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Baltimore Group Home Helps Troubled Teen Boys Prepare For Brighter Futures

By TAMIEKA BRISCOE
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE - On the corner of a quiet Kenilworth Park neighborhood, sits One Love Group Home -- a spacious, gray house with a fenced backyard. Except for the fire escape -- built to meet the Department of Juvenile Services' regulations -- it looks like any other house in the area. Inside, four teen boys find a home to help them navigate the difficult path from detention to rejoining their communities.

Residents are placed in the facility after serving time in juvenile detention centers. While at One Love, they are able to

attend public high school or enroll in the Yo! Baltimore general education diploma classes. One Love staff members impose rules, structure and offer guidance in an environment very different from a detention center.

"Residents are still in custody, but the idea is to place them in a home environment," said James Stokes, program administrator of One Love Group Home, which opened in January 2011.

The teens currently occupy all four of the resident bedrooms in the home. Each bed is neatly made, and there is minimal clutter -- shoes, clothes, family photos and letters. Provocative or explicit

posters are forbidden, Stokes said. And there are no locks on bedroom doors.

There is around-the-clock staff coverage. Homework time is from 4-6 p.m. Dinner is from 6-7 p.m. and free time is from 7 p.m. until the teens' 11 p.m. bedtime. Through scheduling and a reward system that ties privileges to success in following the house rules, the staff is able to provide the residents with structure and stability.

Stokes said that in addition to attending school, residents have played on the football team, attended the prom and taken SAT prep courses outside

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

The president made an appearance at Bladensburg High School in Prince George's County, and brought a special gift with him - worth millions of dollars.

Obama Unveils Job Prep Program at P.G. School

By NICHOLAS MUNSON
Capital News Service

BLADENSBURG — President Barack Obama visited Bladensburg High School Monday to unveil a new grant program that will bring \$7 million to three Prince George's County high schools to better prepare graduates for a changing job market.

The grants from the Youth CareerConnect program, which was established last year, will deliver 24 awards worth a total of \$107 million to local education agencies across the country, including school systems in New York, Los Angeles and Denver.

The program will help "redesign...America's high schools for the 21st century," Obama said Monday in a speech to the student body in Bladensburg.

"A lot of [high schools] were designed with curriculums based on the 1940s and '50s and '60s, and haven't been updated," Obama said. "The idea behind this competition is how do we start making high schools, in particular, more interesting, more exciting, more relevant to young people."

The program seeks to make graduates more employable by collaborating with colleges and employers. For example, the program will allow

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USAID'S Social Media Program in Cuba Could Endanger Bethesda's Alan Gross and Others

By ILANA SHULEVITZ
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - A U.S. government plan to create a Twitter-like platform in Cuba was dumb and may have endangered the life of 64-year-old Bethesda resident Alan Gross and others around the world, Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, said at a Congressional hearing Tuesday.

Gross, a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was arrested in Cuba in December 2009 for distributing Internet and communications materials on behalf of the agency.

On Thursday, Gross began a hunger strike to protest both his imprisonment by Cuba and U.S. inaction on his case.

The separate USAID social media program has reignited interest in Gross' plight.

The program was intended to popularize a Cuban version of Twitter known as ZunZuneo among youths to spark political conversations and dissent. Its existence from 2010 to 2012 was revealed last week by the Associated Press.

Chief of USAID Rajiv Shah testified that the program was not covert, just "discreet," at a hearing of the State, Foreign

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Maryland Drivers Charged with Cellphone Usage Triples

By NICOLE JONES
Capital News Service

PIKESVILLE - It's been six months since the Maryland law banning cellphone usage while driving became more strict, and the number of drivers ticketed has more than tripled.

The change in state law makes driving while talking on a hand-held phone a primary offense, allowing police officers to stop a driver on Maryland roadways for just holding their phone.

And later this year, penalties for causing a serious or fatal car crash while talking on the phone or texting will increase, according to a measure Gov. Martin O'Malley signed into law Monday.

According to the District Court of Maryland, police throughout the state charged 14,490 drivers for using a handheld phone while driving between Oct. 1, 2013, when the law took effect, and April 1, 2014. In the seven months before the new law took effect, between March 1, 2013 and



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Sept. 30, 2013, police charged 4,096 drivers with using a cellphone as a secondary offense, ticketed in conjunction with another violation.

Maryland State Police Sgt. Marc Black said police just want to make sure that drivers are safe.

"It is definitely a necessary law -- we need to remove as many distractions from the driver as they operate the vehicle," Black said.

Currently, the fine for using a handheld phone while driving

is \$83 for the first offense, \$140 for the second offense and \$160 for the third offense. Under current law, if a driver causes an accident while using their phone they will receive the same amount of fines plus three points on their driving record.

Starting Oct. 1, the measure called "Jake's Law" -- named for 5-year-old Baltimore boy Jake Owen who was killed in 2011 when his family's car was

See **DRIVERS** Page A5

Bill Passes to Create Development Guidelines for Sea Level Rise

By BRIAN COMPERE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK — The Maryland General Assembly passed a bill April 5 to create a council charged with minimizing the impact of sea level rise on new state buildings.

House Bill 615 would establish the council and task it with establishing guidelines for how future state development and renovation projects can avoid damage from rising sea levels and flooding. All new state buildings and renovations would be expected to meet the criteria the council establishes.

The bill follows an executive order Gov. Martin O'Malley signed in December 2012 that required new state development and renovations to consider the risk of coastal flooding and sea level rise and "site and design State structures to avoid or minimize associated impacts," according to the text of the executive order.

The bill is meant to give the executive order "the force of law," Rich Norling, legislative director for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, said in an

email interview. The bill will only affect state development because it is designed after the executive order, he said, which does not include development by local governments or private developers.

Relative sea level rise, which takes both rising sea levels and sinking land into account, averaged 3.9 millimeters per year, according to U.S. Geological Survey data collected from four stations in the southern Chesapeake Bay until 2006. The global average sea level rise is 1.8 millimeters per year, according to a USGS report released in December.

House Bill 615 passed unanimously in the Senate and passed the House of Delegates 95-40. While no organized groups opposed the bill, some delegates opposed it because they are skeptical about the role climate change plays in sea level rise, Norling said.

DNR supports the bill, according to a document prepared by Norling, because it would ensure that the state makes wise decisions about development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding.

According to DNR, severe weather events in 2011 and

2012 cost the state more than \$70 million.

The Maryland Department on the Environment also supports the bill, according to testimony in April by Jeffrey Fretwell, coordinator of MDE's Office of Smart Growth & Regulatory Reform. According to the testimony to the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, MDE was a part of a working group designed to address the executive order and the bill is consistent with the recommendations of this working group.

The council would be composed of the secretaries of natural resources, business and management, the environment, general services, planning, transportation, and business and economic development; the chair of DNR's Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays; the director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency; the chancellor of the University System of Maryland; and five others appointed by the governor to represent local government, business and environmental interests.

INSIDE

O'Malley Sign Domestic Violence and Public Safety Bills to Protect Families and Communities

These efforts are part of the Administration's goal to protect women, children and families by reducing violent crimes committed against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2018.

Community, Page A3

Mikulski Applauds Wireless Companies Commitment to Deter Cell Phone Theft, Protect Personal Information

Senator Mikulski has cosponsored The Smartphone Theft Prevention Act, introduced earlier this year by that would require all phones sold in the United States to include kill switch technology free of charge.

Commentary, Page A4

Brewpubs and Beer Drinkers Could Benefit From Recent Legislative Measure

Under the current law, the 21 licensed brewpubs across Maryland are allowed to serve customers their own crafted beer to gulp down in the restaurant, or even give it to them in a refillable growler or a keg to take home.

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "Divergent?"

"Divergent" is based on a young-adult novel about a teenage girl living in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. In this case, the girl's name is Beatrice, and her society is one in which everyone is divided into five groups matching their personality (basically: smart, brave, honest, selfless, or kind).

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Apple just put out a big PR campaign about its sustainability initiatives. Has the company made real progress in this regard or is this just more corporate "greenwashing?"

— Billy A. Oakland, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Pat Thompson, once a Ralph Case Square Dancer, dies at 78

Pat Thompson, of Mechanicsville and my across-the-street neighbor in Skyline for many years, died April 13. She was a delightful friend, with a great laugh, who loved to dance. She taught the neighborhood children to square-dance and I have fond memories of watching her clog while husband John played the fiddle.

During her high school years she was a member of the Ralph Case Square Dancers and she occasionally danced on the Jimmy Dean Show, live on WTOP-TV in the late '50s. She told me some of her Ralph Case performances were at the old Village Barn in Morningside.

She was born Pearl Patricia, on March 31, 1936, in Washington, to John and Doris Winfield, and graduated from Anacostia High School. She went to work at her Aunt Inez's coffee shop in Waldorf, which is where she met John Thompson. They were married at Lexington Park Baptist Church on Oct. 19, 1956.

Miss Pearl, as she was later known, held office with Lodge 498 of the Loyal Order of the Moose in Mechanicsville, and performed and taught line-dancing and clogging at the Clark Senior Center in La Plata. She loved the Redskins and their Marching Band, which still features her daughter Sharon on percussion.

Pat's husband John and her brother Phillip Wingate preceded her in death. Survivors include sons Larry and John Thompson and daughter Sharon O'Rourke, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is buried with John at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf.

Neighbors

Eva Hay, of Woodland Road in Morningside, and her great-granddaughter, Peyton Wade, of Morgan Road, both celebrated their birthday on April 15. Eva turned 86 and Peyton turned one.

