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Maryland Lags Behind Other Big Ten Schools in Recruiting, Athletic Spending

By MOLLY GEARY
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - When the University of Maryland announced its intention to move to the Big Ten Conference in November 2012, the athletic department had just cut seven sports because of an \$83 million debt.

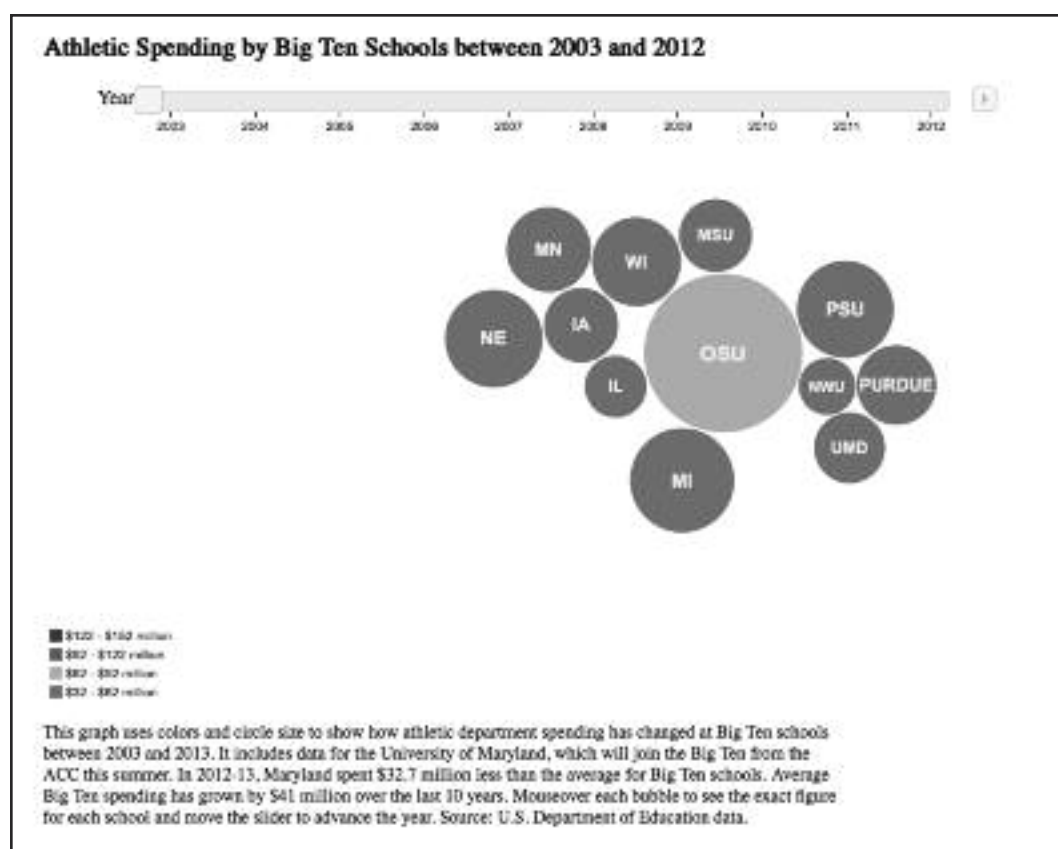
The university is banking on the move as a long-term solution to the department's financial troubles. But Maryland will likely need to spend a lot more to recruit players and field teams once it officially leaves the Atlantic Coast Conference and heads to the more lucrative pastures of the Big Ten in July.

Maryland spends less than every other school in the Big Ten recruiting athletes and on spending per athlete, according to a Capital News Service analysis of financial data reported by schools to the U.S. Department of Education.

I would definitely anticipate that Maryland's spending is going to go up," said Tony Weaver, a columnist for College Sports Business News who has also worked in several Division I college athletics administrations.

In 2012-13, Maryland spent \$777,678 on recruiting, less than all 12 current Big Ten schools. The Big Ten average for recruiting spending was \$1.44 million.

Maryland spent \$113,706 per individual student-athlete in 2011-12, which was less than the 10 Big Ten schools that re-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE Graphic

ported their figures. The average for the Big Ten was \$130,835.

"The commission spent a lot of time on the issue [of spending per student-athlete]," said Brian Ullmann, the spokesperson for a commission established in 2011 by University of Maryland President Wallace Loh to study athletic department finances. "Many of our recommendations were aimed at increasing the support-per-student-athlete. It continues to be a primary objective as we move into the Big Ten."

Maryland has long lagged behind competitor schools, even in the ACC. In 2012-13, they ranked last in the ACC in recruiting spending. In spending per student-athlete, they have traditionally spent well below the ACC average, but in 2011-12 they raised that number to just below the conference average.

Maryland might find itself better off in the Big Ten by getting out of the basement in recruiting spending, Weaver said.

"It gives you better resources to try to recruit better student athletes and allows you to travel further," he said. "I'm not sure Maryland has to go all over the country to get the best players, but they may find that to be as competitive in the Big Ten — especially with football — the recruiting space has to be wider because you are going to a better conference."

While Weaver expects Maryland to start spending more on

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Benjamin D. Foulois Educator Named Teacher of The Year

PRESS OFFICER
PG County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD -- Laura Shelton, science teacher at Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy, has been named the 2014 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made Thursday at the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Celebration at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt.

"Our new Prince George's County Teacher of the Year embodies all of the qualities that ensure success in the classroom," said Dr. Kevin M.

Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools. "Mrs. Shelton is a master of her content area, engages and motivates her students, has high expectations for achievement, and works hard to ensure students have what they need to succeed."

Shelton has spent her fifteen-year career serving students in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), starting as a math teacher at Stephen Decatur Middle School in August 1999. She transferred to Thurgood Mar-

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Strong El Niño Could Mean Weak Hurricane Season for Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

COLLEGE PARK — Climate scientists expect a particularly strong El Niño this summer to lead to fewer hurricanes in the Atlantic.

The probability that at least one major hurricane will make landfall along the East Coast in 2014 is 20 percent, down from the average of 31 percent over the last century, according to a Colorado State University report released April 10.

The report's authors, Philip Klotzbach and William Gray, wrote that there should be below-average hurricane activity because of the "significant impact" El Niños have on Atlantic hurricane activity.

The probability of a major hurricane — with winds above 110 miles per hour — is estimated to be about 65 percent of the long-term average because

See EL NIÑO Page A3

A Band of Musicians with More Ability than Disability

By DANIELLE DREDGER
Capital News Service

ROCKVILLE — It's a Monday night at the Music Center at Strathmore, and the interPLAYcompany Band is rocking out.

The 36-member band, comprised of adults with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities, is rehearsing for their upcoming show in May, a performance featuring 1960's rock music from Great Britain.

Foster Bennett, who has been a band member for 16 years, said he got involved because he loves music. He typically plays tambourine.

"It gets you out of the house and it gets you into a place of happiness," Bennett said. "It brings joy into your life, you know? It makes you feel like, you know, I could leave every care at home, I could come here and I can just rock it out."

Founder and principal conductor Paula R. Moore said she was inspired to start the interPLAYcompany Band 25 years ago by her youngest son, who was born with Down syndrome.

"It became very clear to me that this population was not getting enrichment from the world of music," she said.

Prospective members do not audition, Moore said. Instead, they have interviews where they talk about music and sit in on the band during a rehearsal.

"These band members are coming in without any musical training whatsoever," Moore said.

Once admitted, they pay a tuition fee of \$225 every three months, which covers the costs of music lessons, funding concerts and purchasing instruments and music, Moore said.

The interPLAYcompany Band has 10 mentors, or "bandaides," who assist members during rehearsals. A group of 20 professional musicians also accompanies the band during concerts, associate conductor Paul Bangser said.

People with disabilities typically just play percussion instruments, Bangser said, but the band has been experimenting with technology to allow members to play more complicated instruments.

"We've started to teach them guitar as well, by using a device that sits on the guitar neck that allows people with not a lot of hand strength or dexterity to push a button and make a chord with one hand while they strum with the other," Bangser said.

On the Wicomico River, the Last Stand for Nutria

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL
Capital News Service

WICOMICO RIVER - On the wall of the nutria eradication team's drab office at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, there's a large whiteboard with names and numbers on it. They're bets for a long-running pool: How many nutria will the team find in the marshes of the Wicomico River?

"The people that guessed 90, 70, 120, they've already lost," says Stephen Kendrot as he drives along a Wicomico County backroad.

It's an overcast April afternoon with a long-awaited bit of warmth in the air. The nutria project leader is coming back from a site in Quantico, where four of his trappers are roaming the Wicomico River in jon boats. They've killed about 120 nutria there so far and found a few more this morning.

The river is the site of the final battle in the long-running quest to eradicate the beaver-like rodents ("nutria" means "otter" in Spanish) that have destroyed thousands of acres of the state's wetlands over the past 40 years. It has taken longer than expected — news arti-

cles profiled the waning fight in 2011 — but finally, the state is almost free of the invasive rodents.

Led by Kendrot, the project, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, has cleared marshes up and down the Delmarva Peninsula over the last 12 years. On the Wicomico River, Kendrot's team is after the last surviving colony.

The critters feed on the roots and tubers of marsh plants, which cuts up the root mat, a fibrous layer that holds the marsh together. Water can then flush in and out with the tide, eroding the root mat. The marsh begins to sink. Eventually, the wetlands turn to ponds. The open water has little value to fish and wildlife that rely on the wetlands, and it can't support vegetation that could provide new habitats.

Additionally, marshes serve as filters that keep pollutants from draining to the bay and even trap some carbon dioxide, said Doug Myers, Maryland senior scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, one of the non-governmental organizations that supports the project.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AMANDA SALVUCCI

Nutria are rodents native to South America that were brought to Maryland for their fur. The state is in the last stages of eradicating them because of the way they destroy marshes.

Not only does marsh loss eliminate these benefits and destroy habitat and food sources, it also leaves the marsh more vulnerable to other factors, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, land subsidence and groundwater withdrawal, Kendrot said.

