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Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman Release Jobs Plan

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown and County Executive Ken Ulman released their five-point Brown-Ulman Jobs Plan to keep our economy growing and strengthen middle-class families.

"In Maryland, we've had great success working with employers to grow our economy and expand the middle-class, but we can always do better," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "Today we are announcing the five-point Brown-Ulman Jobs Plan to build on our successes and create a brighter future for Maryland's working families. By investing in our infrastructure, ensuring that we have the best workforce in the nation and partnering with the private sector, we'll make Maryland the most competitive business climate in the nation."

In October, Brown and Ulman launched their Maryland Business Climate Tour to gather input from business leaders across the state about how to achieve their goal of making Maryland the most competitive business climate in the nation.

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY EATHAN BARTON.

Sean Johnson, legislative director for the Maryland teacher's union, talks on the phone with President Betty Weller.

Autonomy Of Local Schools Uncertain

By ETHAN BARTON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Maryland teachers have been overwhelmed by challenges this school year as a result of an abundance of changes to education policy. But the struggle played out in individual classrooms is a symptom of a larger three-way battle for control over education in the state.

This tug of war has led to threats of legal action, as well as unnecessary anxiety for those that carry the most influence on students' learning: teachers.

"I am disappointed by [the Maryland Department of Education's] recent attempts to ... strong-arm local schools systems into outcomes that do not best serve our students," said Betty Weller, president of the statewide teachers union, in a 2013 letter addressed to state Superintendent Lillian Lowery.

Across Maryland, some local school officials are wary that the state Department of Education and federal education authorities may be usurping their autonomy.

That has left some administrators and bureaucrats "grappling for control," according to one teachers union official.

The difficulties educators struggled with include the hastily rolled out Common Core State Standards and having to teach to an outdated state assessment, while being evaluated

by a new system, according to state officials and the teachers union alike.

"It was the largest education development program in Maryland history," said Bill Reinhard, spokesperson for the Maryland State Department of Education.

None of these struggles stemmed from endeavors initiated on the local level.

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Bringing Back Maryland's Oysters

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Our native oyster is critical to the Bay's ecology and the State's economy. Sadly, this essential filter feeder and seafood industry superstar has languished at 1 percent of its historic population for decades, decimated by overfishing, habitat degradation and disease.

But today there is new hope for the beleaguered mollusk. In 2010 under Governor Martin O'Malley's leadership, the State of Maryland adopted a 10-Point Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan to rebuild our native oyster population and the industry it supports. Just four years later, we are seeing progress in every area of the plan.

In a critical early step, a team of federal, state and private experts worked together to assess existing oyster habitat, define recovery areas and prioritize tributaries with the greatest potential for oyster growth. With this information in hand, the State expanded its sanctuary program, increasing areas closed to harvest from 5% to 24% of the best remaining oyster bars.

This work not only set the stage for restoring 377 acres in Harris Creek— the largest undertaking of its kind; Harris Creek and other newly created

See **OYSTERS** Page A5

Goats to Serve as Eco-Friendly Landscapers Around the State

By PATRICK FARRELL
Capital News Service

SUNDERLAND - Have you herd? Goats will soon be making their way through Maryland and Northern Virginia, as property owners trade machinery and labor crews for hungry, four-legged landscapers ready to decimate any vegetation in their way.

Mary Bowen, owner of Sunderland-based Green Goats and Prosperity Acres farm, will be putting her herd of over 70 goats to work from May to October, using them to clear overgrown vegetation in various private and public areas across the state.

Unlike traditional land-clearing methods such as herbicide treatments and excavation services, which can have adverse effects on the environment, goats offer an environmentally-friendly alternative.

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are some of the goats' favorite vegetation choices, making the animals

perfect for jobs with highly concentrated areas of poisonous plants that humans wouldn't dare tackle themselves.

Bowen founded Green Goats three years ago, with the intention of providing a service that would benefit both the environment and the state.

For years the Bowen family had been showing goats, along with cattle and horses, at local 4-H shows around the state, including the Anne Arundel County Fair in Crownsville and the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

"I wanted to be able to do something with the goats other than showing them ... I actually wanted to utilize them to do what they naturally do, which is forage," Bowen said.

After linking up with Enrique Escobar, a small ruminant specialist and assistant professor at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Bowen was able to make her plan a reality.

During a workshop in which Escobar recounted past experiences with using goats



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICK FARRELL

Mary Bowen, the owner of Green Goats, hopes to emulate the goat businesses forming in California, Oklahoma, and other parts of the country.

for land clearing projects in Oklahoma, Bowen saw the potential in bringing the practices to Maryland.

"I decided I wanted to be able to develop this business, because I had heard in other states, particularly California, where they use the goats to clear out for firebreaks in the park

services ... and that was what I really wanted to be able to start doing," Bowen said. "Something that is good for our community ... good for our state."

Bowen noted that when using goats, there is no need to

See **GOATS** Page A7

Governor O'Malley and Media Rights Capital House of Cards Will Film Season Three in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 25, 2014) — Governor Martin O'Malley and Media Rights Capital announced today that they have reached an agreement that will keep the hit television show House of Cards filming its third season in Maryland.

"Spoiler alert: we're going to keep the 3700 jobs and more than 100 million dollars of economic activity and investment that House of Cards generates right here in Maryland," Governor O'Malley said. "Media Rights Capital has been a great supporter of the people and entertainment community in Maryland and we couldn't be happier to continue our partnership."

The Maryland General Assembly first passed the Film Production Tax Credit in 2011, providing \$26 million in tax credits in the show's first two seasons. With the growth of the production, House

of Cards will receive a total of \$11.5 million in 2014, through a combination of both the 2014 Film Production Tax Credit program and a General Assembly authorization of \$7.5 million in grants in the FY15 budget. Governor O'Malley led negotiations with MRC to finalize the agreement, which provides less than the production qualified for, but enough to keep the hit franchise in Maryland.

"House of Cards is the gift that keeps on giving, having injected hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy, while also helping to provide thousands of jobs to our Maryland community," commented Asif Satchu, co-CEO of MRC. "We are very grateful to both Governor O'Malley for his tireless efforts to help keep jobs in Maryland and the leadership of the General Assembly for their continued advocacy and support."

The producers of the show expect to begin production on Season 3 over the next several months.

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Stewardship for the Next Generation

Teaching green job skills along with an appreciation for nature, the Governor's Conservation Jobs Corps has graduated 1,800 at-risk youth from a summer employment program at Maryland State Parks over the past 5 years.

Community, Page A3

Mikulski, Collins Lead Bipartisan Senate Women Condemning Abduction Of Girls by Boko Haram

Barbara A. Mikulski and Susan Collins led all twenty Senate women in sending a bipartisan letter to President Obama condemning the abduction and mistreatment of more than 200 girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram in Chibok, Nigeria.

Commentary, Page A4

Governor O'Malley Announces Luminol Moves to Maryland, Receives \$600,000 From InvestMaryland

"The current model for computing is broken, and bad actors are racing far ahead of available defenses," said Josh Stella, CEO of Luminol and previously a principal solutions architect at Amazon Web Services.

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "Draft Day"

On the day of the NFL Draft, general manager Sonny Weaver has the opportunity to save football in Cleveland when he trades for the number one pick. He must quickly decide what he's willing to sacrifice in pursuit of perfection as the lines between his personal and professional life become blurred on a life-changing day.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I recently became vegetarian for ethical reasons, but I am missing the taste of meat. Are there any tasty veggie options out there that can satisfy my desire for steak and chicken?

— Missy Jenkins, Pittsburgh, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Farmers Markets are blooming everywhere!

All over Prince George's County farmers markets are opening for the season. Those closest to me are:

Branch Avenue in Bloom Farmers Market at the Iverson Mall Parking Lot, 3737 Branch Avenue. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays until November 23. For information, call Fleming Thomas, 301-702-2250.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Farmers Market, 7503 Surratts Road in Clinton. Hours are noon to 4 p.m., Wednesdays until October 29. For information, call Charmaine Smalley, 301-877-4399.

Suitland Farmers Market, Suitland Road & Shadyside Avenue. Hours are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays until November 4. For information, call Sylvia Quinton, 301-669-0777.

Senior's Prom at the Moose Lodge

Hand dance to the Oldies on Saturday, May 31, at the Marlboro Moose Lodge #1856, from 2 p.m., until ?? Jammin George Playfair Jr. will be your DJ. Admission is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple and includes dinner at 6 p.m. Bring hors d'oeuvres for your table. Open to the public, but space is limited. For tickets, call Shelley, 301-343-9688, or Roxanne, 301-780-5359.

Neighbors

Monica Evans has been elected president of the Skyline Elementary School PTA for the year 2014-2015. Other officers are Crystal Alston, vice-president; Terrance Gibson, treasurer; and Richelle Hawkins, secretary.