Congratulations to Nicole Wade, of Morgan Road, for making the varsity softball team at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro. Nicole is a 9th grader at the school.

As usual, I compiled a list of those from Morningside or Skyline who passed away the previous year. I asked for names of others I missed. Rose Hoffman mentioned Pat Dunn who died in December. She was Rose's neighbor on Morgan Road. Ruth Anthony told me about her dad, Jack Hay, who died last Oct. 9. He had lived in homes on Woodland Road, Forest Grove and Morgan Road. I added Pat and Jack to the 2013 list. May they rest in peace.

The Skyline Citizens Association will hold their spring meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m. at Skyline School.

Morningside's monthly Town Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Changing landscape

The scaffolding is down and the Washington Monument reopened May 1 after a closure of three years, caused by a 5.8 magnitude earthquake.

Woodyard Land at Marlboro Pike and Woodyard Road has been approved for a 165-lot townhouse subdivision.

A plan for a 120-unit senior-living facility at 12011 Brooks Drive, near Pennsylvania Avenue in District Heights, has been okayed.

County officials joined the students and faculty of Longfields Elementary School on April 25 in Forestville for an annual Arbor Day Celebration that included the planting of 49 trees designating the school as a green school.

Many of the retailers I've visited over the past years are in trouble and closing at thousands of locations, to cut costs. They include Family Dollar, Radio Shack and Staples, which I would miss most of all. I wonder

how many of these are in the metro area.

May she rest in peace

Elizabeth Hodges "Betty" Spanagel, 85, formerly of Annapolis, died in Satellite Beach, Fla., April 14. She grew up on a farm near Davidsonville, graduated from Annapolis High in 1947, and worked for the Maryland State government until she married a Navy officer, Herman "Dutch" Spanagel, who survives her. She was the mother of Ann Mudd (of Dunkirk, wife of my nephew, Michael Mudd), Elizabeth Sparkman and Susan Hiller, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of three.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Brandi Jeter and Buddy Ramsey, May 9; Gladys Locks, Shirley Eppard and Elijah Thomas, May 10; Virginia Stine and Carolyn Flaherty Fogle, May 11; Kyle Dameron, May 12; Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15.

Happy anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14.

Happy
Mother's Day



to the mothers who
read my column!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to join us for our Women's Day Celebration Sunday, May 18, 2014, 10:00 AM at the Family Life Center. Rev. Daryl L. Williams is the Senior Pastor. The Family Life Center is located on the Nottingham Myers Campus at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

FAMILY CAMPFIRE

Friday, May 16, 2014 from 7:30 PM-9:00 PM come out and enjoy a nature program while roasting marshmallows. Roasting sticks and marshmallows will be provided. You can bring hot dogs and beverages. Pre-registration through SMARTlink is strongly encouraged. SMARTlink number is 1396719. Resident pay \$3.00 and non-resident pay \$4.00. This event is for ages 2 and up. The location is Watkins Nature Center 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University Founder's Day Awards Gala honoring Leadership, Heritage and Service was held on Saturday, April 19, 2014. Mistress of Ceremonies was Tracee Wilkins Prince George's County Bureau Chief NBC Washington, News4. The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer gave the Keynote Address. Special guest performer was Tamara Wellons Singer & Songwriter: class of 1999, Bowie State University.

The Torch of Truth Award honoring the Alumni Heritage of Bowie State University was awarded to Mildred Ridgley-Gray class of 1940 and 1946, Bowie State University. Heritage Award honoring Leadership was awarded to M.A. "Mike" Little President & Founder, B&W Solutions, Inc. Founders Promise Award honoring University Service, Gail S. Medford, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre Arts, Bowie State University, Military Service Award honoring Exceptional Military Service, Colonel (Ret). Marilyn D. Wills Class of 2000, Bowie State University. Flame of Faith Award honoring service to the

community and philanthropy was awarded to Thomas H. Graham Vice President, People Strategy and Human Resources Pepco Holdings, Inc.

WORLD VIEW

Come experience the fun at World View Super Summer Camp 2014. There will be music, cheerleading, field trips every day, drama, art, dance, cosmetology, sports camp and ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT. The locations are Clinton and Brandywine. Visit our web at www.worldviewchristiancenter.com or email us at info@worldviewchristiancenter.com for more information.

CAMP SPRINGS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

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

Neighborhood Events

Ryan Republican Budget Hurts Working Families, Women, and Children

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement regarding the Ryan Republican Budget, which passed the House 219-205.

"A budget is a reflection of our priorities. Republican's priorities are clear once again with the passage of the Ryan Republican budget. Our country is strongest when our economy grows from the middle out, not the top down, but this budget takes the opposite approach. It benefits those at the top by showering tax breaks on millionaires and corporate special interests, while shifting the burden of the federal budget to middle-class families. It taxes working families with children by an average of \$2,000 in order to cut taxes for millionaires. A new analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice found that, 'taxpayers with income exceeding \$1 million in 2015 would receive an average net tax decrease of over \$200,000 that year.' Yet, at the same time, the Ryan budget would cost 1.1 million jobs in FY15, rising to 3 million the next year.

"We can and must do better. That is why my Democratic colleagues and I are focused on our priorities; creating jobs, strengthening the economy, improving education, passing 'When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda for Women and Families,' and investing in the nation's infrastructure. These are the steps that must be taken to strengthen working families and ensure shared prosperity for generations to come."

The Republican passed Ryan budget harms women and families by:

- Slashing Medicaid by \$732 billion over 10 years or by nearly 25 percent in 2024 — with the largest impact on women as 70 percent of Medicaid's adult beneficiaries are women.

- Cutting food stamps by \$137 billion over the next 10 years, 62 percent of adult food stamp recipients are women.

- Dropping at least 200,000 women and children from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, if the 15 percent cut in 2016 non-defense appropriations was applied across-the-board.

- Cutting at least \$500 billion to income support programs, like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, unemployment insurance, low-income housing and energy assistance, Supplementary Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and child nutrition programs, including school lunches.

- Forcing up to 170,000 children to lose access to Head Start and up to 3.4 million disadvantaged children at 8,000 schools to lose vital Title I education funding.



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Prince George's county Teacher chosen as 2014 Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year

(Baltimore, MD) — The Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher Award, honoring a Maryland educator who works to promote reading by employing creative teaching methods, was presented to Samuel Ogle Middle School eighth grade teacher Faith Majors at the 2014 Letters About Literature awards ceremony on April 12 during the CityLit Festival at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Congressman John Sarbanes, his father, Senator Paul Sarbanes, and brother Michael Sarbanes presented the award. This is the second year-in-a-row an educator from Prince George's county has been chosen for the award. The 2013 recipient was Parkdale High School 10th grade teacher Clinton Smith.

A Maryland native, Ms. Majors attended Bowie State University. She is a National Board Certified Teacher who brings enthusiasm, structure, and creativity to her classroom. She focuses on the whole child when she teaches, going the extra mile to find books and materials that will interest even the most reluctant reader. Her hard work, and that of her students, has helped to increase her special education students' measured reading level during their time with her each year. Learning in Ms. Majors' class is student-centered and fun. Using her background in theater, she incorporates activities to encourage student engagement. After reading Edgar Allan Poe's "The Telltale Heart," students held a mock trial for the murder where they were assigned roles such as prosecuting attorney, police officer or jury member. Answers to questions during the trial had to come directly from text evidence or reasonable inferences, which required that the students fully immerse themselves in the details of the story.

Ms. Majors extends her work outside of the classroom, helping parents select appropriate materials for their families, planning technology-based interventions for struggling readers, and creating home-school incentive plans to support reading at home. She also works with interns from the University of Maryland as a mentor, encouraging the next generation of teachers to take creative approaches to meeting the learning goals of students. She stays in tune with new books and magazines that might inter-

est her students with the help of her teenage son.

Doctors Community Hospital is First Urban Hospital in County to Join Maryland's Population Health Management Program

Lanham, MD — Doctors Community Hospital was the first urban hospital to enter into a population health management agreement with the state of Maryland. This agreement will strengthen the hospital's efforts to provide accessible and preventative care to Prince George's County residents while decreasing healthcare costs.

According to Maryland's Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), hospitals have historically operated within a structure that provided financial incentives based on patient volumes — increased inpatient admissions often equated to elevated profits and stability. However, population health management reorients hospitals to put a greater focus on ensuring that people have the right care, at the right time and in the right settings. Such an approach is encouraging hospitals to change their business models by placing significantly more emphasis on preventative care and outpatient services while decreasing inpatient admissions and costs.

"As we learned more about population health management, we quickly saw how it was a great fit for our hospital. It closely mirrors and reinforces our tradition of developing high-quality and comprehensive programs that directly address the real needs of our community," stated Phil Down, president at Doctors Community Hospital.

Additionally, population health management will encourage a stronger relationship among multiple community organizations and providers — creating shared goals to improve overall community health, decrease hospital readmission rates and reduce costly emergency department visits. With a culture that recognizes the importance of partnerships, the hospital plans to continue that focus through alliances with various community entities like the Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD). For example, the hospital and PGCHD currently work together to help uninsured and underinsured county residents receive free diabetes, colorectal, cervical and breast care education and screenings.

Down continues, "Doctors Community Hospital has been a healthcare leader in the county for almost 40 years. We regularly assess and reassess our services to ensure that we are providing programs that our community needs and deserves. From our specialized Congestive Heart Failure Clinic to our dedicated Joslin Diabetes Center, we have created a strong foundation from which we will become the hospital of the future to support population health and strengthen the healthcare fabric of our community."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Help Your Mom Get Organized for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is May 11. If you're wracking your brain for ways to show your mom appreciation for all the sacrifices she made while raising you, here's a thought: Why not offer to spend some time helping to sort through her financial, legal and medical paperwork to make sure everything is in order?