"A marsh without nutria is somewhat resilient to all these other factors, but with nutria it doesn't stand a chance," he said.

The wetlands in the Chesapeake region have experienced

more marsh loss than most other wetlands around the world, Kendrot said, and a study in the 1990s proved that, even with other contributing factors, nutria were largely responsible.

The semi-aquatic critters (Kendrot describes them as "a 20-pound rat with a scaly tail and buck teeth") were brought to the U.S. from South America

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INSIDE

Oculus VR CEO Defends Facebook Acquisition

Irube's revolutionary product, the Oculus Rift, is a virtual reality system designed for video games. It takes the form of a pair of goggles that project two images into each eye and tracks where the player's head moves, altering the view of the game world accordingly.

Community, Page A3

The Budget Is Not Fair, Mr. Chair

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at least 69 percent of the Ryan budget cuts to non-defense programs over the next decade would come from programs that serve low-income children, families, and individuals including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school lunches and other child nutrition programs

Commentary, Page A4

PG County Public School Educators to be Recognized by the Washington Post

Marrow earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia State University in 1995 and went on to earn a master's degree at American University. She will receive her doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University this May.

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "Locke"

Ivan Locke has worked diligently to craft the life he has envisioned, dedicating himself to the job that he loves and the family he adores. On the eve of the biggest challenge of his career, Ivan receives a phone call that sets in motion a series of events that will unravel his family, job, and soul.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What would you consider to be the key areas we need to improve to make our food safer for our health and easier on our environment?

— Billy A. Oakland, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Mary McHale's Morningside-Skyline (May 15, 2014)

301-735-3451/muddmm@aol.com

Morningsiders elect Cann, Moving to Town Council

Only 73 Morningsiders turned out for Morningside's annual election on May 5, down from more than 100 who voted last year. Benn Cann, a newcomer to the Council, and Sharon Fowler, a former Council member, were winners, unseating Council Member Sheila Scott. There were three write-ins.

The tally was: Bernard "Benn" Cann, 52 votes; Sharon Fowler, 48; Sheila Scott, 25; and three write-ins: one each for Susan Frostbutter, Stacey Wade and Harrison Ford (!). Election judges were Chief Judge David Chambers, Susan Frostbutter and Louise Sears.

The newly-elected will be sworn in Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. They join Mayor Kenneth Wade, Vice Mayor James Ealey and Council Member Todd Mullins in the Town government.

It remains to be seen if Harrison Ford will drop by and extend thanks for that write-in.

Karen Cottrell, Central High '78, dies at 53

Karen Jane Cottrell, a paralegal with Steptoe & Johnson LLC in Washington, died suddenly March 26. She was only 53 and had just returned from a delightful National Geographic tour of Guatemala.

Karen grew up in a house on Karen Street in Skyline. She attended Skyline and Foulis, and graduated in 1978 from Central where she was a member of the National Honor Society, school band, French Club and the volleyball team.

She went on to George Washington University where her father was a professor, and got a degree in sociology and psychology. In addition to Steptoe & Johnson, she had been a paralegal with Constellation Energy and Washington Gas.

Since the age of 11, she was active with the Lutheran League at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Temple Hills where,

as one eulogist remembered, "K brought us joy and laughter."

Her father Raymond Cottrell died in 2002. She was the daughter of Elizabeth "Betty" Cottrell; sister of Keith Cottrell (Kristine), Kathryn Dargin (Andreas) and Kristin Haynes (Richard); and seven beloved nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran and she will be at rest in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Albany, N.Y.

Morningside VFD responds to escalator injury

This report is from the Morningside VFD website:

"Shortly before 2100 hours Rescue Squad 27 was alerted to the Iverson Mall area of Company 29s area for a child with his hand stuck in an escalator. Upon the crew's arrival they confirmed that the child's hand was stuck in the return side of the escalator and a massive rescue effort was launched. After over two hours of work to disassemble the escalator, the child was freed and turned over to awaiting EMS crews.

We are happy to report that the victim was released from the hospital the following day. Job well done by all personnel on scene."

This occurred on April 17 at the Burlington Coat Factory. The child was a 6-year-old boy whose hand was entangled under the handrail at the bottom of a down escalator.

Neighbors

Members of the Camp Springs Citizens Association turned out April 26 to clean areas of Old Branch Avenue, Allentown, Henderson and Brinkley roads, and the underpass. Among the workers were Camp Springs' president Arlene Wilson, vice-president John E. Bailey IV, and former president Leon Turner. The event was sponsored by the Department of Public Works & Transportation.

Stacie Branham-Smith, of Skyline, is president of The Women of Hope Support Group, which welcomes all women, ages 30 to 60. Last week they sponsored a very successful Women's Prayer Breakfast. For information, call her at 240-838-9977.

Betty Cottrell, of Skyline and an officer with the Oxon Hill

Pantry, reports their annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser netted \$7,000, with more \$\$\$ still coming. About 50 walkers turned out for the Henson Creek walk.

Changing landscape

Nuclear-energy giant Exelon has bought Pepco for \$6.8 billion. More than a century old, Pepco has suffered problems in recent years. Will Exelon be better? Cheaper? We'll see.

May they rest in peace

Mary E. Cornu, 97, a resident of Newman Road in Temple Hills since 1947, died May 3. A native of Pennsylvania, she moved to Washington for nurses' training at Providence Hospital. She nursed there until her marriage to Louis Edward Cornu Sr. He died in 1999. She was the mother of Barbara Jenkins, Jacqueline Ruth, Donna Burke, Charlene Shaw, Michele Hyson and the late Louis Jr. and Paul Cornu; sister of Jackie Holtz. Also survived by 16 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's with burial at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

Michael G. Ponton, 60, of Brandywine and Clinton, life member of Clinton Volunteer Fire Dept., who retired from Fort Belvoir Fire Dept. in 2003 as Fire Marshall, died April 3. He was born at Bethesda Naval Hospital to Ivan and Ellen Ponton and graduated from Surrattsville High School. He was a member of the Waldorf Moose Lodge. Survivors include his sister Sue Pavelka, son Christopher, daughter Ashley and two granddaughters.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16; Patti Parco Grey, May 18; Otis Jones and Ellen Ashby, May 19; Aidan Kilbride, May 20; Crystal Foster, Juanita Hood, David Sanford and Linda Holsonbake, May 22.

Happy anniversary to Aidan and Mary Kilbride, their 51st on May 18; Dennis and Leigh D'Avanzo, their 15th on May 20; and Ronnie and Karen Ellis, their 48th on May 20.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Happy Birthday to Joan Falby, Janet Smalling, Nana Smalling, Abena Smalling, Doris Hill, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, De'Andre Bowden, Teresa Joiner, Agatha Jalloh, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Ricky Thomas, Dacinth Dorsett and Beverly Vitale who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of May.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Bonnie and Mark Hayes who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries during the month of May.

STUDENT BUILT HOUSE DEDICATION

The unveiling of Student Built House project by Prince George's County Students was held on May 2, 2014 at 11:30 AM. The address of the Student Built House is 8204 Student Drive Clinton, Maryland 20735. Awards were presented for outstanding efforts in interior design, landscaping, construction, HVAC, drafting/CAD and computer networking.

WOMEN'S DAY

The Women of New Hope Fellowship will be celebrating

Women's Day May 18, 2014, 10:00 AM at the Nottingham Myers Campus. Rev. Daryl L. Williams, Pastor. Our address is 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Church telephone number is 301-888-2171.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Prince George's Community College (Transforming lives) has activities for Grades 2-12. For additional information call 301-322-0158 or e-mail www.pgcc.edu.

DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Jordan Jackson of Ron and Kimberly Jackson who resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and Morgan Eugene daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene who resides in Brandywine, Maryland participated in the Arundel Bay Christian Academy's production of Disney's High School Musical on May 2, 2014.

FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

Models are needed for the fashion Extravaganza being sponsored by the New Hope Fellowship United Methodist Women, June 28, 2014, 1:00 PM in the Family Life Center. They are looking for models

of all age groups. This is not just for the ladies. Gentlemen are invited to participate. If you would like to be a part of the Fashion Show please call the church office at 301-888-2171 and leave your name and contact phone number.

CAMP SPRINGS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

This Senior Activity Center offers different activities Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. The Center is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. For additional information call 301-449-0490; TTY 301-446-3402. The Food and Friendship Program offers a nutritionally balanced lunch daily at this center. To make reservations please call the Area Agency on Aging Office at 301-265-8450.

PRINCE GEORGES'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State issues new immunization requirements effective August 2014 for the 2014-2015 school. If you have any questions about the immunization requirements please contact your school nurse or PGCPSS School Health Services at 301-749-4722.

Neighborhood Events

Science, Space, and Technology Committee Marks Up NASA Reauthorization

(Washington, DC) – the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a markup of H.R. 4412, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014. The bill authorizes funding for one year and provides policy direction for NASA.

In July 2013, the Committee passed H.R. 2687, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2013, by a party-line recorded vote. Over the past several months, Majority and Minority Members and staffers have worked together to develop a new NASA reauthorization that both sides of the aisle could support. Earlier this month, the Space Subcommittee marked up H.R. 4412 and approved it with a bipartisan Manager's amendment. Today's markup also was conducted in a bipartisan manner.

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) said, "I consider reauthorizing NASA to be one of our Committee's most significant legislative responsibilities. And that is why I am pleased that after some initial missteps, this Committee is addressing that responsibility with a good bipartisan bill—something that has long been a hallmark of this Committee."

Subcommittee on Space Ranking Member Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) said in her statement for the record, "It has been said that our Nation's greatness is embodied in our space program. Today, I joined Congressman Steven Palazzo and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to ensure that the talented, dedicated men and women who make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have the certainty they need. Even in these challenging times, NASA's accomplishments in human spaceflight, space science, aeronautics research, and space technology are the envy of other nations and a source of inspiration for all Americans. Our committee has taken a strong step to help NASA maintain its position of preeminence, and I look forward to working with Mr. Palazzo, Ranking Member Johnson, and Chairman Smith on bringing this bipartisan bill to the House Floor and seeing it through to final passage."