Theresa Toye has accepted the position of Nominating Chairman for the Skyline Citizens Association, taking over from the ailing Ruby Holloway who has faithfully handled that job (and many other jobs) for years.

Retired Bishop Raymond Boland died Feb. 27 in Cork, Ireland. He had served the Archdiocese of Washington as chancellor and vicar general, but is remembered locally as former associate pastor at Mount Calvary Parish in Forestville.

Condolences to Yvonne Garvin on the death of her father, Robert Gerald, of Goldsboro, N.C.

Outdoor Mass on Memorial Day

Mass outdoors (under a tent) will be celebrated May 26 at all the cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, including Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Road in Clinton, beginning at 10 a.m. All are invited. For information call 301-868-5141.

I always attend, and then visit my husband Jack who has been at Resurrection for ten long years now.

Wrecked cars at the firehouse?

There were probably 15 wrecks lined up, behind yellow tape, at the Morningside firehouse last week, and I wondered what was going on. I found out that they were classwork for the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's Tactical Extrication Class May 10/11. Those who signed up paid \$215 to learn how to saw open a car, remove a victim and maybe save a life. Students were provided lodging and meals.

Coffee with Obie Patterson

Prince George's Councilmen Obie Patterson invites you to join him for a Community Coffee at the McDonald's, corner of Allentown and Suitland Road, on Friday, June 6, between 9 and 11 a.m.

Skyline Yard Sale

The Skyline Citizens Association is hosting a Yard Sale at the Morningside Firehouse on Saturday, June 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables will be available for \$15. And fish & chips, hotdogs and sodas will be for sale. For more information or to reserve a table, call 240-838-6412 or 301-967-1320. June 14 is the rain date.

Fun things to do

To celebrate Mothers Day, some of my family treated me to a good Thai dinner at the Bangkok Golden in Fort Washington, then to Fort Washington Park to wander the amazing fort, and a stopover at Hover-

males for soft ice cream. I recommend it all. By the way, admission at the Park is \$5—more than worth it!

However, for something simpler, take your preschool children or grandchildren to Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Park in Clinton at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 26, to learn about tadpoles. The fee is \$2.

Changing Landscape

The ground was broken May 17 for the William Beanes Community Center next to William Beanes Elementary School on Diana Drive in Suitland.

Be aware that lane closures and reduced speed are still in effect on Suitland Parkway where Pepco continues to work on improving underground utilities.

Edwin Wells, St. Bernardine Parish Council president, dies

Edwin V. Wells, Jr., 90, a Marlboro High senior class president in the early '40s, died April 12. He was born in Upper Marlboro, joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, served in the Pacific, and retired as 1st lieutenant. In 1946 he began a 35-year career as a civilian with the Air Force and retired in 1981 as Chief of the Staffing & Employment Development Division.

He had a degree from Strayer's and, in retirement, worked for H&R Block and then had his own tax preparation business. He was a life-long member of the Knights of Columbus and had been a lecturer and Parish Council president at St. Bernardine's in Suitland. His wife Jane preceded him in death. He's survived by his children, Mary K. Vass (Sam), Ronald Wells (Kathryn), Patricia Barrett (Bill), seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Betty Call, L. Dorothy Jones, Nancy Sawyer, Dory Babecki and Chester Lanehart IV, May 23; Edna Lucas and Harry Messer, May 24; Dennis Cook, Norma Edwards and my son John McHale, May 25; Christopher Nichols, May 26; Gary Lewis, Sr. and Steven Busky, May 27.

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



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

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

Prince George's County's 2014 Spring Clean Up, Green Up a Success

LARGO, MD - Prince George's County's annual countywide Spring Clean Up, Green Up initiative held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 was an overwhelming success with over 2,000 volunteers cleaning up litter, weeding and mulching at 81 sites throughout the County.

"The tremendous response to Clean Up, Green Up from the community, schools and businesses demonstrates our commitment to keeping Prince George's County clean, healthy and attractive," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I want to thank the thousands of volunteers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help beautify Prince George's County and also thank the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, Prince George's County Public Schools, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Neighborhood Design Center for organizing an amazing day of community engagement."

Volunteers from the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) areas conducted Clean Up, Green Up activities and worked in conjunction with the Christmas in April program to bring a concentrated cleanup effort to these communities. The Langley Park TNI Clean Up, Green Up team engaged approximately 300 volunteers, including students, teachers, parents and community members, to weed and mulch landscaped areas, and to pick up litter at Buck Lodge Middle School, Carole Highlands Elementary School, Langley Park McCormick Elementary School and other locations throughout the community. Over 30 volunteers from the Suitland/Coral Hills TNI area cleaned three community designated sites and supported two Christmas in April locations. In addition, Comcast conducted their own employee driven corporate volunteer effort, "Comcast Cares Day," at Drew Freeman Middle School in Suitland.

Prince George's County will be hosting the fourth annual Fall Clean Up, Green Up on Saturday, October 18, 2014 and invites citizens, schools, businesses and community organizations to save the date.

For more information about Clean Up, Green Up activities, please contact Carol Terry at 301-883-5600.

Council Member Receives Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

Elizabeth Ann Seton High School Alumna Honored as Inaugural Award Recipient
Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner (D) - District 4, is the honored recipient of the first St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, giving special recognition to an individual who embodies the mission and vision of Elizabeth Seton High School. Council Member Turner accepted the tribute during the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Inauguration Ceremony on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at Elizabeth Seton High School Mahler Center for the Performing Arts, 5715 Emerson Street, in Bladensburg, Maryland.

Elizabeth Seton High School, located in Bladensburg, was founded in 1959 by the Daughters of Charity as a Catholic college preparatory school. The school, which currently enrolls over 600 diverse students in grades 9-12, has a stated mission of educating young women by engaging them in a challenging college preparatory curriculum and in the teachings of the Catholic Church, promoting a community that values diversity and is rooted in service to others. Council Member Turner, a 1982 graduate of Elizabeth Seton High School, is honored to be named the first recipient of the prestigious St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award.

"Elizabeth Seton High School augmented the values my parents instilled in me, stressing the importance of a good education, commitment to community service, empowering others and setting the best example. I sincerely thank School President, Sister Ellen Marie, for bestowing upon me this remarkable award."

Elizabeth Seton High School President, Sister Ellen Marie Hagar, says Council Member Turner is a living testament to the school's vision for young women.

"Our mission is to develop young women who are confident, creative and compassionate. Ingrid's accomplished abilities and record of public service indicate that she is such a woman, beginning with her graduation from the United States Naval Academy, continuing with her admission to the Maryland Bar and her successful career as a representative in local government. She exemplifies the virtues we espouse."

Sister Ellen Marie Hagar also noted the commitment of Council Member Turner to serving the larger community.

"Prince George's County is a very diverse community that continually promotes the growth of its citizens in education, in the development of its workforce, and in health and safety. Ingrid has demonstrated an undeniable commitment to all of these issues, not unlike the founders of our school, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The era is different, and the resources are nowhere near the same, but the belief in bettering the lives of people is ever the same."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BUS DRIVER JOB FAIR

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will host a job fair to recruit bus drivers on Saturday, May 31, from 8:00 AM to 12 noon. The Job Fair will be at Dr. Wise Jr. High School located at 12650 Brooke Lane in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Paid commercial driver's license (CDL) training is provided to all new hires. The position offers a starting salary of \$10.23 per hour, with advancement opportunities. You must pre-register and apply on line by Monday, May 26 in order to attend the job fair. Please contact 301-780-2191 or email supportingpersonnel@pgcps.org for questions concerning this opportunity.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Senior and Junior Usher Ministry of Asbury United Methodist Church are celebrating their 65th Usher Anniversary on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 3:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Rev. Kermit

Clifton Charles Moore, Pastor of Alexander United Methodist Church located in Charles County. Asbury Church is located at 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Pastor Rev. Gladman Kapfumvuti is the Pastor. Telephone number is 301-372-8891.

JUG BAY NATURAL AREA TRAIL

The 2000 acre Jug Bay Natural Area has over 8 miles of natural surface trails for horseback riders, hikers and bicyclist. All users are encouraged to evaluate trails conditions prior to use and follow proper trail etiquette. All trails are identified by white fiberglass markers with color coded diamond directional arrows. A map is available by calling 301-627-6074.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP DIVAS BRUNCH

The Women of New Hope Fellowship honored Divas of the church who are 90 years of age and older at Mimi's Café in Waldorf Maryland on Saturday May 10, 2014. The ladies hon-

ored were Berline Brooks, Ruth Turner, Elizabeth Hamilton, Rosie Wilkerson, Milton Holiday, Beulah Burr, Alice Brooks, Theresa Jackson and Helen Holland. The Divas had a good time socializing with their friends and other ladies from the church. This was a wonderful monumental event.