While flowers and candy offer immediate gratification, I'll bet your mom will truly appreciate the long-term value of getting her records in order now so that she — and you — will be able to take appropriate actions later on, should the need arise.

Some of the areas you might want to organize include:

Retirement income sources. Gather these documents so your mom will have a better idea how much income she'll have available throughout retirement:

- ❑ Register your mom at mySocialSecurity (www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to gain access to personalized estimates of retirement, disability and survivors benefits, lifetime earnings records and estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid.
- ❑ You'll also need your dad's statement to determine any potential spousal or survivor benefits for which she might be eligible, so sign him up as well.
- ❑ Annual statements for pension, IRA, 401(k) or other retirement savings plans for which she's eligible. (Check your dad's statements too in case she's eligible for spousal death benefits.)
- ❑ Bank statements for checking, savings, money market and CD accounts.
- ❑ Company stock and bond certificates, and statements for other investment accounts.

Outstanding debts. Also gather monthly statements and outstanding balances owed for major expenses including: home mortgage or other property loans, home equity loan or line of credit, car loan or lease, credit cards, medical bills and personal loans.

Other important documents. Your mom should have documents instructing how she'd like her affairs to be handled, both while she's living and after death. Look for:

- ❑ Medical, homeowner/renter, auto, life, disability and long-term care insurance policies.
- ❑ A will (and possibly a trust) outlining how she wants her estate managed after death.
- ❑ Durable power of attorney and health care proxy specifying who will make her financial and medical decisions if she becomes incapacitated.
- ❑ Also, a living will tells doctors which medical treatments and life-support procedures she does or doesn't want performed.
- ❑ Birth certificate, marriage license, Social Security card, funeral plans, safe deposit box information, etc.
- ❑ Contact information for professional service providers (doctors, pharmacy, lawyer, financial advisor, bank, insurance companies, etc.) Also give these providers your own contact information in case of emergencies.

Review these documents regularly and make updates whenever her situation changes. For example, make sure that designated beneficiaries for your mom's will, life insurance and retirement plans accurately reflect her current wishes.

If you need help guiding financial discussions, Social Security has created a special website for women (www.ssa.gov/women) that provides information on retirement, disability and other issues — in English and Spanish. They also have a Retirement Estimator (www.ssa.gov/estimator) that enters her earnings information from their records to estimate her projected Social Security benefits under different scenarios (age at retirement, future earnings projections, etc.)

Another good resource is the Women's Saving Initiative, a program jointly developed by Heinz Family Philanthropies, the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) and Visa Inc. This program features a free book called "What Women Need to Know About Retirement," which you can download as a PDF or audio file at www.practicalmoneyskills.com/resources.

If you need professional help, consult a licensed financial planner who can design a personalized retirement strategy. If you don't know one, try the Financial Planning Association (www.plannersearch.org).



O'Malley Sign Domestic Violence and Public Safety Bills to Protect Families and Communities

Several pieces of legislation signed into law including new distracted-driving penalties, domestic violence protections and marijuana decriminalization

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Annapolis, Md. — Building on tremendous progress driving down violent crime to 30-year lows, Governor O'Malley today signed legislation to strengthen and improve public safety in Maryland. Three of Governor O'Malley's 16 strategic goals involve enhancing the security of Maryland's people.

Among the bills Governor O'Malley signed today were three measures to combat domestic violence. These efforts are part of the Administration's goal to protect women, children and families by reducing violent crimes committed against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2018. One of the measures lowers the burden of proof for final peace and protection orders from "clear and convincing evidence" to a "preponderance of evidence." Another bill gives judges the ability to administer stricter penalties for committing acts of violence in front of a child. The third bill will add 2nd degree

assault to the list of crimes for which domestic violence victims can obtain a final permanent protective order.

"The most sacred responsibility for any government is to protect the safety of its people. Working together with communities and law enforcement, we've driven violent crime down to its lowest level in 30 years," said Governor O'Malley. "The bills we're signing into law today will help us build on this important progress and help keep more Maryland families and communities safe."

"Domestic Violence impacts all of our communities, without discrimination based on color or religion; socioeconomic status or location," said Lt. Governor Brown, who spearheaded efforts this session to pass the Administration's domestic violence legislative package. "Building strong communities starts with keeping people safe in their homes, and while the bills we're signing today are the next step in that effort, we will not rest until every Marylander is free from the fear of this senseless crime."

The governor also signed bills codifying parts of a 2008 executive order creating the Maryland Statewide Interoperable Communications program. The legislation established a board to oversee the final development, operations and day-to-day management of the program to advance the State's efforts to unify public safety communications for first responders in the event of an emergency or during extreme weather events.

To ensure security and integrity in Maryland's correctional facilities, the Governor also signed bills to (1) enhance the State's efforts to combat contraband in correctional facilities; (2) to unify intelligence gathering and internal investigations into one unit, creating a newly named Intelligence and Investigative Unit (IIU); and (3) to ensure the integrity of corrections officers by improving the Correctional Officers Bill of Rights.

Some of the other notable bills signed include Jake's law, a bill that elevates the penalty for texting while driving to a criminal offense, and requires drivers involved in serious accidents to

give law enforcement basic phone information so they can more quickly investigate activities leading to the crash. The Governor also signed legislation expanding Maryland's medical marijuana program. And to better align our public safety efforts with judicial practice, the governor signed legislation decriminalizing possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana in Maryland.

In 2007, the O'Malley-Brown administration set a goal to drive down violent crime by 20 percent by 2012. Since that time, working with the brave men and women of law enforcement and a broad coalition of community partners, the administration met that goal in 2001, set a new goal and surpassed it yet again in 2012. The bills Governor O'Malley signed today also advance three of the Administration's 16 strategic goals to reduce violent crime by 20% by the end of 2018; reduce violent crimes against women and children by 25% by the end of 2018; and deliver and maintain Maryland's twelve core goals for homeland security preparedness by 2016.

Group Home from A1

of school hours. Stokes said that the goal of the staff is to "turn boys to men" by teaching them important life skills.

"Once they turn 21, the state is no longer responsible for them," said Stokes, adding that some of the ill-prepared youth end up homeless after reaching adulthood.

During free time, residents are able to gather in the activity room. Here, the teens can watch the 47-inch flat screen television, play video games and use one of two computers with filtered Internet access. Stokes said that video games that contain violence are banned. Residents are also allowed visitors approved by the Department of Juvenile Services.

The teens receive a weekly allowance of \$20 from Juvenile Services, which they can spend at their discretion. They also receive Medicaid and the group home staff is responsible for providing the residents three meals and snacks per day.

Residents are granted curfews and "passes" to spend time away from the home based on their current levels, Stokes said. Upon arrival, residents are placed on level one, which comes with limited privileges, and no unsupervised time away, Stokes explained.

Through a point system, the teens are able to advance to the maximum level — three, which comes with the largest amount of privileges, including a 9 p.m. curfew and two weekend passes per month. Misbehavior can result in point deduction and subsequent level reduction.

Stokes said that when away from home, residents must check in once per hour. If granted a weekend pass, they must check in once a day. If a resident does not call or return home one hour after curfew, the Department of Juvenile Services is alerted. Each resident is searched upon re-entry each time they leave the home. Drug tests are randomly conducted.

"They like structure," Stokes said. He said the residents understand that rules are in place to prepare them for the real world. "They know we enforce the rules because we care about them."

This sentiment is not lost on residents.

Dontae, 19, a resident of One Love, credited his case manager, Lorenzo Cooper, with being a great mentor and source of support. Dontae said that Cooper holds the residents accountable, and it is appreciated.

"He stays on us. We didn't have anyone doing that growing up," Dontae said. Capital News Service is not using Dontae's full name, because his crimes were committed as a juvenile.

Robbery, assault, theft, and being deemed by the courts as "ungovernable" were some of the offenses that have brought past residents into the juvenile justice system. Stokes said the group home does not take sex offenders or youth with an extensive arson history because of the specialized therapy required.

The facility has seven beds. Two of the rooms are equipped for roommates.

Stokes said that staff considers age when determining who will become roommates. The residents cannot have an age difference of more than three years. Personality, history of aggression and bullying are also considered.

If two residents are from the same neighborhood, they are not paired.

"We pair them with someone from another neighborhood to give them an opportunity to bond with other residents," Stokes said. He said that another reason for this is to avoid "cliques" from forming.

The maximum age for residents is age 18, but if a resident turns 19 while in custody, they are able to remain at One Love if the state Department of Juvenile Services approves.

One Love is licensed and funded by the Department of Juvenile Services, and operated by Building Communities Today for Tomorrow, Inc.

Stokes, who said he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in social work at Morgan State University, handles the administrative tasks and ensures that the facility adheres to what he called "stringent guidelines" for group homes set by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

The placements typically range from 3 to 6 months, but the facility has had residents stay as long as 9 months, Stokes said. He works with Juvenile Services and each resident to create a plan to help ensure success after release, which could include the resident moving back with their family. Those with no family can receive access to an Independent Living Program, which gives teens an adult-supervised apartment of their own while they build job-readiness and money management skills.

Stokes said the staff strives to make residents feel part of a family. Dontae said that prior to receiving a gift basket from Stokes this past holiday season, the last time the teen received a Christmas present was at age 5, from his mother.