Ranking Member Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) and Chairman Palazzo introduced a bipartisan Manager's amendment. The Manager's Amendment includes provisions that reflect several Democratic priorities such as education and public outreach, Earth science, and other important science programs.

Ms. Johnson said, "The Manager's amendment and bill before us today are the product of weeks of negotiation between myself, Chairman Smith, Subcommittee Ranking Member Edwards, Subcommittee Chairman Palazzo, and our respective staffs. These negotiations have not been easy. Chairman Smith has not gotten the bill he would have preferred. I have not gotten the bill I would have preferred. But



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

through this process we have arrived at a product that we both can support."

New Congestive Heart Failure Clinic Helps People Better Manage Complex Disease

Lanham, MD – Doctors Community Hospital opened a Congestive Heart Failure Clinic in February. With heart failure being among the top contributors of people being readmitted into hospitals, this clinic will help insured and uninsured people who have heart disease better understand and manage this complex condition.

Heart failure impacts the lives of more than five million Americans with the rates forecasted to double during the next 30 years. Also, many people who have heart disease experience various challenges managing it, which increases their likelihood of experiencing health crises that often require them to frequently need costly emergency care. According to Dr. Vikram Raya, on-staff cardiologist, "Many hospitals are caring for a substantial number of emergency department patients who have difficulties managing their heart disease. From not recognizing the importance of monitoring their water intake to not being able to decipher food labels to measure salt consumption, these patients need a resource focused on helping them manage this disease. That's why our Congestive Heart Failure Clinic is so important."

Doctors Community Hospital's Congestive Heart Failure Clinic is a comprehensive program that provides:

- A holistic care approach that includes the collaborative services of pharmacy, nutrition, physical therapy, cardiology, physician assistant, social work, home health and hospice care professionals – all accessible on Doctors Community Hospital's campus
- Consultations for insured and uninsured patients who have physician referrals
- An experienced and board-certified cardiologist

As a healthcare partner, the clinic's team collaborates with referring, primary care and cardiology physicians to keep them informed of their patients' progress. Also, after completing a four-session treatment program, a detailed report is sent electronically to referring physicians who will continue to care for their patients.

Paula Bruening, chief nursing officer, states "Our hospital's mission is to passionately care for the health of our patients. This program will help us equip people with the skills,

resources and education they need to make well-educated and life-enriching healthcare decisions. Providing the community with services that address these types of specific medical needs is part of the hospital's proud tradition."

About Heart Failure

Heart failure occurs when the heart's pumping power is weaker than normal. Also, it can occur when people have very stiff hearts that can lead to fluids building up in the lungs and legs. Although the heart still beats, a weakened or very stiff heart doesn't pump enough blood, which is rich with oxygen and nutrients needed by the entire body. As a result, walking, carrying groceries or even climbing stairs can be difficult or cause shortness of breath.

The most common causes of heart failure include:

- + Coronary artery disease
- + Past heart attack (myocardial infarction)
- + Heart muscle disease (cardiomyopathy)
- + High blood pressure (hypertension)
- + Heart valve disease
- + Abnormal heart rhythms
- + Heart defects from birth
- + Diabetes
- + Severe anemia
- + Overactive thyroid
- + Severe lung disease

An episode of congestive heart failure can be brought on by eating too much salt, not taking prescribed medications correctly, high blood pressure, not getting enough rest/exercise or drinking large amounts of liquids. Therefore, medicine, diet, daily activities, exercise, lifestyle, health habits and family support are all important parts of heart failure management.

318 Years of Service in the Office of the Sheriff

Upper Marlboro, MD – Sheriff Melvin C. High issued the following statement today to mark the 318th anniversary of the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff:

"April 22, 2014 was the 318th Anniversary of the date the Office of the Sheriff was established. As an integral part of the county and state's public safety structure, ours is a record of endurance, and of performance and results that have made the county and state safer because of our existence.

Enduring organizations share certain characteristics - they often serve an important purpose in society, are built on a solid foundation, and they operate with high standards grounded in ethical values and fueled by clarity of purpose.

The Office of the Sheriff is alive and well after 318 years, and we celebrate the legacy we inherited. Today, we are stronger and better, and enormously proud of our history of providing unquestionable value to this community. We are engaged in our work pursuant to "best practices" and our people are well-trained and focused on our mission while honoring our values.

For more information contact the Communications and Public Affairs Division at 301-780-7354.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Providing Financial Literacy to the Unbanked

In today's world of Internet banking, smartphone shopping apps and web-based access to investment accounts, it's easy to forget that billions of people around the world — including millions in our own country — lag far behind when it comes to accessing even the most rudimentary financial management tools.



Indeed, according to the World Bank:

- Approximately 2.5 billion adults worldwide don't have a formal banking account.
- In developing economies, only 41 percent of adults have bank accounts (compared to nearly 90 percent in high-income countries).
- In developing countries, the wealthiest 20 percent are more than twice as likely to have an account than the lowest 20 percent.
- There's a gender inequality as well: 46 percent of men in poorer countries have a formal account, while only 37 percent of women do.

These statistics helped form the backdrop for the eighth annual Financial Literacy and Education Summit hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Visa Inc. Renowned U.S. and international financial experts led lively discussions around the theme, "Providing Financial Literacy Resources to the Unbanked and Underbanked." Approximately 1,500 participants in 50 countries attended or watched the live on-line telecast.

Central to the discussions was the underlying question: "Is financial education important for a segment of the population that is largely excluded from formal financial services?" According to Keynote Speaker Bill Sheedy, EVP, Corporate Strategy, M&A and Government Relations, Visa, and the other panelists, the answer is an unqualified "yes."

"Providing these adults with useful, scalable and accessible financial services is just one piece of the puzzle," said Sheedy. "They need to know how to use these products wisely and have the skills and confidence to manage their money soundly. The only way we can be successful in bringing these 2.5 billion people into the economic mainstream is to provide them with financial education long before they ever acquire account numbers."

Along with identifying numerous challenges unbanked and underbanked people face, panelists also cited successful financial education efforts they've observed:

- Paula A. Cox, Former Premier and Minister of Finance, Bermuda, described a successful program in Bermuda where government representatives took small business development workshops to construction workers at their worksites. Participants who successfully completed the six-week course then had a leg up when responding to government RFPs.
- Jennifer Tescher, President & CEO, Center for Financial Services Innovation, cited her organization's funding to help a financial coaching program become more cost-effective by allowing remote sessions and data transfer between clients and volunteer coaches. Follow-up research showed that the remote-session clients demonstrated greater involvement and participation than subjects who only had in-person counseling.
- Leora Klaper, Lead Economist, Finance and Private Sector Research Team of the Development Research Group, World Bank, mentioned a World Bank project in Indonesia with migrant workers who frequently send money to family members. Staffers divided training about cost-effective remittance methods into three separate audiences: the workers themselves; the recipients; and the two groups being trained together. Interestingly, families who learned together had a much higher retention of information and made wiser choices than those who were taught individually.

Bottom line: Tremendous technological advances are being made around personal financial management. Our challenge is to find ways to bring those tools — and basic financial services — to vast populations of underserved individuals. A parallel challenge is to continuing developing and distributing financial education materials that enable children and adults to understand how to manage their money.

Oculus VR CEO Defends Facebook Acquisition

By MIKE DENISON
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Tech innovator Brendan Iribe has a penchant for ambitious goals. His first company aimed to make software better than what Microsoft and Apple had to offer -- with just three employees.

Five penniless years passed before Iribe tasted success. But now, he's the CEO of a tech company worth \$2 billion.

Fresh off of his company's March 25 acquisition by Facebook, Iribe addressed criticisms about the acquisition and teased the future of his company's unique virtual reality headset during a speech at the University of Maryland Friday afternoon.

Virtual reality is a term used to describe video games or other computer experiences that are vastly more immersive than what traditional game consoles can provide. Virtual reality convinces the user that they are not simply controlling an avatar in an artificial world, but that they are in the artificial world themselves.

Iribe's revolutionary product, the Oculus Rift, is a virtual reality system designed for video games. It takes the form of a pair of goggles that project two images into each eye and tracks where the player's head moves, altering the view of the game world accordingly. The technology was created by Palmer Luckey, who had originally made a working version of the Rift with duct tape and hot glue, according to Iribe.

But when Iribe tried the system for himself, he knew he'd seen something special. It wasn't the first attempt to create virtual reality for video games, but it was far cheaper than previous iterations. And that meant it just might work.

"It is incredible to work with a small team on a big idea. So, what bigger idea than virtual reality?" said the CEO of Oculus VR.

The acquisition by Facebook was met with some backlash from the video game community, many of whom feared a lack of independence would ruin Oculus' innovation. Markus "Notch" Persson, the developer of the wildly popular game Minecraft, publicly announced a severing of ties with Oculus after the acquisition, saying on Twitter "Facebook creeps me out."

Iribe, a former Maryland student, defended the acquisition, citing the massive costs of turning his vision for Oculus into a reality. He said the necessary technology for a new piece of gaming hardware often costs around \$1 billion. Before the Facebook acquisition, Oculus had raised about \$100 million.

Iribe said that Facebook's massive user base and available capital was exactly what Oculus needed to succeed. When confronted with the costs of achieving the goals for Oculus, Zuckerberg said, "Well, we have a lot of money," according to Iribe.

Iribe said that Facebook had the ability and resources to make Oculus and virtual reality affordable



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS: DERZSI ELEKES ANDOR
2010 ad:tech London.

and commercially viable. He added that it was not in Facebook's best interest to overrun Oculus's independence, citing Instagram and WhatsApp as companies acquired by the social media giant without losing independence.

