice. It's a choice with which I disagree. This is just the cultural sanctioning of a war-on-drugs mentality that's been great for the prison industry, but awful for the rest of us. I can certainly understand why players want the right to not feel like they need to take steroids to compete with the guy in the next locker. But Braun also has the right to not have his urine stored in a basement. He has the right to not have had the test results revealed before his appeal. He has the right to some dignity through this process. We don't know in the end whether Ryan Braun is "dirty." But we know that baseball and their drug testing system has deep flaws which should be seen as intolerable not just to Ryan Braun and Major League players but to all of us.

## Former Lady Bulldogs' Standout Deidra (Fields) Hines CIAA Hall of Fame Honoree

By SPORTS INFORMATION  
Bowie State University

(HAMPTON, Va.) The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in conjunction with the CIAA Executive Committee welcomes six individuals and one team into the John B. McLendon, Jr. Hall of Fame. Among those being honored is former Lady Bulldogs' standout Deidra (Fields) Hines. Deidra (Fields) Hines, a dual sport student-athlete for the Lady Bulldogs, was a member of the volleyball team where, in 1999, she earned the CIAA Player of the Year and All-Conference recognition in 1999 and 2000. In addition to her accomplishments in volleyball she was also a part of the 1999 CIAA Championship team and

2000 Runner-Up team for women's basketball. Fields earned All-CIAA and All-South Atlantic Region recognitions in 2000 and represented the CIAA at the Black College All-Star Game. Since her days at Bowie State, Deidra has played professional women's football for the Detroit Demolition; where they have won five National Championships. She has coached junior college basketball at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI where they were the 2010 Division II National Runner-Up, won two state titles, one Region XII Title and three conference titles. Currently, Deidra is wife and mother of a 17 year old son and resides in Romulus, Michigan. She is the Owner of The Frosted Oven Cake Studio. Other inductees



Former Lady Bulldogs' standout Deidra (Fields) Hines

include Donald Evans (Winston-Salem State University - Football), Dr.

Claudie J. Mackey (Elizabeth City State University - Basketball, Track and Professor), Warren Bruce (Virginia Union University - Men's Basketball), Ralph Tally (Norfolk State University - Men's Basketball), Vic Fulp (Posthumous) Beat Writer for the Progress Index and Richmond Times-Dispatch and the 1950 CIAA Men's Basketball Championship Team. The McLendon Hall of Fame's newest neophytes have earned top recognition on the playing field, in their communities and have been staunch supporters of the CIAA. Honorees will be enshrined on Friday, March 2, 2012 at the Charlotte Convention Center at 11:00 am.

### Furnish from A5

the young nation considered their work to be the pinnacle of taste and sophistication.

Baltimore painted furniture of the 19th century is considered among the best in the world. Nowhere else was there such a fine blending of both the form and design of the furniture itself with the decorative painted work which was applied to the form. This splendid marriage of sculptural form and two-dimensional painted work can be seen clearly on the furni-

ture that the Findlay brothers, John and Hugh, created in Baltimore.

Peter M. Kenny has been a member of the curatorial staff at The Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1989. Kenny writes and lectures extensively on the subject of American colonial and federal period furniture and craftsmen. His latest exhibition, Duncan Phyfe, Master Cabinetmaker in New York opened at the Metropolitan on December 19, 2011. The Phyfe exhibition is a pendant to Mr. Kenny's earlier exhibition,

Honoré Lannuier: Parisian Cabinetmaker in Federal New York (1998), which featured the work of Phyfe's most tenacious competitor, the Parisian-trained ébéniste, Charles-Honoré Lannuier, who arrived in New York in 1803 and worked there until his untimely death in 1819.

Mr. Kenny is a graduate of Montclair State University and received his M.A. from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies.

The Maryland Historical Society was founded in 1844 and is the world's largest muse-

um and library dedicated to the history of Maryland. Occupying an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore, the society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage." The Society is home to the original manuscript of the Star-Spangled Banner and publishes a quarterly titled "Maryland Historical Magazine." More information about the Maryland Historical Society can be found online at <http://www.mdhs.org>.

# Calendar of Events

March 8 - March 14, 2012

## Spring Jazz Series: Tony Martucci

Date and Time: March 9, 8 pm  
 Event Description: Originally from Pittsburgh, Mr. Martucci has been delighting jazz audiences at concerts and festivals for more than 25 years on four continents with his unique style of drumming. He has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival and his recordings have been well-received by jazz critics all over the world. Currently a jazz professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, he is an in-demand drummer who has worked with such jazz luminaries as Joe Henderson, Joshua Redman, Mose Allison, and Sonny Stitt. [www.jazzconnect.com/tonymartucci](http://www.jazzconnect.com/tonymartucci)  
 Ages: All ages  
 Fee: \$20 per person. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription.  
 Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708  
 Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

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

Date and Time: Monday-Saturday until March 17  
 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

## PUBLICLYK PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2012-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publiclyk Playhouse 2012-2012 season: 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 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.pgpark.com](http://arts.pgpark.com)*

## 2012 CAA Women's Basketball Championship

Date and Time: Thursday, March 8 - Sunday, March 11, daily  
 Description: M-NCPPC and the Prince George's County, Maryland Conference & Visitors Bureau are delighted to be hosting the 2012 Virginia 529 Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Women's Basketball Championship at the *Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro*.