Tarsha Swift, the One Love house manager, said, "It is a really good program. We are home based. Although we are in a facility, we make it feel like home."

"We don't have to, but we keep in contact with past residents," Swift said, adding that the success of the program is measured in residents leaving and "changing their lives."

She cooks hearty meals like meatloaf and lasagna for the residents, takes them to appointments and handles the daily operations of the facility. Swift said that of the 24 residents placed at One Love Group Home to date, only two were unsuccessful.

Stokes explained the rare occurrence of youth being taken out of the program.

"We're not a lock-down facility," Stokes said, adding that having too much freedom proves to be too much for some of the residents who failed to adapt to the program. He added that when this takes place, youth are sent back to detention.

Other residents are able to utilize the resources offered through One Love to advance themselves.

Dontae is a senior at a local high school, where he said only those that know him personally are aware that he lives in a group home.

He was 9 years old the first time he was arrested and charged with arson, Dontae said, and his most recent charges were conspiracy of armed robbery and unauthorized use of a vehicle. Dontae served time in

a facility in Iowa before being placed at One Love. He is scheduled to be released from group home custody in May after graduation.

"They need more places like One Love," said Dontae, who said he has spent time in other group homes and Maryland detention centers such as Oak Hill and Cheltenham.

He participates in mental health counseling, and said that having counselors that listen and empathize with the residents make the process more effective.

Dontae said he plans to begin Baltimore City Community College next spring where he is considering studying law enforcement, agriculture or social networking.

But he admitted that change has not always been easy.

Dontae said that when he was first placed at One Love, he considered selling illegal drugs as a means to making money. He said that he considered saving his allowance provided by One Love to purchase and resell marijuana and crack.

"But then I thought of the consequences, I could go to jail."

Dontae said. He instead opted for what he calls his "long term plan" which includes taking a part-time job at a fast food restaurant, while completing school and saving money.

Stokes said that this was an example of Dontae understanding how to control his impulses.

"He weighed the outcome and decided not to go for the quick fix that could have landed him in more trouble," Stokes said.

In addition to saving money, Dontae sends money to his mother who is currently incarcerated, and he helps his younger brothers who are in foster care. When he is allowed home visits, he stays with his aunt and allowed to visit his siblings.

Dontae is also working with Stokes to request Independent Living Program housing. The program is only available to him and all court-supervised youth until the age of 21.

Dontae wants to work for Mentor Maryland and said he will not allow his past to hold him back.

"I can be a positive role model," he said.

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Applauds Wireless Companies Commitment to Deter Cell Phone Theft, Protect Personal Information

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) applauded a new commitment by wireless companies to make kill switch technology available on smartphones to help crack down on thefts and protect consumers. The voluntary agreement announced by CTIA-The Wireless Association commits signatories — which include Apple, Asurian, AT&T, Google, HTC, Huawei, Motorola, Microsoft, Nokia, Samsung, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular and Verizon — to include a preloaded or downloadable anti-theft tool on all new models of smartphones manufactured after July 2015. It also requires network operators to ensure that these features are fully usable for consumers.

“These new commitments are an important step towards putting consumers in control of their cell phone data and cracking down on skyrocketing theft,” Senator Mikulski said. “As wireless companies move forward with their commitments, I will continue to fight to bring reforms and relief to those who have been victims of cell phone theft and fraud. Victims of ‘snatch crime’ cell phone theft should be able to fight back so they aren’t victimized again through data and identity theft. And thieves should know that whenever they steal a cell phone, they won’t be able to use it or sell it.”

Senator Mikulski has cosponsored The Smartphone Theft Prevention Act, introduced earlier this year by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and currently before the Senate Commerce Committee, that would require all phones sold in the United States to include kill switch technology free of charge that would allow the consumer to remotely wipe their personal data off the phone, render the phone permanently inoperable to anyone but the owner, and prevent it from being reactivated on a network by anyone but the owner. This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of key stakeholders, such as the Major Cities Chiefs Association, members of the Secure Our Smartphones Initiative including founders New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, and the Consumers Union.

Senator Mikulski has also cosponsored The Mobile Device Theft Deterrence Act, legislation introduced by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) that would support cell phone ‘bricking,’ in which a phone reported as stolen is rendered permanently inoperable. While the FCC already supports ‘bricking’ through a national database that records smartphones’ unique identifying numbers (IMEIs), this new legislation would make it a federal crime to alter the IMEI of a phone to circumvent the database. This would add teeth to the stolen cell phone registry, which just became operational late last year.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, nearly one-in-three robberies involve cell phone theft, with criminals targeting smartphones for their high resale value and for the valuable personal and financial information they contain. Every day, an average of two electronic devices are snatched from Metro riders. This number has risen from 424 cases in 2012 to 603 cases in 2013. WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) today applauded a new commitment by wireless companies to make kill switch technology available on smartphones to help crack down on thefts and protect consumers. The voluntary agreement announced by CTIA-The Wireless Association commits signatories — which include Apple, Asurian, AT&T, Google, HTC, Huawei, Motorola, Microsoft, Nokia, Samsung, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular and Verizon — to include a preloaded or downloadable anti-theft tool on all new models of smartphones manufactured after July 2015. It also requires network operators to ensure that these features are fully usable for consumers.

“These new commitments are an important step towards putting consumers in control of their cell phone data and cracking down on skyrocketing theft,” Senator Mikulski said. “As wireless companies move forward with their commitments, I

See CELL PHONE Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Voting in November 2014 Midterm Elections More Important Than Ever

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.”
— President Lyndon B. Johnson

Last week in Austin, Texas, three former United States Presidents and President Barack Obama came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson’s signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which outlawed discrimination and segregation based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Civil Rights Act also offered greater protections for the right to vote, paving the way for the much more comprehensive landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. Those laws may have been signed in ink, but they were written in the blood of thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line to ensure a better future for America. Every major gain of the past half-century for African Americans and other minorities was made possible by the expansion and guarantee of what President Johnson called “the first right and most vital of all our fights” — the right to vote.

However, unfortunately voter suppression did not suddenly disappear in the 1960s, as evidenced by increased efforts in the past five years by some states to enact new voter ID laws and other restrictive measures. The Supreme Court also joined the fray last year with its disappointing and specious ruling to invalidate Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. But African Americans responded in 2012 by going to the polls in greater numbers than ever before. As predicted

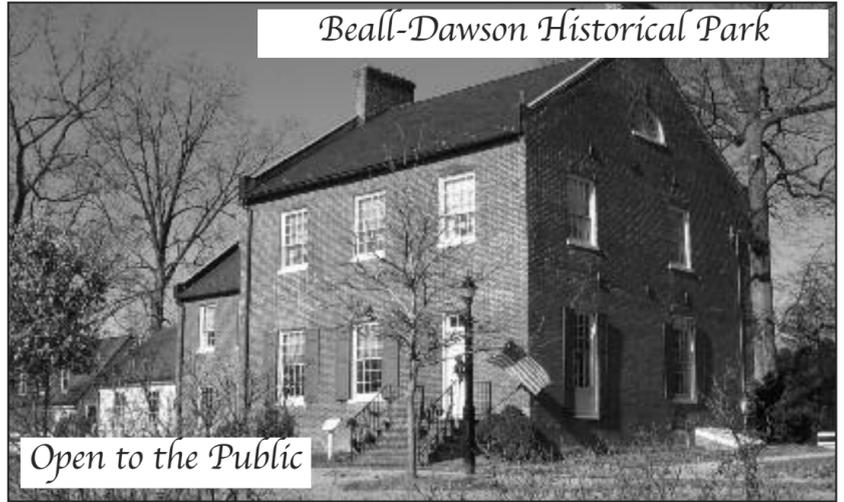
in the National Urban League’s 2012 “Hidden Swing Voters” report, African American voters not only tipped the scales in the re-election of President Obama, Black voter turnout surpassed the white vote for the first time in history. This was accomplished despite some of the most obvious and egregious voter suppression efforts in recent history and demonstrates the power of our vote when we exercise it. That is why a new poll released last week is so disturbing.

A survey by pollster Stan Greenberg found that a group called the “Rising American Electorate,” comprised of young people, unmarried women and minorities, is significantly less likely to vote than other, less progressive groups in the midterm elections this November. Greenberg’s poll shows that only 64 percent of members of the Rising American Electorate say they are “almost certain” to vote in 2014, compared to 79 percent of others. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 36 of the 100 seats in the Senate are up for grabs (with 33 Senate elections on the normal six-year cycle and special elections in South Carolina, Oklahoma and Hawaii).

With so much at stake — jobs, health care, education, equal pay, minimum wage and more — a failure to vote could have catastrophic consequences on maintaining and achieving critical policies that seek to bridge the growing divides of unemployment, income, wealth, achievement and social justice in our nation.

Historically, members of the Rising American Electorate are far less likely to vote in midterm elections than they are when the Presidency is on the line. As reported

Beall-Dawson Historical Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

BEALL-DAWSON HISTORICAL PARK

The Beall-Dawson House was built circa 1815 for Upton Beall and his wife and daughters. Beall, from a prominent Georgetown family, was Clerk of the Court for the county, and he wanted a home that would reflect his wealth and status. Beall’s large brick Federal-style home, built overlooking Commerce Lane (now West Montgomery Avenue), was designed to impress both inside and out. It is a 2 1/2-story Federal house, three bays wide by two deep, constructed of Flemish bond brick on the front facade and common bond elsewhere. Outbuildings on the property include an original brick dairy house and a mid-19th century one-room Gothic Revival frame doctor’s office which was moved to the site for use as a museum. Located at 103 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, Hours of operation are; Wednesday – Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.. Admission is adults \$5, Students and Seniors \$3, and children under 6 are free. For more information, call 301-340-2825.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



The Seed Experiment

A perennial favorite science project from preschool on up is the “seed experiment”: A child plants identical seeds in two pots. She places the first pot inside a dark cupboard and leaves it there, and she puts the second one in a sunny spot and waters it every day. She waits to see what will happen. It’s very easy for even the youngest children to figure out that their seedlings need the basics—sunlight and water—if they are going to survive and thrive.