"Frankly, we didn't want to be acquired. We wanted to be independent," said Iribe. "But when we saw this partnership and how much sense it made, we really wanted to ... go into the partnership if it meant we could stay Oculus and stay who we are. We'd keep our Oculus hoodies, we'd keep our Oculus email addresses, and we'd really keep our independence."

While he emphasized that the team's primary focus is gaming, Iribe said that there were many other fields that could benefit from Oculus and other virtual reality systems. He said he hoped that Oculus could eventually be used in the medical, architect-

tural, communication and even travel industries.

Oculus was far from Iribe's first entrepreneurial endeavor in games, however. While still a student at Maryland in 1999, he and two other students created the company that later become Scaleform, an application for designing video game interfaces. However, the company made "exactly zero dollars and zero cents" until five years after its creation. After Scaleform was bought by Autodesk, Iribe led another video game company, Gaikai, until it was bought by Sony, not long before he got involved with Oculus.

Iribe said he has not forgotten the lessons learned during the lengthy dry spell despite Oculus VR's tremendous growth.

"You just have to keep with it," he said. "Most of the time, these things don't happen nearly as fast as, say, Oculus."

El Niño from A1

of the emergence of the climate phenomenon.

It's unclear how El Niños form, but abnormally warm water under the surface of the Pacific Ocean is a reliable indication that an El Niño is coming, according to a Nature Climate Change paper by climate scientists Raghu Murtugudde and Nandini Ramesh published in January 2013.

El Niños have varied effects based on how they move jet streams, fast-moving air currents that stretch around the globe.

A CNS analysis of wunderground.com and ggweather.com data found that on average, there were four fewer hurricanes in years classified as having had a strong El Niño than years without an El Niño.

For 2014, the CSU report predicted nine tropical storms (the

long-term median is 12), three of which will become hurricanes (the median is 6.5), including one major hurricane (the median is 2).

Despite the optimistic forecast, Ed McDonough, public information officer for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, said he still worries that a hurricane could make its way up the coast to Maryland.

"It really doesn't matter how many hurricanes we have in a season. If we have one hurricane, it's a bad season," he said. "I don't worry so much about the forecast; it doesn't really change how we prepare."

Residential properties in Maryland have the 11th-highest potential for exposure to hurricane storm surge damage, according to 2013 data from CoreLogic, a business data and analytics firm.

Hurricane Isabel in 2003 brought record-high tides to

Maryland, breaking a 1933 record with a tide 7.58 feet above normal. Hurricanes Frances, Ivan, Jeanne and Irene, as well as Superstorm Sandy, have also brought flooding, heavy rain and wind, and widespread power outages in the past decade.

Moderate to strong El Niños occur about once every 3 to 7 years on average, according to the CSU report. Murtugudde said that because strong El Niños tend to occur about every 15 years, "we're due for a big one and this could be it."

It will be important to monitor El Niño conditions as they develop this summer, Murtugudde said. But for now, it's unlikely that an El Niño would have significant damaging effects in Maryland.

Usually, El Niño-influenced movements of the jet streams

lead to increased rainfall in the Southwest and Southeast and increased snow in the Northeast, Murtugudde said.

If the El Niño gets too strong, however, it could contribute to severe winter weather and more sleet in Maryland, Murtugudde said. Although the jet stream shifts usually don't affect mid-Atlantic states badly, it's too early to tell what effects these shifts could have on the region.

The increased rainfall El Niños can bring can be helpful in minimizing droughts and wildfires in California, Murtugudde said. But particularly strong El Niños can still have damaging effects, including floods. The most recent "big" El Niño was in 1997-98, Murtugudde said, and it led to "huge" storms across California that caused mudslides.

Spending from A1

things like recruiting and student-athlete spending once it's in the Big Ten, he cautioned that this isn't necessarily something the athletic department has to do in order to win on the field.

"There are some people who believe that to be successful in college athletics you have to spend as much as your competitors. I don't know if I necessarily agree with that," he said. "Dollar for dollar, spending the most doesn't always equal winning the most."

Weaver said that since Maryland is spending a lot less right now than Big Ten schools, while it doesn't necessarily have to spend on the level of say, Ohio State, to have success, it will likely still have to take a step up from what it's been spending in the ACC.

"There are certain points where you have to increase your spending to be competitive," he said. "It will be interesting to see how much they have to."

More spending, of course, can mean more opportunities for revenue, which something Maryland is counting on when it gets to the Big Ten.

The ACC average for profit in 2012-13 was just under \$2 million, but Maryland only brought in \$346,540 more than it spent. The average profit for a Big Ten school was \$5.5 million.

But Big Ten Schools spent a lot more on average -- \$90.5 million, \$32.7 more than Maryland spent during 2012-2013 -- to bring in that profit, compared with \$67.9 million for the ACC.

Weaver said that he expects Maryland will need to spend more to travel to schools spread out all over the Midwest.

"In terms of playing conference opponents, that's going to cost more," he said. "Suddenly you have to take into account what its going to do to student-athletes -- is it going to pull them out of classrooms longer? That means you'll need more money for academic tutors and extra hours."

The Big Ten Conference made over \$315 million in 2012-13 for a payout of over \$25 million to each member school, both numbers of which were the largest of any conference in the NCAA. Nineteen of that 25 million came from television revenue.

"The major reason that they're moving is they believe

television revenue will help with a lot of their debt," Weaver said. "They'll solve some [financial] problems and ideally would like to win."

The television revenue will come via the Big Ten Network, the conferences' internationally distributed TV network that is available in more than 90 million homes in the U.S. and Canada.

"Maryland's finding that to be a really, really important revenue source in the next decade," Weaver said of the school's potential payout from television in the Big Ten. "They're counting on a heavy emphasis on moving from traditional revenue streams like ticketing and fundraising to television revenue, which has really blown up recently."

Ullmann said that while they are prohibited from commenting on potential future financial details right now, the school expects the athletic program "to be financially secure for decades" after this conference switch.

That would be a huge step up from the current state of Maryland's athletic program, and from the state it was in not even two years ago.

The commission established by Loh in 2011 found that one of the reasons for the program's financial troubles was that Byrd Stadium's suites in Tyser Tower weren't being bought at the level needed to balance their \$50 million price tag.

If attendance goes up for Big Ten home games, Maryland could finally start seeing those suites being purchased the way it was originally envisioned.

"I think we expect big things for our football program, including sell-outs for Byrd Stadium," said Ullman. "That could certainly translate into higher demand for our suites and mezzanine seating, but we'll have to wait and see."

Getting a steady stream of revenue from things like suites and sold-out home games could prove to be very important in the long run, as Weaver cautioned that relying too much on television revenue to solve your problems has a degree of risk to it.

"The dangerous part is if you don't win, a lot of the traditional revenue streams will go away," he said. "That becomes very, very dangerous. It's a bold move on their part."

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COMMENTARY

Martin O'Malley

Governor of Maryland



Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Appointment of Catherine Shultz as Acting Secretary of Higher Education

Annapolis, MD — Governor O'Malley today announced that he will appoint Catherine McCullough Shultz as acting secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Shultz will take over the agency from Dr. Danette Howard, who has served since 2011.

"Sec. Howard has been an invaluable leader for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Under her leadership, Maryland has simultaneously improved the quality of our colleges and universities, and fought to hold down tuition," said Governor O'Malley. "In fact, since 2007-08, no state has done more than Maryland to hold down the cost of college. We are very excited to have Catherine's experience and expertise as we continue to promote academic excellence and career readiness for students in Maryland higher education institutions."

Maryland's Higher Education Commission Chair Anwer Hasan added, "On behalf of my colleagues on the Commission and all of the students in Maryland, I'd like to congratulate Danette on this wonderful opportunity with the Lumina Foundation and wish her much success. From working to increase the number of STEM students in our State to implementing strategies to expand the college to career readiness pipeline, Dr. Howard has been an incredible asset in strengthening our higher education system here in Maryland. We look forward to working with Ms. Shultz to build on this progress."

Catherine Shultz has devoted her entire career to public service. She is the Principal Counsel in the Office of Attorney General at the Maryland Higher Education Commission, where she has served for the last seven years. As lead counsel for the commission, Shultz advises senior staff on legal issues and has represented the department in litigation.

Prior to joining the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Shultz was a member of the legal team at the Department of Human Resources for 18 years. While there, she chaired the Human Resources Practice Group, a coordinating body made up of attorneys for state agencies including Juvenile Services, Health and Mental Hygiene, Aging, and Education. She also served as lead counsel in *L.J. v. Massinga*, involving Baltimore City's foster care system, during its consent decree phase.

Shultz has also been recognized for her work as counsel throughout her career, including awards from Attorneys General over the last 30 years including the Exceptional Service Award in 1984 and in 2001, and Exceptional Leadership award in 2011.

Catherine Shultz graduated cum laude from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in 1971 and received her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1980. Prior to attending law school, she was a guidance counselor and teacher.

Ms. Shultz lives in Annapolis. She is married and has two grown children. She has been active in community affairs, including an organization that provides grants to build community leadership capacity through environmental projects.

Dr. Danette Howard will join the Lumina Foundation as Vice President for Policy and Mobilization where she will oversee several of Lumina's strategies critical to increasing high-quality postsecondary education attainment as well as the Foundation's growing national role in developing higher education policy. Currently a Maryland resident, Dr. Howard will relocate to Indianapolis, Ind. with her husband William II, and their son, William III.

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Johnson-Crapo Housing Reform Guided by Weapons of Mass Deception about Affordable Housing Goals

"The new Senate proposal to reform the housing finance system...lacks provisions to ensure that the housing finance system is fair and nondiscriminatory."

— Joint statement of the National Urban League and other major civil rights and housing advocacy groups

A new housing reform proposal slated for a Senate Banking Committee vote next week could accelerate the already significant post-recession decline in homeownership among communities of color and all working and middle-class communities. The bill, which is co-sponsored by Senators Tim Johnson, D.-S.D., chairman of the banking committee, and Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, the ranking member, would wind down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and replace them with a new agency, the Federal Mortgage Insurance Corporation (FMIC). This new agency would end the affordable housing goals of Freddie and Fannie, which helped boost the percentage of African American homeownership to a pre-recession all-time high of 50%. The current African American homeownership rate is 43%, and African Americans are the only group that continues to experience a homeownership decline in the recovery, down 2.5% since 2000.