Support your favorite team, or cheer for all the outstanding athletes on the University of Delaware, Drexel University, George Mason University, Georgia State University, Hofstra University, James Madison University, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Northeastern University, Old Dominion University, Towson University, Virginia Commonwealth University and the College of William and Mary women's basketball teams.  
 For complete game schedule, visit [www.caasports.com](http://www.caasports.com)  
 Cost: Ticket books (all 11 games): \$38  
 Single session tickets (one, all-day pass): \$7 for youth (ages 5-17); \$7 for seniors (ages 62+); \$12 for adults (18-61); \$6/person in groups of 15 or more (must be purchased at Show Place Arena); \$5.50 for CAA students with ID (must be purchased at Show Place Arena)

Purchase a ticket book for all 11 CAA games, or buy a single session, day pass. Tickets sold at TicketMaster outlets, through TicketMaster phone charge (202-397-SEAT, 410-547-SEAT, 703-573-SEAT), online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), at the Show Place Arena box office, and at the box offices of CAA schools.  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: *The Show Place Arena*  
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro 20772  
 Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

# EARTH TALK ... Why did leading solar panel maker Solyndra fail?

Dear EarthTalk:

*What caused Solyndra, a leading American solar panel maker, to fail last fall and what are the implications for U.S. alternative energy industries?*

-- Walt Bottone, Englewood, NJ

Solyndra was a California-based maker of thin-film solar cells affixed to cylindrical panels that could deliver more energy than conventional flat photovoltaic panels. The company's novel system mounted these flexible cells, made of copper, indium, gallium and diselenide (so-called CIGS), onto cylindrical tubes where they could absorb energy from any direction, including from indirect and reflected light.

Solyndra's technology was so promising that the U.S. government provided \$535 million in loan guarantees—whereby taxpayers foot the payback bill to lenders if a borrower fails. And fail Solyndra did: In September 2011 the company ceased operations, laid off all employees, and filed for bankruptcy.

What caused this shooting star of alternative energy to burn out so spectacularly after just six years in business and such a large investment? Part of what made Solyndra's technology so promising was its low cost compared to traditional photovoltaic panels that relied on once costlier silicon. "When

Solyndra launched, processed silicon was selling at historic highs, which made CIGS a cheaper option," reports Rachel Swaby in *Wired Magazine*. "But silicon producers overreacted to the price run-up and flooded the market." The result was that silicon prices dropped 90 percent, eliminating CIGS' initial price advantage.

Another problem for Solyndra was the falling price of natural gas—the cleanest of the readily available fossil fuels—as extractors implemented new technologies including horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to get at formerly inaccessible domestic reserves in shale rock. In 2001 shale gas accounted for two percent of U.S. natural gas output, while today that number is closer to 30 percent. The result of this increased supply is that the price of natural gas has fallen by some 77 percent since 2008, meaning utilities can produce electricity from it much cheaper as well. "Renewables simply can't compete," adds Swaby.

The final blow to Solyndra was China's creation of a \$30 billion credit line for its nascent solar industry. "The result: Chinese firms went from making just six percent of the world's solar cells in 2005 to manufacturing more than half of them today," says Swaby. U.S. market share is now just seven percent.

Low natural gas prices have also hurt other renewables, especially given the slow econ-



CREDIT: ZACHARY GRAHAM/FLICKR

**Low natural gas prices, competition from China and other factors helped sink innovative American solar panel maker. Solyndra, despite its having received \$535 million in government loan guarantees. But the Obama administration is not deterred and has renewed efforts to force utilities to derive significant percentages of their power from cleaner, greener sources.**

omy and its stifling effect on innovation. To wit, the rate of new wind-turbine installations in the U.S. has declined by more than half since 2008. "The fossil fuel industry and its allies in Congress clearly see the solar and wind industries as a threat and will try to kill [them]," says Representative Edward Markey, a top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Regardless of the challenges in furthering renewables, the White House remains committed to the greener path. In his recent State of the Union, President Obama renewed the call for a federal Renewable Energy Standard that would force utilities to derive significant percentages of their power from cleaner, greener sources.

This would provide much-needed regulatory uniformity and a more robust and consistent market for renewable power, whether solar panels, wind turbines or other equipment happen to be manufactured.