BOATHOUSE

Memorial Day weekend through mid-October the boathouse at Cosca Park will be open. Costa Regional Park is located at 11000 Thrift Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. After Labor Day the Boathouse is only open on weekends (weather permitting). The hours of operation are Thursday, 3:00 PM and Friday-Sunday, 11:00 AM-8:00 PM until Labor Day. There is a tram train that takes passengers around the park for a nominal fee and paddle boats for rent. There is a snack bar with ice cream and beverages for sale. Boat House (summer only) the telephone number is 301-868-7561.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Keeping a Lid on Your Vacation Costs

Summer vacation is right around the corner. I'm not a big believer in pre-planning every single detail — sometimes the best vacation moments are spontaneous. But unless your rich uncle is paying for the trip, you'll need to do a certain amount of preparation or your budget will fly out the window.



You do have a vacation budget, right? If not, here are a few suggestions for creating one and some cost-saving ideas to help keep expenses down:

First, be realistic about what you can afford. If your vacation will take more than a month or two to pay off, you may want to scale back on this year's trip and start setting aside money now for next year.

When building a trip budget, try to anticipate all potential expenses. Consider things like:

- Airfare-related expenses. Include taxes and fees for items like changing flights, extra leg room, priority boarding, Wi-Fi access, meals, and checked, oversized or overweight baggage.
- Kayak.com, Airfarewatchdog.com and Travelnerd.com provide handy charts that compare various fees for popular airlines; however, always double-check the airline's own posted rules before booking your flight.
- Transportation to and from the airport — at home and all travel locations.
- Car rentals. Factor in taxes, gas, fill-up penalties and insurance (check your auto insurance and credit card policies to ensure you don't pay for duplicate coverage).
- Hotel/lodging. Don't forget taxes and other local fees, charges for phone/Internet, room service, early check-in or departure, gratuities, etc.
- Hotel room rates often are based on double occupancy. Although kids usually can stay for free, many hotels charge extra for additional adults.
- Entertainment. Include meals and snacks, event admission and ticket-ordering charges, transit passes or taxis, sporting equipment rental, babysitters, and special clothing or accessory requirements (sunscreen, hiking boots, etc.)
- Throw in an extra 10 or 15 percent for unanticipated expenses — lost luggage, flat tire, etc.

Search for deals on flights, hotels and rental cars at comparison sites like Orbitz.com, Kayak.com, Priceline.com, Hotwire.com, Hotels.com and Travelzoo.com. But beware: Before clicking "confirm," make sure the final price matches the initial quote. I've seen fares jump \$50 or more in just minutes or had the seat I was booking suddenly become unavailable.

A few additional tips:

- Follow and "like" airlines and ticketing sites on Facebook and Twitter. They'll often share sales, discounts and promotional codes with their followers.
- If the airfare goes down after you've purchased your ticket, ask the airline or ticketing site to refund the difference — it couldn't hurt to ask.
- Print and carry a copy of your airline's Contract of Carriage, which outlines your rights and the airline's obligations should your flight be cancelled or delayed for reasons besides weather or other "acts of God."
- Consider vacation rentals listed on sites like Airbnb.com, VRBO.com and HomeAway.com. You can often find cheaper accommodations with more space and amenities than hotels offer.
- Before booking a hotel room online, call the individual property to see if they can beat the company's posted rate. Also ask for member discounts for organizations you belong to like AAA or AARP.

Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management program run by Visa Inc., has a handy web-based travel calculator that can help you estimate travel costs and rejigger them to meet your budget needs (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators). It's also available as a free iPhone app, which you can download from iTunes.

Bottom line: A little preplanning now can ensure you don't blow your whole budget on unexpected vacation expenses.

Stewardship for the Next Generation

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Over the past seven years, environmental educators in Maryland have worked closely — and tirelessly — with Governor Martin O'Malley to build upon his steadfast commitment to our natural resources and our children. Our alliance began in 2008 with the Governor's creation of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, a first-of-its-kind collaboration of public and private experts tasked with creating new and innovative ways to connect young people with their natural world and help them grow to become responsible adult stewards.

While the Partnership's journey is far from over, we have made much progress along our path, expanding opportunities for learning and inspiration through unstructured play in natural settings, structured outdoor learning through park and public lands programs, and exposure to nature and environmental learning as part of their school day.

To date, the Maryland Green Schools program includes 425 certified schools with an additional 170 applications being processed this year. After applying for this distinction from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, schools are selected by demonstrating that students, teachers, staff, parents and community partners are incorporating green, sustainable practices into the classroom,

and tackling environmental projects in their neighborhoods.

Under Governor O'Malley's 2012 Stream Restoration Challenge — a 3-year grants program that marries buffer planting with service learning and environmental literacy opportunities — students are improving water quality and supporting tree planting goals. Last spring 2,800 students earned more than 7,500 service learning credits, planting 46,000 trees. In the fall students planted approximately 100 acres of trees at 60 sites. And their work continues.

Taking stream restoration lessons to the next level, in 2013 Governor O'Malley launched Explore and Restore your SchoolShed, through which students use the streams and creeks on or near their properties as outdoor classrooms, learning about water quality and taking steps to improve it. More than 100 schools are now participating statewide, and students are seeing measurable results on the ground.

Teaching green job skills along with an appreciation for nature, the Governor's Conservation Jobs Corps has graduated 1,800 at-risk youth from a summer employment program at Maryland State Parks over the past 5 years.

And, lest we forget the indelible impact of time spent outdoors on a child's health and well-being, the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights continues to encourage parents, teachers and mentors to simply



PHOTO COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

spend time with young people enjoying our great outdoors through activities like fishing, swimming, camping and exploring. State and local parks in every county offer spaces, trails and programs to support these activities.

Together we realized our most important accomplishment to date in 2011, when Maryland became the first state in the nation to adopt an environmental literacy graduation requirement. The environmental education community remains fully committed to this effort, working with local school systems to infuse core subjects with lessons about conservation, the Chesapeake Bay, Smart Growth and natural resource management, and use the environment to meet emerging new requirements in science, technology, engineering, math, social studies and more.

Our investments in environmental education today are ensuring that our young people graduate high school not only with the intellectual ability to tackle complex environmental challenges — but also with the will and desire to care for our natural world.

Along with our commitment to our natural resources, these investments will determine not only what type of planet we leave our children, but also what kind of stewards we leave our planet.

There are innumerable partners — parents, teachers, non-formal educators, and others — who work every day to support these efforts and this week, in honor of Earth Day and Environmental Education Month, we salute them, and the leadership and commitment of Governor Martin O'Malley.

Autonomy from A1

Education Overhaul in Maryland

Common Core was adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education in 2010 and was implemented in September. Agreeing to follow the national standards played a pivotal role in both Maryland's receipt of \$250 million from the Race to the Top federal grant and a waiver that exempts schools from the strict standards required by No Child Left Behind, both programs from the U.S. Department of Education, according to school officials.

The grant and waiver both require a high-stakes student assessment. The results of these tests must carry 20 percent weight when evaluating teachers, according to federal rules. State law, however, provides much less specific requirements.

Race to the Top was approved by nearly every local school system in the state, with the exception of Frederick and Montgomery Counties, but the waiver only needed compliance by the state Department of Education.

Essentially, the state signed onto federal requirements that stretched into the local schools, though the majority of those systems agreed to these for the duration of Race to the Top, which concludes in September, according to the state teachers union.

However, according to the state Department of Education, the requirements were not forced bindings.

"I don't want to give some kind of illusion here that [the federal government] has held our feet to a fire," said Dave Volrath, the head of development of teacher evaluations for the state Department of Education.

Regardless, these obligations from the U.S. Department of Education distressed teachers.

For example, because the student assessment that aligned with Common Core was only in the pilot phase, the state had to administer the old test, which did not match the new curricula, in order to conform to the federal mandates.

Emergency legislation was put before the General Assembly this session to halt the test, but was successfully opposed by the state Department of Education for fear of jeopardizing the remainder of the grant and voiding the waiver.

Specific Requirements For Teacher Evaluations

However, the larger point of contention was the creation of new teacher evaluation models. Though 22 of the 24 Maryland systems agreed to the Race to the Top standards, many still submitted evaluation models in 2012 that used less than 20 percent weight of state student assessments, which were rejected by the state Department of Education.

In response to the state's rejection of their model, Baltimore County Public Schools challenged the bureaucracy's jurisdiction.

"... We believe that [the state Department of Education's] directive to increase our [student assessment] proportion to 20 percent of the overall student growth model is beyond the legal authority of [the department] and/or the State Board of Education," said Baltimore County Superintendent Dallas Dance in a letter to Lowery, dated December 14, 2012, obtained by Capital News Service through a Maryland Public Information Act request. "... We reserve our rights to pursue other alternative remedies, including enforcement in court, if necessary, to prevent what we believe is an attempt to usurp local board authority, which is clearly preserved in the statute."