The Johnson-Crapo bill is driven by weapons of mass deception that perpetuate the myths that affordable housing goals and the Community Reinvestment Act created the housing crisis when nothing could be further from the truth. The affordable housing goals of Fannie and Freddie did not cause the crisis. In fact, according to the Fiscal Crisis Inquiry Commission, the body that was created to investigate the causes of the financial crisis, the affordable housing

goals only "marginally contributed" to the crisis. But they made a tremendous impact on helping responsible borrowers purchase homes. As a result, according to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, during the last 10 years, more than 60 million hard-working families have benefited from the affordable housing goals.

The foreclosure crisis was not caused by irresponsible borrowers. It was caused by irresponsible financial products and a subprime lending market that were faulty and predatory in design, a result of reckless greed and doomed to fail from the start. By repealing the affordable housing goals that have been in place since the early 1990s — and through a reduced government guarantee — we are extremely concerned that the Johnson-Crapo bill will lead to cost increases that make homeownership unaffordable for the millions of working and middle-class Americans who have already borne the brunt of the impact of the foreclosure crisis, wiping out the majority of family wealth amassed during the last decade.

This bill would also exacerbate some of the widening economic disparities highlighted in the National Urban League's 2014 State of Black America® report. For example, the Black-White homeownership Equality Index™ is now only 60%, and Blacks are three times as likely to be denied on a mortgage application. Our report also shows that Blacks have a median wealth of \$6,314 vs. whites at \$110,500 — a wealth equality index of a dismal 6%. With the critical role that homeownership plays in wealth accumulation, any further impediments to minority and low-to-middle-income homeownership will only widen that gap.

See **Housing**, Page A6

B & O Railroad Museum



Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: JAMES G. HOWES

B & O RAILROAD MUSEUM

The B&O Railroad Museum is located at the historic site of the B&O Railroad's Mt. Clare Shops in Baltimore, MD. Mount Clare is considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. From this historic site sprang so many innovations that it was considered "Railroad University" by many. The B&O was America's first chartered rail common carrier, dating from February 28, 1827. The museum collection includes a wide variety of steam locomotives. An impressive display of vintage railroad station clocks is located inside the museum. There are also extensive outdoor collections of engines, cars, cranes, and other railroad equipment. Vintage diesel-powered, 3-mile round trip train rides are also offered on Saturdays & Sundays. Hours of operation are Monday — Saturday, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. Cost is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, & \$10 for children (2-12).

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



The Budget Is Not Fair, Mr. Chair

The budget is not fair, Mr. Chair, if 69 percent of the cuts comes from programs for low-income children and families and we are giving extra tax cuts to the wealthiest among us ... If we can afford to give new tax extenders to wealthy corporations and people, we can afford to expand Head Start for every child and to make sure that every child is housed and is fed."

That's part of what I said when I had the opportunity to testify at the House Budget Committee Hearing "A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Lessons from the Frontlines" on April 30th. I shared my belief that the budget proposal by House Budget Chair Paul Ryan recently passed by the House of Representatives would turn progress in the war on poverty backwards by cutting critical funding to safety net programs that help millions of poor children and families while giving tax breaks to the wealthiest and most powerful among us. The Ryan budget will widen the already indefensible income and wealth inequality gaps.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at least 69 percent of the Ryan budget cuts to non-defense programs over the next decade would come from programs that serve low-income children, families, and individuals including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps), school lunches and other child nutrition programs, Pell Grants, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the low-income portion of the Child Tax Credit, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that helps children with very serious disabilities. At the same time the Ryan budget slashes programs for children and the poor, Citizens for Tax Justice estimates it would give millionaires an average tax cut of at least \$200,000 by lowering the top personal income tax rate from 39.6 to 25 percent, repealing the Alternative Minimum Tax, and reducing the corporate income tax rate from 35 to 25 percent, as well as other tax breaks.

The Ryan budget is not the only unjust decision Members of Congress have made. On April 29th, the House Ways and Means Committee approved without any offsets a permanent extension of six corporate tax breaks that would drain the treasury of \$310 billion over 10 years. That same committee in the very same meeting dropped a provision in the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care bill because of its cost. This tiny, positive provision that would have ensured foster youth had documents like Social Security cards, birth certificates, and health insurance cards to help them make it on their own when they aged out of foster care would have added \$12 million to the ten-year cost of the bill—four thousandths of a percent of the cost to taxpayers of those huge non-offset corporate tax break extenders.

Some of the same lawmakers who routinely support massive corporate tax breaks are among those currently opposing proposals to invest \$90 billion in early childhood programs over 10 years as too expensive and refusing to pass an extension without an offset

of long-term unemployment benefits that would cost \$10 billion. And on April 30th the Senate voted against opening debate on a Democratic bill to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour that would move 900,000 people out of poverty, cost the federal government not one cent and in fact could save federal and state governments money by reducing the need for nutrition and other safety net supports.

I don't know what religious texts Members of Congress read, but when I look at the prophets and gospels and the teachings of every major faith I learn that not caring for the poor, the sick, the lame and the orphan is wrong. Acting as Robin Hood in reverse and taking from the poor and needy to give to the wealthy and powerful is even worse. America's dream and promise of a level playing field has become a nightmare for millions of poor children and families struggling to get a foothold in our \$17 trillion economy.

The way to end poverty is not to cut the very programs that are making the difference

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How To Use Rewards To Promote Good Behavior In Your Children

As parents we all want to encourage good behaviors in our children, whether it's playing with other children, doing schoolwork, performing family chores or simply interacting with adults.

Children learn their behaviors by associating them with consequences. When a child is rewarded for doing something well he has learned it's a positive consequence. If he is punished for a behavior he learns it is a negative consequence. And when either consequence is repeated over time, it can lead to a change in behavior.

Research has shown that pleasant, positive consequences (rewards) are more effective in changing behaviors than unpleasant consequences (punishment). Such rewards can be either tangible, such as a toy or book or favorite food, or intangible, such as praise for doing something well. But regardless of the type of reward, how it is used is important if it is to be effective.

- Reward only occasionally. If a child can figure when a reward will be provided, he or she will only produce the desired behavior when it's certain the reward will be forthcoming.
- Reward extra effort. When a child is rewarded for doing more than expected, the reward becomes motivation to continue to go beyond the call of duty.
- Reward immediately after the desired behavior. When the reward is delayed, it loses its motivational power with most children.
- Reward effort, not just performance. When your child is clearly working hard to do something well, reward the effort that's being expended, even if he or she falls short of the desired goal.
- Use a variety of rewards. Using one reward constantly can cause it to lose its effect.
- Allow your child to select the reward. Giving your child some say in what reward really matters to him or her helps make the reward much more effective.
- When giving a tangible reward, combine it with a positive word or touch. Doing so greatly increases the value of the reward.

Rewards shouldn't be the only motivation to get a child to perform a task. Nor should rewards be used as bribes to get desired behavior. Instead, set a positive example, encourage positive behavior as a meaningful goal itself, and then use rewards sparingly to show that you appreciate and approve of what has been accomplished. When children learn they're earning your praise and appreciation, that's the real motivation for behavior to be repeated.

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

Business Spotlight

PG County Opens New Langley Park Multi-Service Center

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III joined by local and state officials for a ribbon-cutting to open the new Langley Park Multi-Service Center in La Union Mall, 1401 University Blvd E., in Langley Park. This One-Stop Shop for Health and Human Services will be the first of its kind in the County and will house offices from the Health Department, Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Family Services (DFS), and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Workforce Services Division. Additionally, the Prince George's County Court system will provide Domestic Violence resources and the County's Memorial Library System will offer a children's literary section in the facility.

The Langley Park Multi-Service Center will be open Monday – Thursday, 8am-7:30pm and Friday, 8am-6pm. There will be 15 employees from partner agencies and organizations housed at the Multi-Service Center and ninety percent of those are bilingual.

"We created our Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) in six areas around the County to help address specific challenges in health, education, economic opportunity and public safety. This center located in the Langley Park TNI area is an innovative way to address those issues and provide residents with the service and support they need," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The opening of the Langley Park Multi-Service Center is the perfect example of what is coming out of our TNI partnership efforts around the County. The idea for this one-stop shop came directly from the residents of this community. It is a great solution and represents what can happen when government listens to the people and communities it serves."

The Langley Park Multi-Service Center is an effort spearheaded by the County Executive's Langley Park Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) team in collaboration with the County's Health and Human Services agencies. The goal of the Multi-Service Center is to improve access to these services for residents within the Langley Park, Riverdale and Bladensburg communities.

Prince George's County Public School Educators to be Recognized by the Washington Post

PRESS OFFICER
PG County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Two educators from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will be recognized by The Washington Post for their outstanding contributions to education.

Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School principal Carletta Marrow will receive the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. Coit Hendley, science teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, will be honored as the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher for Prince George's County.

"Ms. Marrow exemplifies the outstanding school leadership that is critical to moving a school district towards greatness," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. "She is focused on improving academic achievement, creating a school environment where students and staff can thrive, and building supportive partnerships with parents and the community."

Marrow was nominated by her school community and selected by a committee of peers as the district's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award winner. She was honored during a ceremony and reception on May 6 at The Washington Post.

Marrow earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia State University in 1995 and went on to earn a master's degree at American University.

She will receive her doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University this May. She started her career in PGCPS in 1997 as an English teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in Temple Hills. She then went on to serve as an assistant principal at Northwestern High School and principal at Gwynn Park High School prior to her appointment at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, which has a staff of 225 serving more than 2,500 students.