The same is true for children, and “the basics” during children’s earliest years can have long lasting effects. Arloc Sherman, senior researcher at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and one of the contributors to the new Harvard Education Press book *Improving the Odds for America’s Children*, put it this way: “I think sometimes we forget to say how important for children’s futures the day-to-day basic assistance of food, clothing, shelter is . . . We’ve had help from the research community recently, striking studies that help make the case that when you just provide the basics, that’s one key cornerstone for children’s future success. So it’s not just that we’re meeting an important need—which would be enough in itself—but we’re also providing for opening future doors of opportunity.”

He pointed to a 2012 study on the long term effects of what began as the food stamps program. Researchers went back to the earliest days of the program when it was rolled out county by county to identify children who had access to food stamps in early childhood and whose mothers had access during their pregnancies. They tracked their progress from the 1960s and 1970s into adulthood, comparing them to similar children who didn’t have access to food stamps. The results showed the power of nutrition: the children who had access to food stamps were less likely to have stunted growth, be obese, or have heart disease as adults—and the positive effects weren’t just health-related. One of the largest differences was that children in families with food stamps were 18 percent more likely to graduate from high school.

This echoes other studies on the positive effects of federal nu-

trition programs that found needy children who received food assistance before age five were in better health as adults and girls who received food assistance were more likely to complete more schooling, earn more money, and not rely on safety net programs as adults. Putting food on children’s plates helps build healthy minds and bodies today and helps set children up for better futures later. And the benefits don’t end there. Better graduation rates mean better jobs with higher salaries with cascading benefits to the community, the national economy, and the next generation.

The case for providing the basics for all children in America is hard to refute. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2.2 million children were lifted out of poverty by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, in 2012. Yet right now we are fast approaching a critical time for hungry children: summer vacation. School-based federal nutrition programs have proved to be a lifeline for needy children. In fiscal year 2012 more than 21 million children received free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program and nearly 11 million children received free and reduced price

breakfast. Hunger doesn’t end on the last day of school—yet only 11 percent of the number of children who relied on those lunches during the school year received meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Even though the program is 100 percent federally funded and can create desperately needed jobs for cafeteria workers and others during the summer months, many states and communities have created needless bureaucratic hurdles to establishing summer feeding sites resulting in not nearly enough sites to serve all eligible children. But it’s not too late to find out how you can help—or how children you know can participate.

The Children’s Defense Fund is encouraging CDF Freedom Schools® partners to use the summer feeding program to provide nutritious meals and snacks for children attending summer CDF Freedom Schools programs. The USDA, which administers the summer feeding program, says there are many ways individuals and organizations can get involved: “You can serve the meals, promote the program, provide transportation, volunteer at summer food sites, or even go

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The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Ideas for Improving Parent-Teen Communications

If there's a teenager in your house, odds are pretty good there are also communication issues. Parents want to know what their teens are doing, thinking and feeling, but often all they hear are grunts, complaints or single-word responses.

Most parent-teen communication issues derive from a teen's desire to be more independent. A ten-year-old may share all the highs and lows of the day's events, but a fifteen-year-old knows not telling all is a way to be more independent, while avoiding parental criticism, judgment and advice.

There's no easy fix to this communication gap, but you can make it less problematic.

Start by accepting that your teen will talk to and share feelings with friends more than with you. Why? Friends are usually less critical, less judgmental and more likely to be facing similar issues. And friends don't try to parent, but you do.

While you can't give up your parenting role, you can tone it down a bit to encourage more communication. Start by investing time in your teen's friends, music, video games, TV and other interests. Be open to inviting your teen's friends to the house and actually listen to some of your teen's favorite music.

You don't have to like any of it, or even those friends, but you want to demonstrate that you understand and respect your teen's choices. You also want to offer communication opportunities. Yes, that means being available and actively asking questions, but it also means learning to listen. When your teen has something to say, don't immediately offer advice or criticism. Instead, show you really understood what was said. Giving your opinion or suggestions without being asked will often just shut down communication again.

As parents, we want to protect our children and help them learn to evaluate situations, make decisions and face the consequences. When your teen realizes that you respect him or her as a person, and that you're willing to allow his or her own decisions, you're more likely to find that your advice is actively sought when he or she confronts a difficult or confusing situation.

The goal is for your teen to see you not just as a parent but also as someone who respects him or her and is willing to listen without giving instant advice or commands. Achieve that and teen-parent communications should begin to improve.

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

Business Spotlight

Secrets for Generating a Second Income

(StatePoint) In today's tumultuous economic times, extra income is not just a luxury, but a necessary safety net, according to many financial experts.

"Relying solely on a single employer to make ends meet is a surefire way to end up struggling, as so many Americans do," warns Kimberly Palmer, senior money editor for U.S. News & World Report and author of the new book "The Economy of You: Discover Your Inner Entrepreneur and Recession-Proof Your Life" (AMACOM). "Being your own boss, part of the time, can be a fulfilling way to overcome job insecurity."

But do you have what it takes? Whether one's passion is baking cupcakes or designing logos, Palmer discovered when researching her book that there are certain qualities that successful entrepreneurs tend to have in common:

- They know exactly what motivates them, and it often starts with a big loss or other major event in their lives.
- They choose entrepreneurial pursuits that line up with longstanding interests, and skills.
- They minimize their expenses in both their professional and personal lives, while finding ways to invest in their venture.
- They rely heavily on online communities of similarly minded people.
- They actively promote their brands through social media and other grass-roots marketing efforts.
- They master time management strategies that enable them to maintain full-time jobs along with their side ventures (and the rest of their lives).
- They find ways to be resilient in the face of inevitable setbacks.
- As their businesses grow, they support other small shops and start-ups by outsourcing tasks, which further enhances their own businesses. And they often find other ways to give back.
- They derive a deep sense of financial security and fulfillment from their businesses, far beyond money.

More information about "The Economy of You" can be found at www.byKimberlyPalmer.com.

Thinking about taking the plunge? Saying "yes" to today's money-earning opportunity without over-planning or over-investing at the outset is a low-risk way to get started.

Brewpubs and Beer Drinkers Could Benefit From Recent Legislative Measure

By SARAH TINCHER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - What's better than going to your favorite brewpub to drink a cold glass of craft beer?

Taking it home with you in a bottle.

And thanks to legislation awaiting Gov. Martin O'Malley's approval, this dream might finally become a reality for Maryland microbrewery regulars.

Under the current law, the 21 licensed brewpubs across Maryland are allowed to serve customers their own crafted beer to gulp down in the restaurant, or even give it to them in a refillable growler or a keg to take home.

But brewers, who spend can between three weeks and three months brewing a batch of beer from start to finish, can't send a six-pack of their product home with a thirsty consumer — at least not yet.

Although legislation passed last year gave some microbreweries the opportunity to self-distribute their product, they were stopped short by the inability to sell it in a to-go bottle, prompting bill sponsor Delegate Kelly Schulz, R-Frederick, to propose House Bill 464.

The bill, which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly at the end of March, would allow these brewpubs to bottle their beer

and sell it to consumers to take home — a proposal that J.T. Smith, executive director of the Maryland Brewer's Association, called "a bit of a no-brainer."

"It allows more fair access to the marketplace for Maryland brewers," Smith said.

To make matters more nonsensical, some counties allow these brewpubs to sell six-packs of other companies' beer, but not their own.

"Frederick County has a liquor license that allows [brewpubs] to sell prepackaged beer for off-premise consumption — like at Barley and Hops, they could sell a six-pack of Coors Light from their establishment but they couldn't sell a pack of their own product to go," Schulz said. "It just didn't make sense."

Gary Brooks, operations manager of Barley and Hops Grill and Microbrewery in Frederick, couldn't agree more, calling the hindrance "very" frustrating.

This particular brewpub doesn't bottle beer yet, but with the law slated to change, Brooks said they plan on taking advantage of the new opportunity.

Supporters of the legislation say it will undoubtedly be a help to those who either currently bottle beer or plan to start.

"We certainly believe and know it will have a positive impact on Maryland brewpubs," Smith said.

Across the board, bill advocates and microbrewery owners gener-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY SARAH TINCHER.

Brewing equipment called a 'kettle' at Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery and General Store in Hyattsville.

ally agree that the promotional value of the legislative measure will far exceed the monetary value.

"When you open that refrigerator up and there's a six-pack of Barley and Hops beer, it kind of stimulates the mind," Brooks said, adding that it will probably cost the brewpub \$80,000 to put a bottler in place and get the supplies required bottle beer.

Mike Franklin, owner of Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery and General Store in Hyattsville, also said he sees it as a beneficial marketing tool.

"Every time a bottle of our beer goes out the door with somebody ... not only is a sale that we make a little bit of money on, but it's also advertising," Franklins said. "We win in both ways."

Although Franklin continued to say the beer sold in the restaurant will be more profitable for them

than the beer that leaves, he added, "in terms of promotional value, it's a tremendous help."

