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Photograph of Milford Sound, New Zealand,

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS BY MPERRIN

Leading at Home and Internationally to Protect Our Ocean and Coasts

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

"We've already shown that when we work together, we can protect our oceans for future generations. So let's redouble our efforts. Let's make sure that years from now we can look our children in the eye and tell them that, yes, we did our part, we took

action, and we led the way toward a safer, more stable world."
— President Barack Obama,
June 17, 2014

President Obama is committed to protecting the ocean and its marine ecosystems. Americans all over the country depend on the ocean for food, jobs, and recreation. But the health of our ocean is under threat on multiple

fronts, from overfishing to carbon pollution. The recently released National Climate Assessment confirms that climate change is causing sea levels and ocean temperatures to rise. Changing temperatures can harm coral reefs and force certain species to migrate. In addition, carbon pollution is being absorbed by the oceans, causing them to acidify, which can dam-

age coastal shellfish beds and reefs, altering entire marine ecosystems. In fact, the acidity of our ocean is changing 50 times faster than any known change in millions of years. And black market fishing—fishing that is illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU)—continues to pose a ma-

Applying to College Following a Concussion: One Student's Road Map

By MICHAEL-ANN HENRY
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Mia Dinardo, a senior at Frederick High School in Frederick County, doesn't remember much about the soccer game Sept. 17 that led to a collision that knocked her face down into the grass, unable to get up.

She had to learn to deal with symptoms of the resulting concussion that kept her out of high school for six weeks -- including headaches that strike when she reads and writes. She had to learn to fill out college applications despite that pain, including to her top choice, the University of Maryland.

But her experience proved the college application process and the coursework required for college can be completed even with some lingering concussion symptoms, she said. She had to marshal help from a variety of sources, though -- including family, high school teachers and counselors. And

she had to learn to advocate for herself.

Dinardo had originally planned to apply to five colleges, but she dropped the number to three when she found she couldn't finish Penn State University's and Florida State University's applications. Essay writing had become difficult for her, she said.

Her final lineup was Miami University, Ohio State University and Maryland.

Dinardo said she made sure to add the story of her concussion into the extenuating circumstances section of the Maryland application -- as instructed by Frederick High School guidance counselor Danielle Moore.

Moore said she also encourages high school students with extenuating circumstances to call college admissions offices with the information about their cases.

Colleen Newman, who has worked in the University of Maryland's admissions office for four years and has been in



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MICHAEL-ANN HENRY.

Mia Dinardo suffered a concussion playing soccer in September that made applying to colleges difficult.

the admissions field for eight, said it has been rare for applicants to include that they had a concussion. "I think it's possible that they don't think it's important or that they aren't sure what they should and shouldn't share," Newman said.

However, in the past three years Newman has seen an in-

crease in students sharing their concussion details in their applications, she said. The details help admissions officers "to better put into context how a concussion may have impacted a student academically," she said.

See CONCUSSION Page A3

Solar-Powered Charging Stations Headed to Campus

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

(Bowie, Md.) -- May 22, 2014 -- The Bowie State University campus community and visitors will now have a convenient, more energy efficient way to power up their mobile devices with the installation of two solar-powered charging stations this week.

In a continued effort to create a green campus and encourage sustainable lifestyles, the Division of Administration and Finance purchased the charging stations in part by using funds from a new student fee designated for sustainability projects.

These projects will bring cutting-edge technology to the campus.

The first-of-its-kind charging stations provide a lighted, covered outdoor table and seating for up to eight people, plus two wheelchairs, where you can recharge your mobile phone, laptop and tablet, camera, and more, while using clean sustainable energy. Each station is equipped with six power outlets and four USB outlets, with an automatic shut-off system during unsafe, rainy conditions.

One station will be located just outside of the Student Center near parking lot J and the other between the Crawford Science Building and the Computer Science Building for convenient use.

A Nonprofit Casino Neighbor Wants A Higher Profile

By JACE EVAN
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE -- When the Horseshoe Casino opens on Russell Street later this year, Noah Smock hopes his small nonprofit somehow benefits.

"All of the advance material that I've seen from the casino is talking about how important it is for them to be engaged in the community," Smock said as he sat in his office at the Baltimore Community ToolBank. "So the first thought I have is, taking them at their word, I think that that's an opportunity."

The giant, glamorous casino would seem, at first glance, to have little in common with the ToolBank, which sits in a low building in the unglamorous Carroll-Camden Industrial Area across Russell Street from the gambling site.

The casino offers entertainment and the chance for riches. The ToolBank lends building equipment to churches, clubs, community groups -- any nonprofit working on community projects. The ToolBank, Smock says, is a nonprofit created to help other nonprofits.

See NONPROFIT Page A3

WARNING - All Consumer Fireworks are Illegal in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG Fire Department

Prince George's County is one of three jurisdictions in Maryland that prohibit all consumer fireworks. This law is designed to protect you and those around you.

Citizens, businesses and visitors should know that any consumer purchased fireworks are illegal in Prince George's County. All fireworks from sparklers up to ground display are illegal - our law removes any doubt about what is permitted and what is not!!! All consumer fireworks are not permitted in Prince George's County.

Consumer purchased backyard fireworks can cause injuries and damage from fires. Please enjoy your fireworks at one of the many public displays.

Penalties for violation of this law carries up to \$1,000 in fines and 6 months in jail. Enjoy Fourth of July safely and legally, attend a public or municipal display.

To demonstrate the power of a seemingly innocent fire cracker invite you to watch this video. A small firecracker is inserted into a melon. Imagine you are holding this same firecracker in your hand when it explodes!!!