Baltimore County schools, however, did not take any legal action. Officials declined to give insight on future plans when state assessments again become usable.

Despite the disagreement, Assistant Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools Billy Burke said the district "didn't feel muscled into any of the decisions."

However, if a school system refused to comply, there's no standard penalty in place, according to state, local and union officials.

Dorchester County also had their original model of teacher

evaluations rejected because of too little weight given to student assessments. The school system, however, has a comfortable relationship with state officials.

"We worked very closely with [the state Department of Education]," said Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools Henry Wagner. "We were free, in my opinion, to design something that would be in need for our district."

Wagner acknowledged the federal department's role in creating the models.

"The parameters for this were established pretty clearly by [the U.S. Department of Education] ..." Wagner said.

Not all agree that the federal officials know best, however.

"As it relates to teacher evaluations, this clearly needs to be a locally developed item," said Sean Johnson, legislative director of the statewide teachers union.

A report by the federal Department of Education released last month determined that it was "unclear" if the state bureaucracy was effectively able to assess the teacher evaluation models before their implementation at the beginning of this school year.

Additionally, the local teachers unions were less inclined to support Race to the Top.

"It is worth noting that when the superintendent and the Board of Education of St. Mary's County signed the assurances to Race to the Top, before any specifics of the grant were provided, the [union] declined to sign," said school officials from the county in a letter to Lowery dated December 21, 2012.

In short, Race to the Top's requirements allowed evaluation models to be approved without necessarily having agreement from the local union, as required by state law.

Notably, the state's model, which goes into effect if the union and the school system do not agree, uses the 20 percent weight.

Additionally, this quantitative analysis of student growth demanded in teacher evaluations, as required by Race to the Top,

was an important factor in Frederick County's decision not to sign onto the federal grant.

"We've been working on our evaluation system for ten years," said Larkin Hohnke, the school system's instructional director for high schools.

Johnson added: "We've argued all along, whether it's the feds that say 20 percent or [the state] that says 20 percent, it's still an arbitrary number." That amount is not "tested or research proven," he added.

Delay Of Using Test Data Stalls Debate

Because of the misalignment of the test used, as well as insufficient baseline data from the new assessment that will be completely administered next school year, the General Assembly passed a bill with support from the Maryland's teachers union that would delay the use of student scores in teacher evaluations until the 2016-2017 school year.

The bill still needs Gov. Martin O'Malley's signature.

Though the state Department of Education was already pushing the delay at the federal level, the bill made the General Assembly, and therefore voters, aware of the plight facing local systems.

"The reason for doing it was to codify what the [state] Department of Education was submitting to the U.S. Department of Education," Johnson said.

Another bill awaiting O'Malley's signature may also help school systems retain autonomy. The law requires the state Department of Education to present all waivers to the General Assembly prior to submitting them to the federal department.

"Waivers submitted over the last several years have not conformed to state law and ... stripped local systems of the flexibility to develop innovative, dynamic and locally driven teacher and principal evaluations," a press release by the

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski *United States Senator for Maryland*



Mikulski, Collins Lead Bipartisan Senate Women Condemning Abduction Of Girls in Nigeria by Boko Haram

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) today led all twenty Senate women in sending a bipartisan letter to President Obama condemning the abduction and mistreatment of more than 200 girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram in Chibok, Nigeria and calling for additional international sanctions against the organization. Boko Haram has threatened to sell the girls as slaves, and some may have already been sold into child marriages.

"We are outraged and horrified that these young women have been kidnapped, sold into slavery, had their education curtailed, and may even have been forced into marriages," Senators Mikulski and Collins said. "Education is a basic right for boys and girls who deserve an equal opportunity to pursue their education without fear of violence or retribution—no matter where they live. The Senate women stand united in condemning this reprehensible crime and are firm in our resolve that it will not be tolerated. We will not stand by and allow the Nigerian people to continue to be terrorized by Boko Haram and will continue to lead the effort to impose tough economic sanctions against this group."

The United States State Department has designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Or-

ganization and has reported that the group has links to al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb. In their letter, the Senate women urge President Obama to press for additional international sanctions in the United Nations Security Council, compelling a greater number of countries to join the United States and others in imposing their own sanctions.

We condemn these appalling actions in the strongest possible terms, and we agree with you that the abduction of these girls is an outrage. The girls were targeted by Boko Haram simply because they wanted to go to school and pursue knowledge, and we believe the United States must respond quickly and definitively," the Senators wrote. "In the face of the brazen nature of this horrific attack, the international community must impose further sanctions on this terrorist organization. We urge you to press for the addition of Boko Haram and Ansaru to the United Nations Security Council's al-Qa'ida Sanctions List, the mechanism by which international sanctions are imposed on al-Qa'ida and al-Qa'ida-linked organizations. Their addition to the List would compel a greater number of countries to sanction Boko Haram, joining several countries, including the United States, which have already done so."

Marc Morial, President and CEO *National Urban League*



Sotomayor's Supreme Dissent: A Voice of Reason among Reckless Rhetoric

"Race matters...because of the long history of racial minorities being denied access to the political process...because of persistent racial inequality in society — inequality that cannot be ignored and that has produced stark socioeconomic disparities."

— Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court of the United States

Last week, in a disturbingly lopsided 6-2 vote, the United States Supreme Court once again became a willing accomplice in the recent onslaught of attacks on 50 years of civil rights progress. On the heels of last year's decision by the Court to dismantle the Voting Rights Act of 1965, on April 22, the Court ruled that Michigan voters had the right to ban race, i.e. affirmative action, as a factor in college admissions. The Court's decision undermines a landmark 2003 ruling that affirmed the use of race-sensitive admissions policies at the University of Michigan Law School because of a compelling interest in fostering diversity in higher education. In 2006, opponents of that ruling successfully campaigned and passed Proposal 2, a state constitutional amendment that gave voters the right to supersede elected University Trustees and the right to ban the consideration of race as one of many factors in admissions. It is important to note that only race was singled out for the ban. Other factors, such as alumni status, athletics and geography remain in place. A federal appeals court subsequently ruled Prop 2 unconstitutional as it violated the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The case made its way to the Supreme Court, and in last week's egregious decision in Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, the 2006 amendment was allowed to stand.

Justice Anthony Kennedy was joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Alito, Scalia, Thomas and Breyer in concurring in the judgment. Having worked on the case when she was Solicitor General, Justice Kagan recused herself. The two dissenting votes were cast by Justices Ginsberg and Sotomayor, the Court's most reliable civil rights defenders. Justice Sotomayor's written dissent is an exceptionally scholarly, eloquent and impassioned argument in defense of affirmative action. She methodically eviscerates the majority's legal justification for its decision, citing several previous cases where the Court overturned attempts to change rules midstream

in ways that were detrimental to minority voters. She also reminds the Court of its obligation to right historical wrongs and to expand educational opportunities for those who have traditionally been locked out.

Her dissent is based primarily on the Court's untenable allowance of a change of rules that nullify the authority of elected University governing boards and now permit a majority of voters to end affirmative action in higher education — a clear violation of the Equal Protection Clause. Justice Sotomayor writes, "... a majority may not reconfigure the existing political process in a manner that creates a two-tiered system of political change, subjecting laws designed to protect or benefit discrete and insular minorities to a more burdensome political process than all other laws."

Mindful of Michigan's shameful history of segregation in higher education and of a significant decline in minority enrollment and graduations since Prop 2 took effect, Sotomayor concludes, "The effect of [the Court's ruling] is that a white graduate of a public Michigan university who wishes to pass his historical privilege on to his children may freely lobby the board of that university in favor of an expanded legacy admissions policy, whereas a black Michigander who was denied the opportunity to attend that very university cannot lobby the board in favor of a policy that might give his children a chance that he never had and that they might never have absent that policy."

We may have lost this battle for affirmative action, but as long as there are voices as clear and strong as Sonia Sotomayor's on the Supreme Court, we are confident that in the end, equal opportunity, equal protection and equal justice will prevail.

Nonetheless, six other justices clearly demonstrated that our fight for civil rights is still not over — even in 21st century America. It is an unfortunate commentary on the direction of our nation when the highest court of our land determines that it is acceptable to consider factors that have seldom — if ever — been used as a basis for discrimination, such as legacy, athletics and geography in admissions, but not race. As Justice Sotomayor reminded her colleagues, "As members of the judiciary tasked with intervening to carry out the guarantee of equal protection, we ought not sit back and wish away, rather than confront, the racial inequality that exists in our society."