On the other hand, Michael Kelley, co-owner of Ruddy Duck Brewery and Grill in Dowell, said the legislation won't have an immediate impact on their brewery.

"For a smaller brewpub like ours, the legislation doesn't change a lot if we're self-distributing, but it means a great deal if we decide to work with a distributor at some point in the future," Kelley said.

However, he, too, agreed that the new law would be a big help in marketing their product.

"One of the real advantages of packaging for us is to expand our brand recognition for the brewpubs," Kelley said. "We feel like we've got a great following down here, and once we start packaging, we think it's going to take off."

Cell Phone from A1

will continue to fight to bring reforms and relief to those who have been victims of cell phone theft and fraud. Victims of 'snatch crime' cell phone theft should be able to fight back so they aren't victimized again through data and identity theft. And thieves should know that whenever they steal a cell phone, they won't be able to use it or sell it."

Senator Mikulski has cosponsored The Smartphone Theft Prevention Act, introduced earlier this year by Senator Amy

Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and currently before the Senate Commerce Committee, that would require all phones sold in the United States to include kill switch technology free of charge that would allow the consumer to remotely wipe their personal data off the phone, render the phone permanently inoperable to anyone but the owner, and prevent it from being reactivated on a network by anyone but the owner.

This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of key stakeholders, such as the Major Cities Chiefs Association, members of the Secure Our Smartphones Ini-

tiative including founders New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, and the Consumers Union.

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would make it a federal crime to alter the IMEI of a phone to circumvent the database. This would add teeth to the stolen cell phone registry, which just became operational late last year.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, nearly one-in-three robberies involve cell phone theft, with criminals targeting smartphones for their high resale value and for the valuable personal and financial information they contain. Every day, an average of two electronic devices are snatched from Metro riders. This number has risen from 424 cases in 2012 to 603 cases in 2013.

Drivers from A1

struck by another driver talking on a cellphone -- allows for enhanced penalties, including a \$5,000 fine and up to a year in jail for drivers who cause a serious or fatal crash while using a cellphone or texting.

According to the Governors Highway Safety Association; 12 states, D.C. Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cellphones while driving.

Ronald Duke, a Prince George's County resident, said although the law bars using a hand-held device

while driving, he still chooses to use his phone while driving for work or emergency purposes.

"I have to admit sometimes I'm just driving and trying to get somewhere and I have to call somebody and tell them I'm on my way," Duke said.

Other drivers have turned to hands-free devices since the law has passed.

Lea Claye, a Beltsville resident, said she uses Apple iPhone's Dictation service, which allows the user to use their voice to write and send a text message.

"The good thing about iPhone is that I just started using the talk

and text, so I might still have my phone in my hand but I can talk into it, and it will write out the message for me," Claye said.

Although hands-free devices such as Bluetooth headsets or built-in calling systems in vehicles allow drivers to talk without holding their phones, studies show that drivers are still distracted when using them.

Howard Egeth, a psychological and brain sciences professor at Johns Hopkins University, said hands-free devices still require drivers to be mentally engaged.

"People would think that hands-free is better, but really it

turns out that the research shows that it's about as bad. The hands-free [device] still involves the brain pretty fully it just frees up your hands, but you're still engaged," Egeth said.

For now, police hope that the law will help drivers become more focused on the road and less focused on their phones.

"Some people are still maybe not paying as much attention to the law as they should, so we hope that they will pay attention, they will move all the distractions from their vehicle so they can operate the vehicle in a safe manner," Black said.

Job Prep from A1

Bladensburg students interested in biomedical sciences to earn college credit through the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Students will also have access to paid work experience and internships at companies like Lockheed Martin.

"We're looking forward to our students not just saying that they're college-ready, but already having college experience under their belt when they go on and graduate," said Lateefah Durant, an academic officer for Prince George's County Public Schools.

Two other schools in the county — Potomac High School and Fairmont Heights High School — will also receive funding. The three high schools will share the \$7 mil-

lion allotted to Prince George's County schools.

Durant said the selection of the schools was strategically planned to increase graduation rates in the county. Prince George's County has the second-worst graduation rate in Maryland (74 percent in 2013), ahead of Baltimore City, which had 69 percent of students graduate in 2013.

At Bladensburg High School, two-thirds of students are low-income who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, according to the U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics.

"For a lot of our students, they may be the first-generation in their family to go onto college, and it's often difficult to navigate that process," Durant said. "It's an opportunity to give our students that pathway they need to success...making sure that every

step of the way there's somebody holding their hand to get them there and to guide them."

Obama said students need to be ready to compete not just with people in the same town for jobs, but with people all over the world. To have careers in fields that are "in-demand," such as information technology and biosciences, he said students will have to get a head start before college.

"We've got to do everything we can to make sure that every single young person here can have that 'aha' moment," Obama said. "That light bulb goes off and suddenly you're not just studying because your parents tell you to or your teacher tells you to, you're studying because you know you've got something to offer."

Babah Mansaray, a senior at Bladensburg in the school's nursing program, vouched

for the importance of hands-on learning.

"You know how in schools, you just focus on books and studying? Here, when we go to the nursing home, we actually take care of the patients," he said. "We got to a nursing home every single day."

Maame Ampomah, who is also in the nursing program and is a member of the ROTC, said she likes that she can earn a certification in nursing while in high school without having to go to college for it.

"College isn't for everyone — some people can't afford it, some people just don't like school that much I guess," she said. "Now we have an option after high school. Even if we're not going to college, we will be certified as nursing assistants. We can use that and we can work with that."

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Captain America: The Winter Soldier”

Captain America: The Winter Soldier
Grade: B
Rated PG-13a lot of the usual superhero violence, nothing terribly graphic
2 hrs., 16 min

It was probably inevitable that the new Captain America film, having moved from World War II to the present day, would be more cynical and less rah-rah than its predecessor. Captain America: The First Avenger had its flaws, but it also had an exuberant squareness that distinguished it from the other Marvel superhero films, which tend to be hipper, more jaded. Now that the biologically enhanced super-soldier Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) has been brought forward in time and added to the Avengers mix, his second standalone adventure, *The Winter Soldier*, starts to match the slick, glib tone of your Iron Mans and your Thors and whatnot.

Not that there's anything wrong with that tone, of course. It was just nice to have a character whose stories might be a little different, you know? Oh well. It's Marvel's universe, we're all just mutating in it.

Cap himself is still plenty idealistic in *The Winter Soldier*, a sturdily entertaining action vehicle directed by brothers Anthony and Joe Russo. In fact, it's his old-school — some would say out-dated — sense of justice and patriotism that puts him at odds with S.H.I.E.L.D. boss Nick Fury (the always-game Samuel L. Jackson), whose experience with the complex realities of modern-day global politics makes him less inclined to see things in black-and-white (and more inclined to keep certain missions secret from Rogers).

Rogers is also unsettled by the alarming new war ma-



ROTTENTOMATOES

After being deemed unfit for military service, Steve Rogers volunteers for a top secret research project that turns him into Captain America, a superhero dedicated to defending America's ideals.

chines made possible by modern technology. The latest, called Project Insight, would allow us to eradicate threats before they happen, which sounds lovely until you think about it. “This isn't freedom, this is fear!” Rogers tells Fury. “You're holding a gun to everyone on Earth and calling it ‘protection.’” When Fury himself is targeted by a masked, super-powered assassin called the Winter Soldier, and with evidence mounting that S.H.I.E.L.D. may have been compromised, Captain America doesn't know whom he can trust other than his magical shield and his own pectorals.

Despite the 70-year gap between the films' settings, thanks to flashbacks, recordings, and (ahem) other devices, *The Winter Soldier* is able to include several familiar faces from *The First Avenger*. The fetching

Natasha, aka Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), featured in *Iron Man 2* and *The Avengers*, is also here, working with Rogers on day-to-day S.H.I.E.L.D. missions, giving him dating advice, and kicking several varieties of keister herself. New players include Sam Wilson (Anthony Mackie), a military veteran who may come in handy later (it feels like he was inserted purely out of fidelity to the comic books), and Alexander Pierce (Robert Redford), a statesmanlike S.H.I.E.L.D. leader who sits on the World Security Council. Pierce's crinkly Redford eyes make you want to trust him, but his governmental air makes you think twice.

This chapter may not be as spirited as the last one, but the Russo brothers — veterans of TV shows like “Arrested Development” and “Community” — demonstrate an unexpected

facility with action scenes. Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely's screenplay has enough going on storywise to allow for action sequences to pop up regularly without feeling forced, and the Russos shoot them so they're frenetic and fun without being chaotic. That includes the big set pieces as well as the smaller ones, like a gnarly brawl in an elevator that delivers what action fans crave.

The tone may have shifted from 1940s-style can-do optimism to modern-day high-tech paranoia and general mistrust. But if America and the world have changed, there's still Captain America himself, personified by Chris Evans' Boy Scout-y righteousness, keeping the old positive spirit alive. With two very solid entries now, the Captain America branch of the Marvel juggernaut might accidentally make patriotism cool again.

Helmet Manufacturer Unsuccessful in Attempt to Have Charges Dismissed in Frostburg Football Player's Death

By TIM SCHWARTZ
Capital News Service

ROCKVILLE - A Montgomery County judge this week declined to dismiss charges against a helmet manufacturer in a case brought by the parents of a Frostburg State University football player who died of head injuries in August 2011 following four straight days of heavy contact drills in practice.