CONTACTS: Solyndra, [www.solyndra.com](http://www.solyndra.com); *Wired*, [www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com).

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## Cardin from A1

Jaffe, Ed Tinus, Lih Young and prominent Prince George's County pastor, the Rev. C. Anthony Muse -- filed fundraising activity.

Candidates do not have to file until their campaign spending or donations reach \$5,000.

Only two of Cardin's Republican rivals reported fundraising in the final 2011 quarter. Bongino raised \$130,000 in 2011, and said he expected this (March) quarter alone to exceed that number. Richard Douglas, a former

deputy assistant secretary of Defense, raised more than \$63,000, but has only \$9,000 cash left on hand.

The remaining Republican candidates Joseph Alexander, Robert Broadus, William Capps Jr., Rick Hoover, Jim Israel, John Kimble, Brian Vaeth and Corrogan Vaughn did not report fundraising activity.

Cardin, a former speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates with a 45-year career in Annapolis and Washington, is "taking nothing for granted in the race," said his spokeswoman Sue Walitsky.

Democrats have about twice

as many registered voters than the GOP in Maryland, and have held both Senate seats since 1987. But Bongino points to wins by former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush in Maryland as proof there will be a fight.

"Republicans have won here before... There are no lost causes; there are causes you're willing to fight for, and those you're not," he said. Bongino has received the endorsement of a number of representatives on The Hill and in Annapolis, including Maryland Senate Minority Whip Ed Reilly, R-Anne Arundel. He told Capital

News Service he is using White House connections he made while protecting the president to help him in his campaign.

Paul Hernnson, director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, said Bongino faces an uphill battle.

"Cardin is a well-known politician in Maryland, he's been around for a long time, and he's well-liked, and Maryland is a Democratic-leaning state," Hernnson said.

The primary is on April 3. The next quarterly reporting date for the Senate race with the FEC is April 15.

## Amputee from A1

for his Genium Knee, Cordova's goal is to hurl it, along with himself, out of an airplane.

"Oh, wow," said Nascott Prosthetist Erin King with raised eyebrows and laughter, recalling her initial reaction. King works in Nascott's facility inside National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington.

King said Cordova can change functions manually by bouncing on the prosthetic toe: two for bicycling, three - skydiving.

Skydiving was a function Cordova specifically requested. Before he lost his leg, one of his military roles was skydiving instructor. With his new leg, he will be able to walk naturally, foot over foot, as he lands.

The Genium Knee is a micro-processor-controlled knee joint that allows users to change functions, manually, or with a Bluetooth-activated remote control.

Its accelerometer measures changing speed and direction of movement, while its gyroscope tells where the user's leg is in space. The technology is similar to that of smartphones and tablets, which react to a user's movement and adjust a screen's orientation.

With Nascott Certified Orthotic Fitter Dora A. Cortez translating, Cordova explained his only concern about returning to his role as skydiving instructor.

"I think it will be the same sensation. But I am just worried about losing the leg in the air," Cordova said with a smile, eliciting laughter from King and Cortez.

King said she fitted Cordova with a special belt to ensure that won't happen.

Cordova said he hopes returning to his duties inspires fellow soldiers who have lost limbs.

"I am not thinking of trying," he said. "I will do it."

Cordova is a member of the Rangers Battalion No. 19 "Commander Espinar" of the Peruvian Army Special Forces. He lost the leg when he and his men were ambushed by Shining Path, an insurgent group in Peru.

Cordova described the battle that cost him his leg in such vivid detail that before Cortez translated, she blurted, "I feel like I was just watching a movie."

Cordova and 14 other soldiers had been on patrol for 18 days in the Peruvian jungle when, on Nov. 23, 2010, they descended into a valley with a clearing that made them vulnerable to ambush.

Traveling single file about one meter apart, Cordova, the second man in line, radioed for his men to expand the distance between each to 7 meters, a distance he thought would make them more secure.

The scene unfolded in slow motion, he said. He heard Shining Path insurgents rustling in the foliage.

When the first landmine detonated, Cordova said he was thrown into the air. The explosion immediately set off four other mines, but the order to spread out, he thinks, saved lives.

"That is why I have peace," Cordova said. "Because everyone would have died."

Two of his men died in the fighting and several were wound-

ed. Cordova said the combination of dense jungle and heavy fire kept rescue helicopters from retrieving his men. So their only recourse was to move on foot, non-stop, day and night.

The fighting began around 2 pm and Cordova said they were not rescued until 5 pm the next day.

Doctors immediately amputated his left leg.

They were able to surgically reconstruct his right leg with surgeries, skin grafts, tendons from a cadaver and a knee replacement.

His memories are so sharp, he said, because he was conscious throughout the entire mission.