The Benson-Hammond House

Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: PUBDOG

THE BENSON-HAMMOND HOUSE

The Ann Arundell County Historical Society continues to operate the house as the only remaining example of what was once a thriving business in Northern Ann Arundel County — truck farming. The rooms of the house display antique furniture and textiles of the Victorian era. The third floor of the house is a museum displaying implements of farm life in the late 19th century and rotating exhibits on the second floor give visitors an opportunity to see portions of the Society's large collection of quilts, clothing, cooking utensils and other artifacts. The third floor also houses the Society's large collection of antique dolls. There is a museum shop on the first floor, open to the public from March through December on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free for members of the Historical Society; non-members are asked to donate \$3.00 per adult.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



The Opportunity Gap

In the spring of 1954, like so many Black families, mine waited anxiously for the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. My father and I talked about it and what it would mean for my future and the future of millions of other Black children who were attending segregated but unequal Black schools. He died the week before Brown was decided. But I and many other children were able, in later years, to walk through the new and heavy doors that Brown slowly and painfully opened.

It was a transforming time that set into motion a spate of other challenges to Jim Crow laws and yet sixty years after that historic May decision the doors to true educational equality have never fully opened wide enough for millions of American children to walk through especially those living in poverty. The most recent findings from the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), called the "richest, fullest" collection so far measuring education access and equity in our nation's public schools, show many children are still receiving an unequal education.

This is the unfinished work of the Civil Rights Movement.

The new Office for Civil Rights data cover the 2011-2012 school year and are the first universal data collection since 2000, with information about all 97,000 schools in the nation's 16,500 school districts serving 49 million students. Some information was collected for the first time, including one of the most startling findings: new data on preschool suspensions that show Black preschoolers are 18 percent of children enrolled in preschool programs in public schools, but 48 percent of children suspended more than once. While the data show only six percent of the districts offering preschool in public schools reported that they had suspended preschoolers, there is something terribly wrong when we are suspending any children from preschool in the first place. We now know Black children are more likely to be pushed out of school before they've even made it to kindergarten, and other numbers in the recent OCR release confirm those disparities do not go away.

Overall, Black students are suspended and expelled at a rate three times greater than White students. Boys receive more than two out of three suspensions, but Black girls are suspended at higher rates than girls of any other race or ethnicity and higher rates than most boys. Students with disabilities (those served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) also are more than twice as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension as students without disabilities. And inequities in school discipline continue right up through the most consequential responses: Black students represent 16 percent of student enrollment but make up 27 percent of students referred to law enforcement and 31 percent of school-related arrests.

These differences in discipline can't be explained simply by differences in student behavior. The Equity Project at Indiana University has reviewed the research on the role of student behavior and characteristics in disparate suspension rates and found that in fact schools and districts that have taken seriously their responsibility to educate all of their students have seen significant improvements by adjusting the policies and practices of adults. Both Buffalo, New York Public Schools and Denver, Col-

orado Public Schools are heralded as examples of school systems' ability to change to better serve students. The Children's Defense Fund and AASA, the School Superintendents Association, have been funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies to work with ten school districts from Texas to Wisconsin to Pennsylvania whose leaders are committed to reforming their school discipline policies to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline and address racial disparities.

Children's unequal chances in school go well beyond discipline. Black, Latino, American Indian, and Native Alaskan students have less access to experienced teachers than White students. While most teachers are certified, nearly half a million students nationwide attend schools where 60 percent or fewer teachers meet all state certification and licensure requirements, and racial disparities are particularly acute in schools where uncertified and unlicensed teachers are concentrated. Black students are more than four times as likely and Latino students are twice as likely as White students to attend schools where 80 percent

See WATCH, Page A4

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Is It Time For A Change In Your Work Situation?

Do you look forward to going to work each day? Do you find that most days your job gets better, more interesting and challenging, and that you leave at night feeling satisfied about what you've accomplished?

Or are you like many people who find their work situations don't bring such satisfaction, but rather boredom and frustration? It's often not the kind of work, or the job title, but rather work-related stress that's causing the problem.

Experts call it "job burnout" and it's fairly common. It happens when your job seems to offer no hope or future, and most workdays leave you feeling frustrated, discouraged, and fatigued.

Such a work environment can affect not simply your job performance but your entire life. And because it can cause serious problems, job burnout needs to be recognized and dealt with early. Some signs include:

- ❑ Once-challenging work activities now seem common drudgery.
- ❑ Co-workers, bosses or the overall company make you feel bitter or easily annoyed.
- ❑ Your job seems more boring every day.
- ❑ You care less about doing a good job.
- ❑ You dread going to work and find Sundays depressing because the next day means work.
- ❑ You lack energy at work and are easily tired.
- ❑ Your work frustrations are starting to affect parts of your life, like your marriage and relationships with your children or friends.

While recognizing the signs of job burnout is important, dealing with the problem can be difficult. While a new job seems the obvious answer, issues such as your age, education, work experience or the current economy can all make even considering new employment very challenging.

However, a new job isn't always the answer. Sometimes simply identifying the causes of your problems can offer solutions. Maybe it means talking to a supervisor, or taking on new responsibilities. Your company's human resources department may be able to help with the issue. Job burnout needn't mean changing careers, but does require identifying the source of your current burnout.

Professional help is available through a career counselor. They specialize in helping people gain control over their working lives, as well as in identifying interests and skills related to work and career planning. You can find career counselors listed online, in your local yellow pages, or at the National Career Development Association's website at www.ncda.org. Don't ignore job burnout until it's a serious problem.

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

Event Spotlight

7th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Upper Marlboro, MD - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is hosting the 7th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 14th.

This FREE event at Watkins Regional Park features activities for the entire family. There will be genealogy workshops, live entertainment, musical performances, and interactive children's activities. Local art and food vendors will be on site throughout the day. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and come out for this great program celebrating African American heritage through art, music, food, interpretation and entertainment.

WHAT: 7th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

WHERE: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

WHEN: Saturday, June 14, 2014 12PM - 5PM

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Governor O'Malley Announces Luminial Moves to Maryland, Receives \$600,000 From InvestMaryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that Luminial, a cybersecurity startup that simplifies and secures cloud computing systems, has moved to Frederick from West Virginia and has been awarded a \$600,000 investment from the State's InvestMaryland program. Administered by the State's Maryland Venture Fund (MVF), InvestMaryland is a public-private partnership of the State and venture capital firms and one of Governor O'Malley's key economic development initiatives. InvestMaryland raised \$84 million to reinvigorate the State-run MVF and support the growth of young Maryland companies in biotechnology, cybersecurity, e-commerce and other high-growth industries.

"Investing in young, high-tech companies is a critical piece of Maryland's strategy to strengthen and expand our Innovation Economy, grow family-sustaining jobs, and support

Jobs Plan from A1

As a result of their discussions during these visits and from meetings with stakeholders across the state, the five-point Brown-Ulman Jobs Plan was developed.

"During our Competitive Business Climate Tour, Anthony Brown and I worked with more than 100 business leaders to develop a comprehensive plan that will create the right environment for job creation," said County Executive Ken Ulman. "Anthony Brown understands that by making investments in our infrastructure and our workforce while pursuing comprehensive tax reform and making government more efficient, we'll spur the creation of thousands of good-paying jobs and keep Maryland's economy growing."

Over the past eight years, Maryland has made real progress in growing our economy and creating jobs. Even as we weathered the greatest economic recession since the Great Depression, we've driven down unemployment to over a full point below the national average, retained our AAA bond rating, and recovered jobs lost during the recession at twice the rate of every state in the Mid-Atlantic.

We've also taken important steps towards leveling the playing field: raising the minimum wage, expanding early education to more of Maryland's children, and leading the nation in college affordability.

Oysters from A1

sanctuaries are also providing an arena for developing natural disease resistance.

To support a more targeted, scientifically-managed and sustainable wild fishery, commercial harvesters are now self-reporting for the first time in Maryland history and scientists are examining the potential use of harvest targets to rebuild populations on public bars. Preliminary harvest reports for 2013-14 have already surpassed 400,000 bushels - with a dockside value in excess of \$13 million - the highest in at least 15 years.

Further enhancing economic opportunity, 98 new shellfish aquaculture leases have been issued on 1,828 acres since 2011; 49 of these have been issued to watermen and another 59 lease applications are under review at DNR. Aquaculture remains the

development of technologies that keep us safer, healthier and better connected than ever before," said Governor O'Malley. "We are proud to make this investment in Luminial and to have them in our state. Maryland is the epicenter of cybersecurity and we look forward to Luminial playing a significant and growing role in that community."

"The current model for computing is broken, and bad actors are racing far ahead of available defenses," said Josh Stella, CEO of Luminial and previously a principal solutions architect at Amazon Web Services. "We're taking advantage of the nature of cloud computing to deliver native security, declarative control, and operational simplicity previously unattainable."

Luminial is addressing deficiencies in traditional computing architectures that lead to security vulnerabilities and operational complexity. The company is working with early customers to further develop its solution, called "Fugue," for general availability, initially on Amazon

The Brown-Ulman Jobs Plan expands on this progress by taking the next steps to create more jobs, spur economic growth and strengthen our business climate.