The parents of Derek Sheely, who was 22 when he died, sued the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Frostburg's then-head football coach Thomas Rogish, an assistant coach and an assistant athletic trainer, and several companies that manufacture and distribute helmets. Kristen and Kenneth Sheely, of Germantown, allege negligence by university officials and the NCAA, and negligent misrepresentation, among other charges, by helmet manufacturers and distributors.

Tuesday's motions hearing focused on charges against Schutt Sports, which was bought by Kranos Corp. in 2010. Schutt

Sports designs and manufactures football helmets, including the one used in Sheely's last practice drills in 2011, the parents' complaint says.

Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge David Alan Boynton denied a motion to dismiss charges against Schutt Sports based on information in the parents' complaints. The parents allege their son was improperly fitted for a Schutt football helmet days before his death and that “a representative and agent for Schutt Sports and/or Sportsman's,” a helmet distributor, told the football team that “Schutt's new technology can prevent head injuries.”

Lawyers for Kranos Corp. stated in a written response that Derek Sheely did not encounter the allegedly improper marketing of the helmet, and that no Maryland appellate court has ever recognized a cause of action for negligent marketing.

Tuesday's hearing followed one on Feb. 21, when some charges against Schutt Sports were dismissed by Boynton. An amended complaint from the parents brought additional allegations, which stand after

Tuesday's hearing. Kranos Corp., doing business as Schutt Sports, and Heider Inc., doing business as Sportsman's, face charges of negligence, negligent misrepresentation, liability for design and manufacturing defects, and fraudulent misrepresentation, among others, court records show.

Lawyers representing Kranos, Heider and the three university officials declined to comment after Tuesday's hearing.

The NCAA asserted in an earlier filing that injuries sustained by Sheely were caused by his “sole, concurring, and/or contributory negligence,” and that he assumed risks inherent in football.

According to the parents' complaint, on the morning of Aug. 19, 2011, Sheely took part in a drill in which he as full-back collided at full speed with the linebacker from about six to 10 yards away. Sheely's parents allege he suffered many concussive or subconcussive hits over the course of that day's drills, and on three practice days that followed.

The complaint says Sheely, who had been diagnosed with a

concussion the previous season, performed the drill again on Aug. 20, this time causing his forehead to bleed profusely and bruise. He was given a bandage by the training staff, but was not evaluated for a concussion, the complaint says.

Teammates were quoted in the complaint as saying they had never seen such a large, protruding and discolored bruise as they observed in the days leading up to Sheely's death.

The complaint says on the morning of Aug. 21, a third day of practice, Sheely went through the drill again, which again caused his forehead to bleed. After practice, his teammates noticed Sheely appeared to “not be himself.”

The drill was repeated again after lunch, and Sheely's forehead bled again. He was given a bandage by a member of the training staff, but again was not evaluated for a concussion or to determine if his helmet was fitted properly, the complaint says. He practiced again for another two hours.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Men on the Edge of Panic: Boomer Esiason, Mike Francesa and Toxic Masculinity

This is not another shooting-fish-in-a-barrel commentary about the antediluvian swinishness of Boomer Esiason and Mike Francesa. This is not another swipe at their comments criticizing the efforts of Mets second basemen Daniel Murphy for missing opening day to be with his wife for the birth of their child. For those who missed it, Esiason opined, “I would have said, ‘C-section before the season starts. I need to be at Opening Day. I'm sorry, this is what makes our money. This is how we're going to live our life. This is going to give my child every opportunity to be a success in life. I'll be able to afford any college I want to send my kid to, because I'm a baseball player.’”

Fellow troglodytic troll of the NYC sports radio airwaves Mike Francesa commented, “You're a major league baseball player. You can hire a nurse.” Francesa also called the paternity leave at his own company “a scam-and-a-half.”

Many have verbally stomped them for the nature of their comments—well done, Chris Hayes—and Esiason also issued a fulsome apology.

I spoke to my friend Martha, who is a midwife—and a Mets fan—about their comments. She said simply, “I would ask if they knew how it sounded, talking about this woman like she is a human incubator to be cut open in a dangerous, often unnecessary surgical procedure so Murphy can make it to Citi Field on time. I would ask that, but honestly, if you can't see why the asshole-levels on these comments are off the charts, then I can't help you.”

I also spoke with Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL player and someone who has devoted his life to challenging the ways in which sports have the capacity to communicate a toxic, destructive brand of masculinity. Ehrmann said, “I think these comments are pretty shortsighted and reflect old school thinking about masculinity and fatherhood. Paternity leave is critical in helping dads create life long bonding and sharing in the responsibilities of raising emotionally healthy children. To miss the life altering experience of ‘co-laboring’ in a delivery room due to nonessential work-related responsibilities is to create false values.”

Ehrmann also pointed out the ways in which these statements create a culture that normalizes the alienation between fathers and children. He said, “Comments like these put every man in a position to think about career and co workers opinions ahead of father/husband/partner roles. So even in companies with paternity leave, many new dads won't or feel like they can't take advantage of leave without a stigma being attached to them.... This is one more arena where sports/athletes could be a metaphor for social change and elevate the birth/nurture/fatherhood role and responsibilities over work.”

He then said to me that this kind of sexist mentality not only harms families, not only harms men, but also quite specifically harms athletes. “I'm convinced the number-one common denominator in locker rooms is father-child dysfunction,” he said. “It's what pathologically elevates many performances. ‘I will prove to [the coach/father figure] I am worthy of my dad's love and acceptance,’ at the expense of self and others. If any group should understand need for dads in delivery rooms it should be athletes and the athletic world.”

I would also add that the only reason Daniel Murphy even had the option to take this time off is because it was collectively bargained into his contract by his union. There are millions of men in nonunion jobs who don't even have this option, not to mention millions of women who risk their employment in the United States by taking time off after the birth of their child.

I think there is something else going on as well. The comments from Boomer and Francesa smack of a kind of existential fear from an older generation of sports radio jockeys about the ways in which definitions of masculinity and sports have been rapidly changing. There have been two dominant kinds of masculine archetypes for the last thirty years in sports. Either you could be heterosexual, misogynist, talking loudly but saying nothing with a goal of trying to become a commercial brand; or you could be a heterosexual evangelical Christian, talking humbly with a goal of trying to become a commercial brand. Those who strayed outside of these norms have only done so with considerable risk to their standing in the media or even their job.

But in the last two years, these archetypes have changed. We have seen players such as Jason Collins, Robbie Rogers and Michael Sam break new ground as gay athletes. We have seen Royce White and Brandon Marshall speak out about their mental health challenges and show that this kind of openness does not demonstrate weakness but courage. We have a new cultural consensus that does not see concussions as a bizarre badge of honor but a danger sign. We've had Jonathan Martin go public about being bullied by teammates, forcing the NFL to confront long-standing locker-room behaviors. Poisonous, narrow definitions of masculinity are being challenged. A player's missing opening day to be with his wife on the birth of their child clearly caused Boomer's and Francesa's brains to rupture. Their idealized sports world as a masculinist cocoon absent of progress and insulated from the real world, where every day is 1985 (or even 1955), is withering before their eyes. People are deciding that ruining your life and your relationship with family in the name of a code that impresses the Mike Francesas of the world isn't worth it. This is progress, but as in any time when we see progressive healthy change, the hounds of reaction will still nip at its heels.



Calendar of Events

May 8 — May 14, 2014

On Exhibit: Riversdale in Bloom!

Date and Time: Friday, May 2-Sunday, June 8, 12:15-3:15 pm
Description: In conjunction with the Brentwood Arts Exchange, we present this juried exhibit showcasing views of the picturesque Riversdale gardens by talented local artists! Deadline for submissions is April 23. Please call the Museum for additional details.
Cost: \$3/adult; \$2/senior; \$1/student; FREE/children 4 & under
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

LIVE at Montpelier!-Margot MacDonald, Indie-Pop Rock Vocalist

Date and Time: Friday, May 2, 2014 8 pm
Description: Join us for LIVE at Montpelier with multi-talented musician, Margot MacDonald! MacDonald is a songwriter, vocalist, live looper and one-woman band that give haunting and powerful performances. Her performances make you forget you forget about technology as you lose yourself in layers of lush vocals and striking melodies.
Margot is the current Washington Area Music Association "Artist of the Year," a recipient of D.C.'s Power 30 Under 30 award, an Artist-in-Residence alumna at the Music Center at Strathmore and has been featured at TEDx.
Cost: Tickets: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Family Campfire

Date & Time: Friday, May 2, 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

Concert featuring Nu Era

Date and Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 8 pm
Description: Come watch the talented brothers of Nu Era, who have been electrifying audiences for the last 15 years! Their unique blend of Motown classics of yesteryear with today's R&B, make them a favorite among younger and older generations.
Cost: Tickets: \$30/General Admission; \$25/students and seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Celebrate National Fitness Month/Pen & Pose: A Workshop in Yoga and Writing

Date and Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 11 am
Description: In this unique workshop, poet and yoga teacher Yael Flusberg will lead you through yoga practices interspersed with writing exercises to help you mine your inner riches. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat and your favorite notebook and pen. The creative work of both yoga and writing can illuminate pathways into feelings, memories and images stored deep within our bodies.
Cost: Free
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

People & Pups Hike

Date & Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 10-11:15 am
Description: Come enjoy a naturalist-led hike with your pup! Meet us in the Watkins Nature Center parking lot. And, don't forget to bring a leash; your dog must be love other dogs and be people friendly. Reservations are required with SMARTlink.
Cost: Free
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Mexican Legends and Song

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 10:15 am & 12:00 noon
Description: Watch as historical characters Pancho Villa, Doña Marina, Cortés and Montezuma are brought to life with wit and charm by this versatile performer! Be prepared to sing along to "La Cucaracha", "Cu curu cu cuPaloma" and other favorites as Felix brings to life the culture of Mexico with puppetry, stories, songs, and more. The puppet show is performed in English interspersed with Spanish words and phrases.
Cost: Tickets: \$6/person; \$5/groups of 15 or more
Ages: Recommended for grades K-5
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Kids' Day Out-Cantare Buena Vida: FIESTA! A Celebration of Life in Latin America

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 10:30 am
Description: Get ready to sing and dance during Cantare Buena Vida! You will be taken on a musical journey through Latin America, learning about the cultures, which shape music of indigenous, European and African Latin Americans.
Cost: Tickets: \$5/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

EARTH TALK ... Apple Computer's Green Initiatives

Dear EarthTalk:

Apple just put out a big PR campaign about its sustainability initiatives. Has the company made real progress in this regard or is this just more corporate "greenwashing?" And how are the other big tech companies addressing their carbon footprints?