Since starting her principalship at Wise in 2010, Marrow has promoted a collaborative, positive culture of teaching and learning. To this end, she focuses on engaging staff through team building, reflective thinking and professional development. She established a successful Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program which earned PBIS Silver and Gold awards, and a ninth-grade academy which reduced the school's retention rate. Using data to drive decision-making and instructional strategies, Marrow has also increased student scores in Algebra on the High School Assessments (HSA) by 19 percent.

Always eager to grow professionally, she is also a mentor to new principals, has served on the Maryland State Department of Education's Principal Advisory Board, has been a Pre-Leadership Academy Presenter, and is a National Institute for School Leadership trainer.

"Ms. Marrow is a self-motivated, goal-oriented individual who possesses the resiliency and determination to withstand the rigorous academic challenges that 'Great Leaders' have to endure," said Mark Fosssett, instructional director. "Her take-charge demeanor permeates success and her positive outgoing attitude is one of her many trademarks."

The Agnes Meyer award is presented to one teacher from each Washington metropolitan area school district every year. Hendley will join his colleagues for an awards ceremony on May 13 at The Washington Post.

"As an Advanced Placement chemistry teacher, Mr. Hendley is providing students with challenging, college-level STEM opportunities that will prepare them for success in future careers," said Dr. Maxwell. "His ability to engage students and inspire them in the field of science is renown throughout his school community."

Hendley has been a science educator for 37 years, spending the past 27 years in Prince George's County serving students at Frederick Douglass and Eleanor Roosevelt high schools. Prior to joining Prince George's County, he taught in Anne Arundel County public schools.

He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Cornell University and a master's in science education from the University of Maryland. A true lifelong learner, Hendley participates in ongoing professional develop-

ment opportunities and leads workshops for his fellow science teachers. He earned National Board Certification in Chemistry in 2004, and Advanced Professional Certification in 2006.

At Eleanor Roosevelt, he developed a two-period AP Chemistry course that encouraged more students to participate in advanced level chemistry. To improve the experience for his Research Practicum (RP) students, he developed the Watershed Integrated Study Program (WISP) so students taking part in the course can also conduct field research on the water quality of Prince George's County streams. His efforts to reach out to underrepresented students resulted in his school having the highest number of African-American students in the nation with passing scores on the AP exam.

"Mr. Hendley demonstrates the highest level of professional commitment and competency in his work," said principal Reginal McNeill. "He sees each student as an individual and draws upon their strengths to teach them in ways that work best for them."

Throughout his career, Hendley has been recognized by peers and students alike for his excellence in the classroom. His awards include the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, the RadioShack National Teacher Award, the PGCPS Christa McAuliffe Award, the Life Sciences Educator Award, and the Pasco STEM Educators Award.

Watch from A4

between a child eating and a child going hungry. Nothing in my decades of work for poor children makes me believe that cutting vital lifelines for millions of families who have fallen on hard times because of economic downturn is the way to create well-paying jobs or help parents have the time and resources to be able to nurture and support their children. Nothing in my experience makes me believe that putting college further out of reach for low-income students will help them compete for well-paying jobs. Nothing in my experience makes me believe that the current Ryan budget proposal will help create the economic opportunity and support systems every American needs when hard times hit. And nothing in my experience will ever make me believe that snatching food and shelter and early childhood and education lifelines from children and hard-working poor families to further enrich those

who already have far more than their fair share of government help is economically and morally defensible. What kind of leaders believe we can afford massive tax breaks for the richest one percent but cannot afford to meet the survival needs of all our poor children?

We don't have poverty in our midst because we have done too much for people. We have poverty because we have done too little and have not been fair to all our people, especially our children. We should be fixing the policies that have fueled inequality and given birth to an economy that has stopped working for the majority of hard-working people in our country. Congress and all of us should be striving to ensure there is a job with a living wage for every working-age person in this country, that every single child, regardless of his or her parents' income or skin color or country of origin, has access to nurturing and enriching early childhood

programs and effective schools, that no families have to choose between paying the electricity bill or buying medicine for their sick child, or have to figure out how to make the last \$20 in food assistance stretch till the end of the month. It is profoundly unjust and immoral to pretend to be trying to reduce poverty for those struggling to survive—including 16 million children—and cutting the very programs enabling them to survive in a hostile economy, cutting the very programs that help ensure the next generation's adults won't be scarred by a childhood of deprivation.

In his last Sunday sermon at Washington's National Cathedral, calling for a Poor People's Campaign, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. retold the parable of the rich man Dives and the poor and sick man Lazarus who came every day seeking crumbs from Dives' table. Dives went to hell, Dr. King said, not because he was rich but because he did not re-

alize his wealth was his opportunity to bridge the gulf separating him from his brother and allowed Lazarus to become invisible. He warned this could happen in rich America, "if we don't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life." I hope we will heed Dr. King's warning before it's too late.

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.childrens-defense.org.

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

Teacher from A1

shall Middle School in 2008 where she began teaching science, then joined the Benjamin D. Foulois staff in August 2001, where she continues to serve students in the Morningside community.

"Mrs. Sheldon demonstrates the highest level of professional commitment and skill in her work with students and colleagues," said Dr. Patricia Payne, principal of Benjamin D. Foulois. "Since her arrival, she has worked tirelessly to provide students with inquiry-based learning, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) instruction and exploration, and real world connections through off campus opportunities."

James W. Jones, Jr., math teacher from Barnaby Manor Elementary School, was the runner-up for Prince George's

County Teacher of the Year; Lisa J. Hawkins, kindergarten teacher at Deerfield Run ES, and Akima Marshall, science teacher from Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. HS, were finalists.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to celebrate all of the outstanding nominees for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year," said Board Vice Chair Carolyn Boston. "These individuals all have that 'star quality' that sets them apart and are Teachers of the Year in the eyes of their school communities."

Shelton was nominated by her peers at Benjamin D. Foulois not only for her professional skills, but for her dedication, positive attitude, and support of colleagues and students. She takes on leadership roles at her school as Science Department Chair, STEM Fair Coordinator, School Planning and Manage-

ment Team Chairperson, National Junior Honor Society Chair, and Eighth Grade Class Sponsor. She was also the school's STEM Liaison for the Educator Effectiveness Academy for the past three summers. In 2007, she was nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Outside of her school community, Shelton has been an active member of the Prince George's County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority since 1996, currently serving as co-chair of the Science and Everyday Experiences (SEE) Committee. Through her work with the organization, she partners with schools, libraries and community centers to offer programming that exposed young people to STEM career opportunities and shows them how they relate to their

daily routines. She also serves as co-leader for the Andrews 4-H Club, designing hands-on learning experiences in sewing, agriculture, and STEM-based activities, and is an active member of the The Greater Saint John church in Upper Marlboro, serving as a Sunday School Teach and Children's Ministry worker.

Shelton received a bachelor's degree in Science Biology from Longwood College, and a master's degree in Education Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University.

She will compete statewide with representatives from all 24 counties for the title of 2013-2014 Maryland Teacher of the Year, coordinated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The winner will be announced in the fall and represent Maryland in the national competition.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

“Locke”

Locke
Grade: B+
Rated R, a lot of harsh
profanity
1 hr., 25 min

In the two dozen movies he's made since his first small role in *Black Hawk Down* twelve years ago, Tom Hardy has established himself as a chameleon, disappearing into characters as physically different as the hulking, monstrous Bane in *The Dark Knight Rises*, the often-naked psychopath in *Bronson*, and the sharp-dressed identity thief in *Inception*. With all that gaining and losing of muscle and weight, it's easy to forget that Hardy is a superb actor, too.

Locke is our reminder. Set entirely in an automobile with Hardy as the only person on screen (we hear other characters talk to him on the phone), it's a one-man show, dependent entirely on Hardy's performance as a man whose personal and professional lives are in danger of crashing down around him. Since he's driving, there isn't much Hardy can do physically; his face, hands, and voice are his only acting tools. (A nice touch: the character has a cold, and his occasional nose-blows and NyQuil gulps add to his frazzled demeanor.) Yet despite the limitations, we're absorbed in his story, anxious to see how (or whether) his problems are resolved. This Tom Hardy fellow is the real deal, folks.

He plays the title character, Ivan Locke, a posh-accented Londoner currently driving to a hospital a few hours away, where a woman named Bethan (voiced



Ivan Locke has worked diligently to craft the life he has envisioned, dedicating himself to the job that he loves and the family he adores. On the eve of the biggest challenge of his career, Ivan receives a phone call that sets in motion a series of events that will unravel his family, job, and soul. All taking place over the course of one absolutely riveting car ride.

by Olivia Colman) is about to give birth to a baby he fathered. At home, his wife (Ruth Wilson) and two sons are expecting him for a football game on the telly. You will note that Bethan and Locke's wife are two different people. He hadn't intended to have these delicate conversations now, on his bluetooth on the highway, but events have caught him off-guard.

He's also dealing with a work-related crisis. A huge concrete project his company is supposed to start tomorrow at dawn has hit a bureaucratic snafu, and his bosses (he works for a multinational building corporation) will have his head if it doesn't go as planned. So between all these calls to his wife, his sons, Bethan, and her doctor, Locke has to track down the co-workers

and city officials who can save the project and his job.

It's a stressful time, to put it mildly, and though Locke speaks with the calm clarity of a born problem-solver, he starts to crack under the pressure. He has a one-sided argument with his long-dead father about Fate — about whether our life's path is set in stone once we make certain choices, or whether we can improve the future regardless of what we've done in the past. Locke is an optimist who believes that doing the right thing now will make some good come out of the wrong things he did before. His father had a different outlook. Locke is determined not to let his mistakes ruin his life. It's a philosophical debate worthy of a certain other Locke.

The filmmaker is Steven Knight, a writer (*Eastern Promises*, *Dirty Pretty Things*) who made his directorial debut with last year's little-seen Jason Statham drama *Redemption*. A movie about one guy driving a car is a daring attempt for a sophomore effort — logistically easier (and cheaper) than most movies, but with a much greater risk of turning into a dull, stagnant mess. Visually speaking, there isn't a lot Knight can do to keep things interesting without resorting to look-at-me camera tricks (which he thankfully does not). But his screenplay is sufficiently engaging on its own, like a breathlessly paced piece of live theater excellently performed by a skilled actor. We're glad to take this ride with Hardy, and eager to see where he'll go next.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Why Is Northwestern Football Coach Pat Fitzgerald Playing the Union Buster?