The five points of the jobs plan are:

1: Build Strong and Reliable Infrastructure - We will build a strong, reliable, competitive and cost-effective infrastructure by promoting energy affordability and reliability, utilizing innovative financing, investing in transportation that connects more Marylanders to jobs, and strengthening the Port of Baltimore and Sparrows Point. By enhancing our infrastructure, we will make Maryland a better place to live, create jobs and do business. Investing in our roads, rail, bridges, schools, air and sea ports, broadband, energy and water facilities is critical to our State's current and future success.

2: Prepare Marylanders for In-Demand Jobs - Our highly educated workforce is one of the most attractive elements of Maryland's economy. We will build on this success and prepare more Marylanders for the workforce through education and training and making investments to link Marylanders to in-demand jobs. Specifically we will make investments to: expand Career and Technology Education; better align our community colleges to be workforce developers; grow our STEM education programs; pilot Maryland's first Workforce Intermediary Center;

predominant means of shellfish harvesting around the world, and these new and growing businesses are creating jobs here at home.

These successes prove that restoring oysters to fulfill their historic ecological role and rebuilding their economic value can occur at the same time.

Escalating hatchery production to provide spat (baby oysters) for sanctuaries and aquaculture efforts, our Horn Point facility produced a record 1.25 billion oyster spat last year, more than double our production in 2008 and a record for one season of native oyster production in a hatchery. With the cooperation of Mother Nature, we are on target to produce even more this year with the ultimate goal of reaching 2 billion annually.

To increase citizen involvement, both in understanding and active stewardship, Governor

Web Services. Luminial will use the MVF investment, part of a \$3.8 million fundraising round in which Core Capital Partners and New Enterprise Associates also participated, to grow its engineering staff to continue product development and expand its customer base.

Luminial's move to Maryland has allowed the company to take advantage of other Maryland programs supporting cybersecurity companies. The company is one of the first in the State to apply for the Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit, which kicked off earlier this year. Luminial was also recently named one of three cybersecurity finalists in the InvestMaryland Challenge, the State's national business competition. The winners of more than \$700,000 in prizes available through the Challenge will be announced in May.

Created by Governor O'Malley and passed by the General Assembly in 2011, InvestMaryland is the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland's history. In March 2012,

pilot two Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Academies; expand the EARN Maryland program; strengthen our One-Stop Career Centers; and leverage state investments to create jobs for Marylanders.

3: Grow our Small and Entrepreneurial Business Community - We will support the growth of our small and entrepreneurial businesses by expanding access to loans and business education; growing existing industry clusters; and turning Maryland ideas into Maryland jobs. To achieve this goal, Maryland will pilot a new Small Business Microloan fund to help entrepreneurs launch a new business, pilot a small business clinic program, promote minority and women-owned businesses and increase access to capital for women-owned businesses by establishing a WIN fund. Additionally through incentives like BRAC Zones, Enterprise Zones, Arts & Entertainment Districts, Health Enterprise Zones, Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zones, Transit-Oriented Development and tax credits for industries like cybersecurity, biotechnology, and research & development - already vital elements of our State's economy - we will continue to expand and grow Maryland jobs. Finally, we will turn more Maryland ideas into Maryland jobs by increasing commercialization and technology transfer and growing Maryland manufacturing. We will enhance commer-

4: Create a More Responsive, Transparent and Accountable State Government - A top priority of the Brown-Ulman Administration is to create the most competitive business climate in the nation right here in Maryland. That starts by creating a more responsive, transparent, and accountable State government. To achieve the goal of increasing responsiveness, we'll launch a "Serve Maryland" initiative, reward employee innovation and strengthen the Department of Business & Economic Development. We will also enhance transparency by launching the "Clear Maryland" initiative to establish an online database for permits, licenses and other applications. Finally, we will improve accountability by launching StateStat 2.0 which will leverage our experience in collecting data and tracking progress to build on the success of the current StateStat.

5: Pursue Comprehensive Tax Reform - Over the last eight years, the State has made investments to enhance our quality of life, spur entrepreneurship and build a strong, skilled workforce. As a result

rebuild. An innovative new deterrent to poaching is the Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network, a system of radars and cameras that enhances the ability of Natural Resources Police to monitor and patrol Maryland waters, including our significant sanctuary investments. Augmented by a new aviation monitoring partnership with the Maryland State Police, increased administrative penalties, and stand-alone natural resources court dates in 18 counties, these tools are helping deter those who would steal from the public trust.

Governor O'Malley's Plan was designed to simultaneously help restore the Chesapeake Bay, bring back our native oyster, and create new jobs and economic activity in our State. And while all of these efforts are still underway - and a true population recovery will take years, if not decades - the Plan is working.

the State raised \$84 million for the program through an online auction of tax credits to Maryland insurance companies. Two-thirds of the funding - \$56 million - is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State's general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the state-run Maryland Venture Fund.

The Maryland Venture Fund is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

cialization to turn Maryland ideas into Maryland businesses. We will also encourage co-location, resource sharing and collaborative innovation through partnerships between our researchers and manufacturers.

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See **JOBS PLAN** Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Draft Day"

Draft Day
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13, a fair amount of profanity including one F-word

1 hr., 49 min

After seeing the trailer for *Draft Day* a few months ago, I made the observation that Summit was clearly making no effort to sell the film to people who aren't already interested in the NFL draft (people like me, for example). As if to prove my point, the NFL-loving friend I was with told me his reaction: "I'm sold!"

But despite the preaching-to-the-choir trailer, *Draft Day* actually does try to appeal to fans and non-fans alike — to its detriment. In trying to be accessible to people who don't already know and care about the intricacies of the draft, while also offering enthusiasts a behind-the-scenes look at how the sausage is made, the film becomes an affable but diluted misfire that's not really for anyone.

Thank goodness for Kevin Costner, though, you know? The 59-year-old sports-movie icon, who's come back around to being cool again after a period of lameness, has that familiar easy-going likability as Sonny Weaver Jr., the general manager of the Cleveland Browns (which I'm told is a real NFL team, as unlikely as it sounds). With fans comparing him negatively to his beloved father, whom he replaced as G.M., and with the team's quarterback having spent much of the last season injured, Sonny is under intense pressure to make the most of this year's draft and improve the Browns' fortunes.

The entire film takes place on this all-important day, which director Ivan Reitman



ROTTENTOMATOES

On the day of the NFL Draft, general manager Sonny Weaver (Costner) has the opportunity to save football in Cleveland when he trades for the number one pick. He must quickly decide what he's willing to sacrifice in pursuit of perfection as the lines between his personal and professional life become blurred on a life-changing day for a few hundred young men with dreams of playing in the NFL.

portrays with as much excitement and anticipation as he reasonably can (and then some: his overuse of split screens becomes almost parodic). Sonny spends the 12 hours leading up to the event feverishly strategizing with his staff and making deals with his counterparts at other teams to swap for higher spots in the selection process. That process isn't "explained," exactly, but anecdotal evidence suggests a person who had no idea how it worked beforehand would come away with a rudimentary understanding of it. Movies are educational!

Conventional wisdom says the top draft pick is hotshot QB and Heisman Trophy winner Bo Callahan (Josh Pence). Surely whichever team gets first pick will snatch him up in a heartbeat. But when it becomes Sonny's privilege to

have that first pick (thanks to some bargaining with Seattle), he's not sure Bo is the right choice after all. Players like Vontae Mack (Chadwick Boseman) and Ray Jennings (Arian Foster) look promising, too, and might be easier to work with than the aloof Callahan. The team's owner (Frank Langella) and head coach (Denis Leary) want Sonny to stick with what the stats and reports say; Sonny wants to let his gut have a say, too.

You could do a lot worse than spending the day with an embattled Kevin Costner good-naturedly fending off criticism and gradually losing his patience. Costner and the cast — which also includes Jennifer Garner as his girlfriend/co-worker and Ellen Burstyn as his mother — are cheerful and eager to please. Scott Rothman and Rajiv

Joseph's screenplay doesn't have much flair, but it's congenial and sometimes funny. Strip away the NFL elements and it's a simple, crowd-pleasing formula: a guy bucks against the system, faces opposition, and is ultimately vindicated. Scrappy Davids deliver comeuppance to smug Goliaths. Who doesn't enjoy that?

Well, people who have invested two hours and many dollars in it, perhaps. *Draft Day* isn't bad — I can't imagine anyone actively disliking it — but it isn't worth going out of your way for, either. Sports fans who pay attention to the draft in real life are bound to be disappointed by the improbable contrivances involved, while the rest of us smile wanly at the bland, featureless entertainment. A year from now, your dad will enjoy watching this on cable.

Autonomy from A3

state teachers union promoting the bill said.

Adam Mendelson, spokesperson for the teacher's union added: "It gives an opportunity for dialogue there. Better communication is only going to help the implementation process."

State officials, however, feel their process has been reasonable. "I believe that what Maryland has done with the [waiver] has been ... fair," Volrath said.