— Billy A. Oakland, CA

Long criticized for its lack of commitment to sustainability—from supporting the dangerous mining of precious resources and exploiting factory workers to powering its data centers with energy derived from coal and not taking back products for recycling—Apple has really worked on turning things around over the past couple of years. Indeed, just this past month the company announced that 94 percent of its corporate facilities and 100 percent of its data centers now operate on power from renewable sources.

Environmentalists first took notice that serious change was afoot at Apple in May 2013 when the company brought in former Obama Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Lisa Jackson to head its corporate environmental initiative. Since then, the company has unveiled plans showing how its new corporate headquarters—currently under construction in Cupertino, California—will use 30 percent less energy than an equivalent conventional building while playing host to some 7,000 carbon-sequestering trees. Apple also reports that

it has decreased the material required to produce its iPhones, iPads, iPods and Macs. A new iPad Air, for instance, uses a third less material overall by weight than the original iPad. And all of the company's retail stores will now take back any Apple products for free recycling—U.S. and U.K. consumers can even earn gift cards for turning in old iPhones, iPads and computers.

Of course, Apple still has work to do. The nonprofit Friends of the Earth has been on the company's case to agree to a plan that will reign in the human and environmental toll of destructive tin mining in Indonesia and elsewhere. Tin is a major component of the solder in smart phones and other electronics and the popularity of such items has pushed miners to extremes and is linked to the destruction of tropical rainforests, coral reefs and commercial fisheries. Apple sent a team of investigators to the Indonesian islands responsible for producing some 30 percent of the world's commercially available tin, but the company has yet to commit to any changes in the way it sources this increasingly valuable raw material.

As for other tech/Internet companies, Greenpeace has been assessing and tracking environmental performance of the big players for more than a decade. "The Internet we love, and the companies that run it are at a crossroads in terms of where their energy comes from," reports the group. "Many of these companies have already



CREDIT: SEAN MACENTEE, COURTESY FLICKR

Having brought in former Obama EPA administrator Lisa Jackson to head its environmental initiatives, Apple Computer has a new corporate headquarters under construction in Cupertino, California that will use 30 percent less energy than an equivalent conventional building, and has taken steps to decrease the material required to produce its iPhones, iPads, iPods and Macs. The new iPad Air, pictured here, uses a third less material overall by weight than the original iPad.

chosen the road to a green internet and a sustainable future." Some of the best performers besides Apple include Facebook, Google, Salesforce, Rackspace and Box, each of which has committed to 100 percent renewable energy.

Greenpeace isn't as bullish on Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr and Amazon, each of which relies heavily on coal-fired power sources for their data

centers and other operations, but still says. "If Amazon and others want to stay innovative and relevant, it's high time they made the switch to the abundant, sustainable, renewable energy of today." Concerned consumers can sign Greenpeace's online #ClickClean petition asking these big players to step up and commit to renewable energy and environmentally responsible operations.

CONTACTS: Apple Environmental Responsibility, www.apple.com/environment; Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Helmet from A7

The complaint says on Aug. 22, despite two players suffering concussions during the same drill earlier in the week, the drill continued.

And after one play on another drill, in which full-speed contact was required, Sheely

told Assistant Coach Jamie Schumacher that he "didn't feel right" and that he had a "headache," the complaint says. Sheely was not removed from the practice, the complaint says, and Schumacher yelled "Stop your b****ing and moaning and quit acting like a p**** and get back out there Sheely!"

During a drill, Sheely was involved in a "relatively unremarkable" collision with a defensive back, according to the complaint. Sheely collapsed on the sidelines within a few minutes of the collision. He would never regain consciousness.

The complaint says Sheely suffered from second-impact

syndrome, which occurs when the brain swells rapidly after a person suffers a second concussion before symptoms from an earlier one have subsided.

Sheely was airlifted to a hospital, where doctors performed an emergency procedure to relieve pressure on the brain. He was in a coma for six days before he died.

Bill Passes to Permanently Preserve 22,000 Acres of Maryland Wild Areas

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Annapolis, Md. -- The Maryland General Assembly today passed legislation (SB 336/HB 296) to expand Maryland's Wildlands system by 50 percent, permanently protecting the wilderness character of 22,000 acres of sensitive State-owned lands. Governor Martin O'Malley formally proposed the legislation at the beginning of the General Assembly session in January.

"Maryland's Wildlands are the last remaining untouched landscapes and waterways of their kind, supporting sensitive ecosystems and many rare and vanishing plants and animals," said Governor O'Malley, who will sign the legislation into law. "It is our responsibility to

preserve these areas today, so there can be no question about how they will be used or developed in the future. The passing of this bill is another significant step forward in securing the health and prosperity of our natural world."

The last new Wildlands designations — made 12 years ago — expanded the system to 29 areas in 15 counties, covering 43,779 acres. Since then, DNR has acquired new properties that meet Wildlands criteria, with additional areas identified upon completion of an Old Growth Forests inventory and mapping of high conservation forests and environmentally sensitive areas on DNR-managed lands.

During 2013, the Department of Natural Resources conducted an extensive public review of an initial proposal, which resulted

in some modifications to better accommodate the needs and desires of citizens and stakeholders. The final version of the bill designates new or expanded Wildlands in Allegany, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, Somerset and Worcester counties.

"Under this designation, these primitive areas will be forever protected, remaining changeless under the watch of future land managers after our time here has long passed away," said DNR Secretary Joseph P. Gill.

Wildlands benefit the economy of local communities by attracting birdwatchers, photographers, backpackers and others who enjoy nature. Many Wildlands serve as home to rare and vanishing species such as hellbenders and purple-fringed orchids. Other recreational pursuits like hunting, fishing, trap-

ping, hiking and horseback riding, as well as research, are all permitted within the system.

More than 90 percent of citizens surveyed by the Maryland Greenways Commission said that some parts of Maryland should be left in their natural state forever.

"Ecologists, biologists and geologists say that conservation is needed on a landscape scale to maintain clean water, healthy air and diverse wildlife populations, and build ecosystem resilience to a rapidly changing climate," said Joel Dunn, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Conservancy. "Efforts like the expansion of the Maryland Wildlands Preservation System and conservation programs such as Program Open Space help make these goals possible, and we commend the Governor and the legislature for their support of this important expansion."

Cuba from A1

Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee Tuesday.

The social media platform was built through secret shell companies and financed through foreign banks, according to the Associated Press. Cuban users were not aware of the tool's connection to the U.S. government until last week.

Leahy called the Twitter program "cockamamie" and "dumb in its inception."

He and other senators expressed concern that the secretive program will taint USAID employees as spies, endangering those in sensitive or unstable locations. Leahy said he's already received emails from past and current agency employees from around the world asking, "How could they do this and put us in such danger?"

USAID is a government agency that seeks to assist struggling nations around the world through economic, development and humanitarian means while supporting U.S. foreign policy goals. It is best known as the institution responsible for administering civilian foreign aid.

"When I think about USAID, I think 'humanitarian'...I can't imagine why USAID would want to be involved or even should be involved...in something like going into a country and trying to get Internet access to people opposing the regime," said Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., at the hearing.

Leahy further condemned USAID and the Obama administration for failing to get Gross out of Cuba, where he has been held for more than four years in degrading health.

Gross's lawyer, Scott Gilbert, said USAID's actions have put him at greater risk.

"Once Alan was arrested, it is shocking that USAID would imperil his safety even further by running a covert operation in Cuba," said Gilbert, in a statement released Tuesday. "USAID has made one absurdly bad decision after another. Running this program is contrary to everything we have been told by high-level representatives of the Obama Administration about USAID's activities in Cuba."

Gross is currently serving his fifth year of a 15-year sentence, which, given his age and poor health, Leahy called "basically a death sentence."

Since his detainment, Gross has lost more than 110 pounds, said Gilbert. He is kept in a small cell with the lights on at all times with two other prisoners for 23 hours a day.

Gross was made aware of the risks he was taking in Cuba be-

fore departing on the mission, said Shah in his testimony.

Shah said the ZunZuneo program is in line with USAID's efforts to increase the flow of information in Cuba and denied reports that it was meant to foment dissent.

Wayne Smith, director of the Cuba Project at the Center for International Policy in Washington, and former chief of mission at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, said the initiative by USAID is going to backfire.

"This is not the sort of thing they should be involved in. I couldn't disagree more with the whole idea," he said. "This incident can only serve to worsen relations between the United States and Cuba. We were headed in the right direction...but this was clearly trying to undercut the Cuban government."