The first thing you have to understand are the power dynamics that exist inside of a college football locker room. The football coach is Zeus, God of Thunder. He—and it is always he—does not just determine your playing time, your media exposure and your overall status in the group. He also determines whether or not your scholarship will last past the year. You go to school at his pleasure. In the best-case scenarios you are gifted a benevolent despot. In the worst, he never lets you forget the power he holds over your head.



Enter Pat Fitzgerald, the esteemed coach of the Northwestern football team. The former star Wildcats player has led his team to a 55-46 record during his time in charge. Fitzgerald has played the role of school ambassador, rainmaker and recruiter. His team wins and his players graduate. Now, however, he is playing another role, that of union buster. Northwestern Wildcat football players are due to vote on April 25 about whether to formally unionize, following the earthshaking National Labor Relations Board ruling that stated they were in fact not student-athletes but employees at the school, and Fitzgerald is on a full-court press to prevent that from happening. Although it is against the law for him and his staff to openly threaten players who want to vote union, Fitzgerald is lobbying hard to make sure that a no-vote takes place in two weeks.

As he said publicly, “I believe it's in their best interests to vote no. With the research that I've done, I'm going to stick to the facts and I'm going to do everything in my power to educate our guys. Our university is going to do that. We'll give them all the resources they need to get the facts.” [my emphasis]

It is unclear what “facts” Fitzgerald is trafficking in, but one wonders if included in his antiunion truth kit is the fact that Fitzgerald is the school's highest-paid employee, with a salary of \$2.2 million per year. He is the first sports coach to ever be the highest-paid employee in school history. Another fact is that Fitzgerald received a \$2.5 million loan from the school upon signing his last contract. The players, meanwhile, are asking for a seat at the table and an extension of health and educational guarantees. Even if they vote yes, there will be years of appeals. In fact, Northwestern filed suit on Friday, to appeal the original NLRB ruling. Yet despite all of this, it is too much for the ball coach to abide.

Why is Fitzgerald, a former player, pushing back so hard against the efforts to unionize? Is it pressure from the NCAA, which sees unionization as a threat, in its own words, to “blow up” its entire operation? Is it those in power on a Northwestern University campus that has been hostile to any kind of on-campus organizing? Is it pressure from well-heeled alumni who are being very public about why the players need to vote no? Does Fitzgerald simply not want to break the time-honored power dynamic in a college locker room of Coach as God? Maybe it is as simple as the words of ESPN legal analyst Lester Munson who said, “Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald is now in the position of being an employer whose employees are entitled to vote on whether to unionize.” Like so many bosses, maybe he does not want his workers to have a seat at the table. Clearing the table, maybe, but not a seat.

Whatever the backroom reasons, they are collectively less important than his influence. Since Fitzgerald has started to flex his muscle, a team that almost unanimously signed cards to apply for union membership now has numerous players speaking out publicly against the April 25 vote. Despite this, former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter, who was leading this struggle before his graduation, is confident that April 25 will go their way. I was at an event with Kain Colter at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC, last week. He acknowledged that the players are under pressure to vote no, but still felt a strong degree of confidence that the vote would go their way. Colter said, “I think it's tough when you have some criticism that they've got. Some people came down [on the players], hollered, and even people within the Northwestern alumni base. That's obviously tough, but I think they are strong and they still believe in the issue.” Colter believes, with unblinking self-assurance that the basic message they carried will win out over any efforts at intimidation. “I'm very confident,” he said. “All it boils down to is do you want to vote for having rights or not.”

Whether or not the Northwestern football team votes “yes,” this issue is not going anywhere. The NLRB has still cleared the way to organize at other private universities. As Ned Resnikoff reported, state legislatures are at work trying to either make this ruling apply to public universities (Connecticut) or block its extension (Ohio). The issue is not going anywhere because the system itself is manifestly unjust, and Northwestern's efforts to strangle this movement in the crib will fail. Pat Fitzgerald is a fine coach. He should stick to coaching and get out of the union-busting business.

Maryland Casinos Generate \$71.46 Million in Revenue During April

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced April 2014 revenue numbers for the state's four casinos -- Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. April 2014's combined statewide revenue totaled \$71,457,589.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$7,696,647 from both slot machines and table games in April. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$185.79 for slot machines, \$3,010.16 for banking table games and \$528.27 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's April 2014 revenue decreased by

\$742,061, or 8.8%, from April 2013. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 1,158 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$3,626,967 in April, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$151.12. Casino at Ocean Downs' April 2014 revenue decreased by \$341,726, or 8.6%, from April 2013. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$56,498,768 from both slot machines and table games in April. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$279.31 for slot machines, \$4,826.07 for banking table games and \$1,401.09 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's April 2014 revenue

increased by \$9,929,765, or 21.3%, from April 2013. Maryland Live Casino operates 4,322 slot machines and 177 (125 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$3,635,207 from both slot machines and table games in April. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$182 for slot machines, \$1,098.11 for banking table games and \$393.23 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 577 slot machines and 16 table games (14 banking and 2 non-banking).

In a year-to-year comparison -- excluding Rocky Gap Casino Resort, which opened in May 2013 -- April 2014 casino revenue increased from April 2013 by

\$8,845,978, or 15%. See attached document (or click [HERE](#)) for a detailed breakdown of April 2014's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) is responsible for all matters relating to regulation of the state's casinos. In this regulatory role, the agency oversees all internal controls, auditing, security, surveillance, background investigation, licensing and accounting procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, the MLGCA posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, [gaming.mdlottery.com](#).

Housing from A4

That is why the National Urban League joined with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, National Council of La Raza, National Fair Housing Alliance, and Center for Responsible Lending to voice our serious concerns about this bill in its current form. As noted in our original statement, today's mortgage market excludes families of color almost entirely. According to the most recent Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, there were 1.3 million

conventional mortgage loans made in 2012; of those, Latinos received only 69,217 loans, African-Americans received 29,405 loans, and Asian American Pacific Islanders received 2,697 loans. There were 4.9 million refinancing loans made in 2012, of which Latinos received 76,038, African-Americans received 75,785, and Asian American Pacific Islanders received 10,611. The Johnson-Crapo proposal does not adequately address this ongoing inequity nor does it provide an inclusive way forward for working and middle class communities to participate in the future housing market.

Housing finance reform is necessary. But we believe that it should be true reform — and not retrogression. Its goal should be to create a secure housing finance system that is open and available to all creditworthy borrowers and that provides affordable mortgages to families with lesser incomes and wealth. Instead of expanding homeownership opportunities, the Johnson-Crapo proposal tells working and middle-class families that homeownership will be reserved for the fortunate few. It says that these families do not deserve low-cost credit; that owning a home is not important to family wealth; and that communities no

longer need a stable tax base to fund schools, police, fire and libraries. That is simply wrong, and we can do better. The National Urban League strongly urges the Senate Banking Committee to change course on this bill now, ensure the inclusion of affordable housing goals, and pass legislation that will help to ensure access to affordable mortgage credit for all creditworthy borrowers, while at the same time protecting taxpayers from bearing the cost of a housing downturn.

As it stands, working families — and the essence of the American Dream — cannot afford Johnson-Crapo.

Calendar of Events

May 15 — May 21, 2014

Trip to Delaware Bay

Date & Time: Thursday, May 15, 2014 7 am-8:30 pm
Description: Join naturalists at the height of the horseshoe crab mating and egg-laying season and watch shorebirds at the Delaware Bay! Pack a lunch and grab your camera or binoculars for a adventurous time. We will also visit the Dupont Nature Center and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Some snacks will be provided. Advance reservations are required by May 9.

Cost: Resident: \$25; Non-Resident: \$30
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Live at Montpelier!- Cyrus Chestnut, Jazz Piano

Date and Time: Friday, May 16, 2014 8 pm
Description: We welcome you to enjoy Cyrus Chestnut on the piano for this edition of Live at Montpelier! He seamlessly weaves melodies together that convey stories on the piano keys, based on sensory experiences. Chestnut's brand of crisp articulation and blues-influenced harmony evokes another era--one that skillfully references gospel music in his club performances.

Cost: Tickets: \$30/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Family Campfire

Date & Time: Friday, May 16, 2014 7:30-9 pm
Description: Enjoy an evening nature program while roasting marshmallows. (Roasting sticks and marshmallows will be provided.) You may bring hot dogs and beverages. Pre-registration through SMARTlink is strongly encouraged.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
Ages: 2 & up
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Chocolate Lovers Tea

Date & Time: Saturday, May 17, 1:30 pm
Description: Along with our usual delectable fair of fine finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries and scones, we'll have chocolate, chocolate, chocolate! Book early! This ones going to fill up fast! Space is limited. Price includes self-guided tour of Montpelier and gratuity.

Cost: \$29/person; \$25/Members of the Friends of Montpelier
Reservations and advance payment required by May 14.
Ages: 12 & up
Location: Montpelier Mansion
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

Montpelier's Spring History Lecture Series: History Through a Drinking Vessel

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 pm
Description: This is the third of three history lectures on the beverages, libations and social culture of 18th century life. In this talk, Maureen O'Prey will speak on beer in colonial America.

Cost: Free
Ages: 12 & up
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544; montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

War of 1812: British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus and Boat Tour

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
Date and Time: Saturday, May 24, 2014 8 am-5 pm
Description: The British are coming! War of 1812 scholar Dr. Ralph Eshelman will serve as our ride-along guide as we travel via bus and boat (weather permitting) over the routes and waterways the British traveled through the County in August of 1814. Bus departs from and returns to Darnall's Chance.