The waivers, however, may be another way to handcuff local school systems to federal requirements, including the weight of student growth as measured through exams for teacher evaluations.

Most likely, every school in the state, or even the country, has failed to reach the strict No Child Left Behind standards, according to state and union officials.

Without a waiver, many Maryland schools would face punishment as harsh as "reopening as a public charter school, replacing all or most of the staff or entering into a contract with a private entity to operate the school," according to the state Department of Education's written opposition to one of the bills.

However, state, local and union officials alike are uncertain if the U.S. Department of Education would take such a strong stance because of the common failure to reach the stringent standards.

Maryland, as well as other states and the national department are "navigating uncharted waters" and are "in an area of a lot of gray for federal accountability," according to Mendelson.

Additionally, the state Department of Education refused to make a statement whether they would require the local systems to use a certain percentage without obligation from their federal counterpart, though they have no legal authority to do so.

"I hope that the success of passing these things this year doesn't slow things down so much as allow us to take a breath and see if what we're doing is good for students and educators," said Johnson, of the teachers union.

He admitted however, that there will always be "grappling for local control."

Autonomy Still Not Secured

Despite the new laws passed, there are still red flags for local autonomy.

One example of the state Department of Education's overreach was their attempt to force both Montgomery and Frederick Counties to conform to the 20 percent weight, though they had no authority to do so.

Because neither system signed onto Race to the Top, they responded with firm refusals.

Additionally, the state Department of Education opposed the bill that delayed test usage

in teacher evaluations, as it also changed some of the language in the existing. The amendment would clarify that the use of the state's teacher evaluation model would only be used if the union and the school system failed to reach an agreement.

The department worried that this would limit their ability to require a degree of conformity.

"There are uncertainties as to the intent and possible implications of this language ... thereby eliminating any standard in local models and avoiding any common accountabilities," the department said in its written opposition to the bill. "No common performance standards or method for validating the local models would be accomplished."

Volrath added in an interview: "Without any sense of commonality, it invites the potential for low levels of accountability. Without those forces of play in fairness, nothing would level the playing field for anyone."

Additionally, Volrath felt confident that the state Department of Education gave fair control to local systems.

"There is a framework for both the teacher and principal evaluations that has components that everyone is required to have pieces of," Volrath said. "Within those component pieces, there's a lot of flexibility..."

"We have moved to a middle ground and [the local systems] have come closer to us," he con-

tinued. Volrath also added that "only 38 percent of teachers are affected" by using test score data because of their subject area.

The state teachers union, however, saw certain requirements as an overextension of power from the state department.

"The state law is very clear in what it says," Mendelson said. "The intent ... was for local systems to develop criteria for their evaluation systems."

Additionally, though Maryland's application for the waiver from the stringent No Child Left Behind standards specifically cites using 20 percent of student assessments for teacher evaluations, the U.S. Department of Education does not specifically list the amount on its nationwide guidelines.

Another important factor is that tests only have a limited usefulness for measuring student growth.

"Inherently, growth measures two distinct points in time, a beginning point and an endpoint," Burke said. "We need to be careful to be sure that we don't put too much on the weight of that test."

A better measure of student growth, according to school and union officials, is the student learning objectives created by teachers in alignment with Common Core.

Despite these challenges, some local school systems remain optimistic.

"I think as we move forward, my hope is that it'll continue to be collaborative," Wagner said.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Pat Tillman, the Boston Marathon and the Tale of Two Anniversaries



Two wrenching anniversaries loom in the world of sports. Both are in many respects conjoined by the dominant narratives of the twenty-first century. Both show how the military adventures of the last decade have even breached the escapist sanctity of the sports page. Both contain elements of tragedy, honor and courage. But you can be sure that one of these anniversaries will get a whole hell of a lot more attention than the other.

On Monday, April 21, the Boston Marathon will take place, and we will be compelled to remember the horror of last year's bombing attack at the finish line. Three were killed and more than 250 were injured. Two immigrant brothers, driven by their anger, ideology and alienation towards what is called the "Global War on Terror" set the blasts. Two brothers: one now dead the other facing state execution.

Now, one year later, we'll have what will surely be an emotionally raw celebration of what makes the city that hosts the marathon "Boston-Strong." Expect round-the-clock media coverage. Expect the names of the dead to be remembered. Expect every politician with a pulse to exploit their particular version of what last year's bombing "means." (Here's hoping that they learn the lesson David Gregory of Meet the Press discovered, and not blithely tread upon the post-traumatic stress of those who were damaged a year ago. The media's "reality television" just might be someone else's reality.)

As everyone follows the—we hope and pray—safe and successful completion of the marathon, there is a very different kind of anniversary the following day. April 22 marks ten years since the death of NFL player turned Army Ranger Pat Tillman. Expect the media to take cursory notice and expect a press release from the NFL, but don't expect much else. That's because the Pat Tillman narrative doesn't exactly lend itself to swelling music and sonorous sound bites.

Compelled by the attacks on 9/11, Tillman exited the NFL in his prime, leaving millions of dollars on the table to join the Army Rangers. Square-jawed, Caucasian and handsome as hell, he was a dream for people like Cheney, Rumsfeld, David Frum and everyone who drooled at the thought of a glorious, post-9/11 clash of civilizations. Yet after several missions into Iraq, in a war Tillman believed was "fucking illegal," he started to read the work of people like Noam Chomsky and other critics of the war. Upon his return to the United States, Tillman even expressed a desire to meet Chomsky.

On April 22, Pat Tillman was killed. The first story, repeated at his nationally televised funeral, was that he was shot down by the Taliban in a ferocious firefight. He was posthumously given a Silver Star, which is awarded when a soldier falls at the hands of enemy combatants. The Bush Pentagon public relations machine was in overdrive, using Pat Tillman in death in a manner he refused when still alive. As his mother Mary Tillman said to me in 2008, "What's so disturbing about after Pat's death is the way the media ran with the perception they had of him, some kind of caricature of who they thought he was. It was so off that it was like he died twice."

As if exploiting his death to aid the Iraqi war drive wasn't obscene enough, the truth then emerged—Tillman actually died at the hands of fellow Army Rangers, killed in an incident described as "friendly fire." His military journal and his uniform were burned on site. His death report was falsified.

Tillman's family has undergone a decade-long quest to find out what actually happened and why they were lied to about his death. As Mary Tillman said to me in 2011, "If it had happened to someone else, Pat would be busting through walls to find the truth."

But the truth has been hard to find. The person who oversaw what Pat's father, Pat Tillman Sr., called a "falsified homicide investigation," Lt. General Stanley McChrystal, wasn't indicted or brought up on charges. Instead, he was promoted by President Obama, before eventually resigning in disgrace so he could write a book and appear on *The Colbert Report*.

Today, in Fenway Park, the Army has used the post-marathon Boston-Strong narrative of recovery and community to aid its recruitment efforts. As the blog WMTC discussed, the many screens of Fenway Park now show ads that blare, "There's strong and then there's Army Strong!" The message could not be clearer: there is Boston Strong, there is Army Strong and one is only as, well, strong as the other. If you want to keep Boston strong and prevent more bombings, you better join up and make sure that the Army is strong as well. There are no ads to suggest that maybe occupying countries, sending in armed drones and conducting dirty wars in remote lands will create conditions that bring the war back to the United States.

The Army and the government can't use the Tillmans like they use the Boston Marathon for the simple reason that the Tillmans refuse to be used. That's also what makes the Tillman anniversary so difficult for the mainstream media, the armed forces and the NFL to commemorate. By continuing to search for the truth, by refusing to let Pat be turned into a prop for war, the Tillmans have no value to those who benefit politically or economically from this era of endless war. For the rest of us, however, the Tillmans are invaluable. They deserve something the US Congress, the NFL and the mainstream media have refused to give them over the last decade: our unconditional solidarity and support as they search for the truth.

Calendar of Events

May 22 — May 28, 2014

Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon
Description: Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed FREE use of both the fitness center and pool during these times.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 60 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road
Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

College Park Farmers Market

Date & Time: Year-round, Saturdays, 7 am-12 noon
Location: M-NCPPC, Wells-Linson Complex (parking lot)
5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park 20740

Contact: Phil Miller at 301-399-5485
FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted

GoGo Fitness

Date and Time: Saturdays 9-10 am
Description: This year resolve to try a new workout! This 60 minute, high-intensity dance fitness workout incorporates various dance styles--and the classic call-and-response of a live GoGo.

Cost: \$25 for a 6 week session or \$5 for a drop-in class
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Glenarden Community Center
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden 20706
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768

Afternoon Aviators

Date & Time: Fridays, 2-4 pm
Description: Join us for fun, hands-on aviation-themed activities. A weekly series for children ages five and up. To schedule a group larger than 10, please call the museum to make a private group reservation.