During his recovery, his comrades and family worried about him accepting the loss of his leg.

"I accepted it as soon as it happened. I lost my leg, I lost my leg," he said with a shrug. "There was nothing I could do about it."

He spent about seven weeks in intensive care and about nine months recovering from the reconstruction on his right leg, even suffering an infection.

For someone highly trained in military maneuvers, adjustment was not easy.

"Having to walk with crutches," he said, "was like being chained to something."

He was offered an administrative job but declined.

"You might as well send me away," he said to the offer. "I wanted to someday become a general. I want to be in charge of missions."

He said he also wants to run again, to which prosthetist King interjected with a smile,

"Patience."

It was a word, along with "slow down," uttered a few times when Cordova was walking in the hospital's Therapeutic Garden, an outdoor setting with stairs and walking paths.

The capture of Shining Path leader, Comrade Artemio, whose given name is Florindo "Jose" Flores, was reported by the Associated Press earlier this month.

Cordova wants to get home to celebrate.

"That's why I was in a hurry," Cordova said, using two fingers on the table to simulate walking.

"I am so proud," he said. "Proud of the scars I have."

Then he lifted up his right-shoulder sleeve, revealing a tattoo symbolizing his special forces division. It is a helmet-clad soldier with a feather on his forehead that Cordova says represents leadership.

"It's not just a tattoo," he said in English. "It's who I am."



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON CARTER

**Carlos Felipa Cordova sits in National Rehabilitation Hospital's physical therapy room with Nascott Prosthetist Erin King and Nascott Certified Orthotic Fitter Dora A. Cortez.**

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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### Child Watch from A4

and owning a small business someday. Amy's dream is to do everything she can to give both of her children the best chance to "excel in life."

Amy faces uphill challenges, but is also getting important help—and Medicaid is a key piece of the family's puzzle. Medicaid and CHIP keep health coverage stable for children during tough economic times,

and as debates over the budget begin again, any cuts to Medicaid would disproportionately harm low income children, children with disabilities, and children in communities of color who are more likely to suffer from poor health. Medicaid and CHIP work and are critical lifelines in hard times for millions of families like the Bells.

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](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

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

## Senator Benjamin Cardin Criticizes Planned Maryland Postal Closures

By MARK MILLER  
 Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Sen. Ben Cardin criticized proposed cuts to mail processing facilities announced by the United States Postal Service this week, two of which could see Maryland facilities consolidated with others outside the state.

The cuts, as described by USPS spokeswoman Freda Sauter in an email, would see the mail processing center in Cumberland consolidated with a Johnstown, Pa., facility, and the Suburban Annex facility in Gaithersburg shut down and its operations diverted to the Southern Maryland Capital Beltway Facility in Capitol Heights.

All told, the proposed Maryland changes could affect almost 150 workers.

Cardin said he opposes the Cumberland plant closure, but he reserved his harshest criticism for a plan Sauter said remains under study to move operations from the Eastern Shore Processing and Distribution Facility in Easton to a plant in Wilmington, Del.

"The most egregious is what they did in Easton," said Cardin of the cuts. Originally, he said,

the USPS planned to consolidate the Easton facility with a mail processing center in Baltimore, but it changed course on the proposal to study a Wilmington merger without consulting him.

"We're not sure what they're doing," Cardin added.

But Sauter said the USPS has not yet decided to close the Easton plant, and it is not expected to make a decision until the middle of the year.

"No decision has been made to move the operations to the Delaware plant," Sauter cautioned in the email. "A new study will be conducted. The study will begin immediately. Typically ... studies can take anywhere from 3-5 months to complete."

The deficit-strapped USPS released a plan Thursday calling for cuts to more than 220 mail processing facilities nationwide, a strategy Cardin called "short-sighted" and predicted would lead to a further decline in fortunes for the agency.

"Closing the processing centers will almost guarantee that we won't be able to get mail delivered on the next day," said Cardin, who added that rapid mail delivery is expected by

businesses shipping within their local areas. "By making these cuts, it will reduce the service levels on mail delivery and package delivery, and as a result, there will be fewer customers that will use their services."

In her email, Sauter acknowledged the potential pain of the cuts.

"It's important to remember that these are very difficult times, and difficult decisions have to be made," Sauter wrote.

In addition to the Cumberland, Gaithersburg and Easton facilities, mail processing machines at the Waldorf Post Office will be moved to Capitol Heights as well under the USPS' latest proposal.

In total, Sauter wrote, up to 18 employees could be affected by the Waldorf move, in addition to 30 employees projected to be laid off by the Cumberland consolidation and nearly 100 from the Gaithersburg merger. The number of employees that would be affected by an Easton plant closure is currently unknown, she added.

Last fall, a mail processing facility in Frederick closed and its operations were rolled into other Maryland sites.