Capacity is limited; reservations and payment required in advance.
Cost: \$75/person
Ages: 16 & up
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Celebrate National Fitness Month / The Art of Yoga

Date and Time: Saturday, May 24, 2014 11 am
Description: Enjoy an hour-long yoga class in the beautiful galleries of Montpelier Arts Center! Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. Following the class, you can explore the art exhibitions in the galleries or discover the gorgeous grounds of Montpelier!

Cost: Free
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Live Animal Show

Date & Time: Saturday, May 24, 2014 10-11 am
Description: Come to the live animal show and meet some of the center's animals up close! Then, learn about their habits and habitats. Reservations required.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident \$3
Ages: 2 & up
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Keeping Our Food Safe and Healthy

Dear EarthTalk:

What would you consider to be the key areas we need to improve to make our food safer for our health and easier on our environment?

— Billy A. Oakland, CA

Although we have come a long way in recent years with regard to the safety and sustainability of our food supply, we still have a long way to go. Toxic pesticides are still used on the vast majority of U.S. grown crops, while other hormone-disrupting chemicals are omnipresent in our food packaging. And excessive use of antibiotics in animal agriculture threatens to render many human drugs ineffective. Environmental leaders would like to see the federal government step up and institute regulations banning such substances in our food supply, but for now it's still up to individual consumers to make the right choices.

Fruits and vegetables grown on conventional (i.e. not organic) farms make up some 96 percent of the produce we eat—and expose us to many pesticides. Two of the most toxic, chlorpyrifos and DDT, are also quite common: 93 percent of Americans carry trace amounts of the former in their bloodstreams, while 99 percent of us have DDT residue coursing through our veins. These chemicals on our food can be harmful to adults, but health experts are even more con-

cerned about what they are doing to our kids. The non-profit Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA) points to recent studies showing that children with high pesticide exposures in the womb are at increased risk of being born with birth defects and are much more likely to encounter developmental delays, ADHD and autism spectrum disorders.

A related issue is the hormone-disrupting bisphenol-A (BPA) in our food supply as a result of its widespread use in the lining of cans and other food and drink containers. "Nearly every person in America has some BPA in his or her body," reports the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading green group. "And yet, this food-packaging chemical may cause problems in developing fetuses, infants and children by altering behavior and increasing the risk of prostate cancer, as a government report concluded nearly two years ago." Other studies have shown links between BPA exposure and a variety of human health problems including erectile dysfunction, breast cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Another big hurdle to a safer, greener food system is our increasing reliance on antibiotics to fight bacterial infections in livestock. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has known since the 1970s that feeding large amounts of antibiotics to healthy livestock breeds antibiotic resistant bacteria, which can in turn render many of the antibiotics used for hu-



CREDIT: HEATHER BUTTRUM, COURTESY FLICKR

Green groups like the Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA) would like to see the U.S. trade-in its policy that treats chemicals as "innocent until proven guilty" for something akin to Europe's regulatory system, where a "health-protective precautionary approach" dictates which chemicals are approved for widespread use.

mans ineffective. In fact, antibiotic resistant infections are already killing 23,000 Americans each year. A 2012 FDA policy change calls on livestock producers to refrain from using antibiotics to boost growth rates for pigs, cows, sheep and chickens, but it remains to be seen if the industry will toe the line or use loopholes to keep up the steady stream of antibiotics.

PANNA is one of many voices demanding an overhaul of how the FDA regulates our

food supply. "We all want to believe that government agencies are protecting us and our food supply from chemical contaminants—but they are not," reports the group. "They do not have the regulatory framework to do so." The group would like to see the U.S. trade-in its policy that treats chemicals as "innocent until proven guilty" for something akin to Europe's regulatory system, where a "health-protective precautionary approach" dictates which chemicals are approved for widespread use.

CONTACTS: PANNA, www.panna.org; NRDC, www.nrdc.org; FDA, www.fda.gov.

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Nutria from A1

in the 1940s for the fur trade. They have established colonies in states throughout the Southeast and Pacific Northwest. In Louisiana, the nutria population reached 20 million in 20 years, creating a problem that is now too large for eradication.

The race against nutria in Maryland has cost between \$16 million and \$17 million total to date; the project receives between \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million a year, federal money funneled through the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Coming into its 14th year, the nutria project has received substantial attention in the U.S. and around the world. Kendrot, who's hosted delegations from Israel, China and South Korea, among others, said visitors come from all over to learn about the team's techniques in the hopes of implementing similar programs in their areas.

Research for a nutria project began in the mid-1990s, the program was launched in 2000, and eradication began as an experimental pilot program in 2002. By 2010, the team was confident it could actually wipe the species from the Maryland landscape.

Their strategy combines more traditional population management techniques with geographic information systems, GPS and mapping technology that Kendrot says sets the program apart. They have pioneered various detection techniques that help them track, trap and kill the nutria, and collected a huge amount of data on the creatures. Catches go back to the shop, where specialists mine the carcasses for information like age, sex and pregnancies.

Detecting the nutria is the biggest challenge, Kendrot said -- to figure out both where they are and where they aren't. The latter is key to eventually achieving eradication.

"How do you go about proving nutria don't exist? It's kind of like proving Bigfoot doesn't exist," Kendrot said.

During the first year of trapping on the peninsula, the team caught 5,000 nutria at the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and in ad-

acent private lands, Kendrot said. Today, it's been two and a half years since a "nute" was spotted at the refuge.

The trappers have moved down the coast over the years to cover Fishing Bay, the Nanticoke River, southern Dorchester County, Ellis Bay, Monie Bay, Deal Island and the Choptank River.

To date, the team has killed more than 13,000 nutria in Maryland, deeming 216,201 acres of the Delmarva Peninsula nutria-free with 11,357 acres to go. (Half of the peninsula's 500,000 acres was clear of nutria from the start.)

Delmarva, which is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay, is "ground zero" for nutria, where they were first introduced in Maryland. Nine of its major watersheds were infested with nutria at the start of the project, Kendrot said.

Combing the dense marshes for the elusive animals is a big job for a 10-man staff, and their observations can only provide snapshots, so the team must be vigilant, Kendrot said. After they think they've eradicated nutria in an area, they begin a verification and monitoring stage to make sure the critters don't return.

The team estimates that it can catch about 95 percent of nutria in a given area within four weeks, but the last five percent can take just as long as the first 95.

"When it gets down to the last, it gets more interesting. More challenging," said Richard Elzey, Sr., who has been a wildlife specialist with the project since 2002.

There are probably between 200 and 500 nutria remaining in the area, Kendrot said. They don't expect to catch the last one, but rather to get the population so low that the remaining few die off.

The team will finish initial trapping by the end of 2014, but they won't declare the state officially eradicated until 2017, after a period of surveillance to make sure new nutes don't sneak in.

But the team's true focus is on what happens after they leave the marsh.

"You can't measure the efficacy of eradication by how many critters you kill. It's what you

leave behind that determines your success," Kendrot said.

In some areas, like two sites on the Choptank River and in Somerset County, the marsh recovered completely after the USDA team removed the nutria there, Kendrot said. But there are other places that can never fully recover.

At Blackwater Refuge, the last nutria was caught in December 2011. But the marsh, which was once so dense you could walk across it at low tide, is filled with water.

"Much of this marsh was lost by the 70s and 80s, so a lot of people that visit today don't even make the connection that this isn't a healthy ecosystem, it's not what it should be (or) certainly what it used to be. They just see a beautiful lake with some geese swimming out in it," Kendrot said.

In 2003, the Blackwater Refuge partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers and Baltimore's National Aquarium, among others, to restore parts of the refuge, but it cost \$300,000 for just six acres. There isn't funding to restore the more than 5,000 acres of marsh that have been converted to open water, Kendrot said.

Elzey, who grew up near Blackwater and has watched its marshes disappear over the course of his life, said he wished the project had started in the 1970s. He trapped nutria when they were first introduced on the Delmarva Peninsula.

"I remember when it was just a creek running through. All marsh. All marsh, and I tracked it all," he said.

Some animal cruelty groups oppose the eradication of invasive species, but there has been relatively little opposition to the nutria project compared to similar programs, Kendrot said.

Though the environment is more important than the nutria, the Bay Foundation's Myers said he wished the dead animals didn't go to waste.

"There are lots of good uses for nutria, including the meat and the furs and we would probably prefer that happen as opposed to just allowing them to go, because we think they're cute and cuddly," Myers said.

But there is no market for nutria fur or meat, Kendrot said, as places

like Louisiana learned when they tried to start up a commercial nutria meat market (though there are plenty of recipes available online for curious hunters). Production costs would be high and Wildlife Services couldn't ensure the safety of the meat for human consumption, anyway, he said.

Kendrot said the line of work is controversial but justified when considered in an environmental context.

"It's a hard leap for some people to make. How can killing animals be considered conservation? But the project isn't to kill nutria. It's to save the marsh," Kendrot said.

On the Wicomico River, Elzey and the rest of the team have been trapping for a month. They're in what they call the knockdown phase: searching for nutes and tracks, looking for catches and setting new traps daily.

The wildlife specialists spend eight to 10 hours a day on the water. In the dead of winter, this sometimes means working with wind howling across a frozen marsh. In the summer, mosquitoes and gnats buzz about in the humid air. Dead nutria often ride with them in the bottom of the boat while the men finish checking the traps.

"If you like doin' it, then it don't bother you," Elzey said. "You've gotta love to do it to do the job."

It takes a certain kind of person to do the project, Kendrot said. Though he's an avid hunter, he said he has mixed feelings on whether or not killing the animals ever bothers him, saying he doesn't "like to demonize the critter."

He names admiration and gratitude as emotions that characterize his relationship with nutes, and he clearly believes in the work he's doing.

"You know, a lot of people spend their life trying to do something that has a real tangible outcome and obvious impact on the environment or whatever, leave a legacy, and never get that opportunity, and this one's been dropped in my lap so to speak, and it's, you know -- if we're successful we'll have achieved something pretty remarkable," he said.