Cost: FREE with museum admission
Ages: 5 & up
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

First Tuesdays At Abraham Hall

Date & Time: Monthly, First Tuesdays
Description: Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, is the best example of an African American benevolent society lodge in Prince George's County. Located in the community of Rossville, it is the first African American historic site in the county to be fully restored using public funds. Home of M-NCPPC's Black History Program, please call the number listed below for more information about the First Tuesday program.

Ages: All ages
Location: Abraham Hall
7612 Muirkirk Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Hike for Seniors

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 10-11 am
Description: Seniors aged 60 & better, come join a naturalist on a nature hike! While on the hike, we'll search for wildlife and local plant life. And, remember to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Reservations are required.

Cost: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Family Campfire

Date & Time: Friday, May 30, 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

Resonance of South Asia with Sitar

Date and Time: Saturday, May 31, 2014 5 pm
Description: Enjoy a sitar concert in honor of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month! This program features a display of traditional tapestries and saris/fabrics from South Asia. This concert will connect the music and traditions of Indian classical music with raag-mala paintings, a Saari exhibition and cuisine of the land.

Cost: Tickets: \$20/person
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

Creature Feature: All About Reptiles Event

Date & Time: Saturday, May 31, 2014 10-11 am
Description: Join us for this creature feature with reptiles. Your children will meet some of the nature center's live reptiles from snakes to lizards as they take center stage! Don't forget, advance reservations are 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 ... Meatless Meat

Dear EarthTalk:

I recently became vegetarian for ethical reasons, but I am missing the taste of meat. Are there any tasty veggie options out there that can satisfy my desire for steak and chicken?

— Missy Jenkins,
Pittsburgh, PA

Aside from its brutal treatment of livestock animals, the meat industry is no doubt one of the worst offenders when it comes to the environment. Producing one kilogram of beef requires 150 square meters of land and 15,000 liters of water, most of which is used to grow feed for the animal. That same kilogram generates 27 kilograms of climate-altering carbon dioxide, the equivalent of driving a car more than 100 miles. Indeed, beef has 13 times the carbon emissions of an equivalent amount of vegetable-based protein.

Hungry mouths around the world take a hit, too: Some 70 percent of the grain produced in the U.S. is fed to livestock animals but the land used to grow it could feed some 800 million people instead. For this and other reasons many of us have given up meat altogether. But it doesn't mean we don't still crave the taste.

Fortunately, there are more choices than ever for vegetarians with latent carnivorous instincts. One young company, Beyond Meat, has millions of dollars in funding from high-tech heavyweights and has made a big splash in recent months with the

launch of its first two meat alternative products, Beef-Free Crumbles and Chicken-Free Strips. Each of its products looks and tastes like the meat it is emulating while offering the same protein content—but without any saturated or trans fats or cholesterol, let alone gluten or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). In taste tests, most consumers can't tell which dishes contain actual beef or chicken versus Beyond Meat's self-proclaimed "perfect substitutes."

The company reports that it takes four-tenths of a pound of soy and pea plants to make a pound of their Chicken-Free Strips, versus three pounds of grain-based feed to get a pound's worth of meat from an actual chicken. That all translates into many fewer pesticides and carbon emissions and much less water used in the process. Beyond Meat's investors include the leading Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield Byers, Twitter co-founders Biz Stone and Evan Williams' Obvious Corporation, and even Bill Gates, who has expressed his hope that the company's products can play a role in switching more people in developing countries over to plant-based proteins.

Of course, there are many other meat alternatives out there, too. A trip down the freezer aisle at Whole Foods yields sightings of Amy's Bistro Burgers, Gardenburgers, Boca Burgers, Gardein Ultimate Beefless Sliders and Beefless Tips, Dr. Praeger's Veggie Burgers and



CREDIT: SID SOWDER, COURTESY FLICKR

There are more choices than ever for vegetarians with latent carnivorous instincts, from Kellogg's-owned Morningstar farms products to offerings from Beyond Meat, a new venture funded by heavyweights like Bill Gates and Twitter co-founders Biz Stone and Evan Williams. Pictured: Beyond Meat's Chicken-Free Strips "without the cluck."

Sol Cuisine Meatless Chicken. Meanwhile, the Meat Alternatives section of VeganEssentials.com offers up Upton's Naturals' Bacon Style Seitan Strips, Sophie's Kitchen Braided Vegan Fishless Sticks, Field Roast's Classic Vegan Meatloaf, and even Meatless Select Fishless Vegan Tuna. Another classic option is any number of meatless products from the Kellogg's-owned Morningstar Farms, which are widely available in mainstream grocery stores from coast-to-coast and which account for some 60 percent of the meat alternatives market in the U.S.

With meat production expected to double by 2050 as the

world's human population tops nine billion, there has never been a better time to start curbing our enthusiasm for conventional steaks, hamburgers, chicken breasts and sausages.

CONTACTS: Beyond Meat, www.beyondmeat.com; VeganEssentials, www.veganessentials.com.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Goats from A1

dispose of debris, no pollution from machinery, and no need to acquire land clearing permits that might be required for a traditional excavation crew. In addition, the goats provide free fertilizer over the course of their stay.

"Sometimes you have to use herbicides ... there's just no other way to get around it, I understand that," she said, "but if we can reduce the amount of herbicides that are used to almost nothing, that's what I prefer - and the goats can obliterate any job we've put them on so far."

Brian Knox, owner of Eco-Goats, based in Davidsonville, uses his herd to run a vegetation control and land clearing business much like that of the Bowen's.

As a natural resource consultant, and the president of Sustainable Resource Management Inc., Knox first got started with his business after one of his clients mentioned that they were looking for a way to put their livestock to use.

Knox says what followed was an "experiment that was wildly successful" -- one that would eventually take over his summers as a full-time business, and according to Knox, the popularity of these businesses is on the rise.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICK FARRELL

Jacqueline Bowen, 14, who helps run the Green Goats business with her mother Mary, holds a baby goat. Jacqueline is in charge of naming every goat born to the family's herd, and says every name is a reflection of each goat's personality.

Knox said he has consulted goat owners from all over the country, including Indiana, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, to aid farmers in their efforts to establish similar businesses.

Goats eat up to 20 percent of their body weight each day, and the length of each project depends on the size of the property and the amount of vegetation - both of which also help dictate how many goats Bowen will allot to the job.

Bowen currently runs the business with her two children, Jacqueline, 14, and Jacob, 12, who assist with caring for the goats and setting up each job - which is fairly simple, as Bowen only needs to fence in the goats,

provide water, and leave the animals to take care of the rest.

In the past, the goats have worked on a variety of projects



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICK FARRELL

Each day, goats eat approximately 20 percent of their body-weight - making them ideal foragers for clearing property. Capital News Service photo by Patrick Farrell.

Jobs Plan from A5

of these efforts and the hard work of thousands of successful businesses, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks Maryland #1 for entrepreneurship and innovation; the Milken Institute ranks our state #2 in research and development per capita;

and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ranks us among the five states best positioned to succeed in the new economy. However, for every great ranking, there is a corresponding study that indicates we have more work to do. While we do not see the need to raise taxes in the fore-

seeable future, we must pursue comprehensive tax reform in order to grow Maryland's economy. That's why we will launch a blue ribbon commission on tax reform to look at all revenue streams at the federal, state and local levels to ensure we have the resources we need to support our priorities and

keep our economy growing. Our tax code should reflect our values, including a commitment to providing relief for working and middle class families; encouraging employers to create jobs in Maryland; and protecting our investments in education, safety, the environment, and health care.

Improving The Quality Of Your Tap Water

(NAPSI)—While health and wellness experts urge consumers to drink more water, doing it safely isn't as easy as it sounds: tap water might not be as clean as you think. It could contain contaminants that are potentially harmful to your health, such as chemical by-products, heavy metals, and microbial cysts. In fact, according to research supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, there may be as many as 16 million waterborne illnesses in the U.S. each year.

An easy solution for consumers to enjoy clean, great-tasting water for drinking and cooking is to filter water at-home.

One filter system to consider is PUR, which removes contaminants that other systems, including Brita, could leave behind. PUR Faucet Mount Filters reduce 61 contaminants

found in drinking water such as lead, heavy metals, agricultural pesticides, industrial pollutants, pharmaceuticals, microbial cysts, and chlorine.

PUR pitcher filters are certified to reduce 2x more contaminants than Brita pitcher filters, while PUR Faucet Mount Filters reduce 10x more contaminants than Brita pitcher filters.

Beyond the superior filtration technology of PUR, the filters come in many styles and fin-

ishes, such as the new Stainless Steel Style Faucet Mount.

Another one of the latest additions to the PUR family of filters is the 11-Cup Pitcher. It is designed to offer a more convenient way to filter drinking water by reducing the frequency of re_fills. The pitcher base also uses the same footprint as a gallon of milk to save space in the refrigerator.

To learn more, visit www.purwater.com.