Don't try this at home. These displays were conducted by members of the Fire/EMS Department Bomb Squad under strict safety guidelines!

Facts & Figures from the National Fire Protection Association

- In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported civilian deaths, 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage

- In 2011, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,600 people for

See FIREWORKS Page A3

INSIDE

O'Malley Issues Executive Order to Study School Construction Funding

The Governor signed the order directing the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) to work with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) and conduct a study on school construction in Maryland. **Community, Page A3**

Mikulski Heralds Women's Health Initiative Report Detailing Health and Economic Gains

Senator Mikulski was instrumental in working on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to help establish the NIH's Office of Women's Health and fought to include women in these clinical trials. **Commentary, Page A4**

Baker Announces Landmark Agreement with MGM Resorts

In addition to local hiring and contracting goals, the agreement sets up sustained philanthropic commitments. Before the opening of the facility, MGM has agreed to donate \$1 million to local organizations that provide workforce training and to non-profits that benefit the County. **Business, Page A5**

MovieReview: "Edge of Tomorrow"

Caught in a bizarre time loop and unable to convince anyone it's happening, Cage teams up with Rita Vrataski, a Special Forces soldier who's become the Army's poster child for badassery. She believes Cage about the time loop because the same thing happened to her for a while. **Out on the Town, Page A6**

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How does the Rocky Mountain Institute think we can get off of oil and coal by 2050 and save money in the process?

— James Greenville, Redding, CT

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Crossland '69 and Potomac '74 reunions coming up

Crossland Class of 1969 is celebrating its 45th anniversary Sept. 5-7. Email cindyrohs3@hotmail.com or visit www.crossland1969.com.

Potomac High Class of 1974 40th reunion will be held Sept. 26 at Aloft Washington Hotel in National Harbor. The Marlow Heights '60s and '70s Back-to-School Dance will follow on Sept. 27. Call Rod Adams, 702-759-0004, email rra1956@gmail.com, or marlowheights60sand70s.com.

Is your school planning a reunion? Call me.

Andrews' concerts, open to the public

Joint Base Andrews has something special coming up for the local community — Heritage Park. Construction began June 2 and the park will be ready for free military concerts, open to the public, on July 12 and Sept. 6.

Heritage Park, located near the Allentown Road gate, is being built in two phases. The first features drainage and concrete surrounding a grass field. (I think that's what I've been seeing, in progress, as I drive Allentown Road.) Phase two, slated to begin next year, will include a brick wall marking the site and three displays of military aircraft.

Changing landscape

Strayer University's new campus on Auth Way in Camp Springs looks like it'll be ready for the fall term, maybe sooner.

Thomas Clagett Elementary School in District Heights may close next year due to low enrollment and poor test scores.

Neighbors

A happy 4th of July to all of you, and — if you read this in time — don't forget to show up for the Morningside Parade which will march Suitland Road beginning at 11:30. Then come

back for some fantastic fireworks at dusk.

There was a good turnout for Councilman Obie Patterson's Community Coffee at our local McDonald's. Not only did we get free coffee, but we had Mr. Patterson, several of his staff and County Police officers to chat with. Worthwhile gathering.

Happy 60th anniversary to David and Joan Poland who were wed June 11, 1954 at Bells U.M. Church in Camp Springs. Dave is retired from the D.C. Government and Joan from the Federal Government. Their daughters Susan and Debbie, and their grandchildren, hosted a party in their honor.

Father Kevin J. Regan has been appointed pastor at Holy Family Parish in Hillcrest Heights. He previously served as administrator there. Father Thomas LaHood was installed as the new pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Upper Marlboro. He previously served as pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg.

I voted early, on the Wednesday before Primary Day, at the Suitland Community Center on Regency Lane. I was the only voter at the time. I asked one of the judges how busy they'd been and she said early voting was going pretty well (though not while I was there), but Sunday was very slow.

And speaking of the election: I got about 30 automated calls from candidates and their family members and friends. I never listened. Hung up immediately. It's a rotten idea.

Former resident Sue Mason emailed that she enjoyed my recap of how things were when the McHales moved here in June 1958. She added, "I loved those old days and remember all those places you named. When I would visit my sister in growing up there, we would attend the Morningside Baptist Sunday School even though we were

very Methodist."

I also had memories from former Morningsider Jody Nyers and will run them in next week's column.

My daughter Therese reminded me that we didn't move to 4304 Skyline Drive in 1958, we moved to 5904. It's interesting that she recalled our address change; I'd forgotten.

May they rest in peace

Mary Louise Cady Peacock, 87, formerly of Fort Washington, died June 19. She was the wife of the late Dr. Bernard F. Peacock who used to have medical offices in Marlow Heights. She is survived by six children, Maureen Brazier, Timothy, Joani, Bernard, Clare and Joseph Peacock, and seven grandchildren.

Herbert Hoover Miller, 85, of Riva, a 1946 graduate of the old Maryland Park High School, died June 8. He served with the Army in Germany and then began a long career with Bell Atlantic. He had been Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge #2528 in Deale, a member of American Legion Post 226 in Mayo, Grace Brethren Church in Owings and a lifetime member of the Capitol Heights Fire Department. Survivors include four daughters, two stepdaughters, five siblings and numerous grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Grace Caruth, Matthew Ryan White and Nya Nichols, July 4; Jean Ihrig and Timothy Hollowsky, July 5; Chrissy Bennett and Marie Goli-hew, July 6; Father Kevin Cusick, Charles "Tony" Haley, Sue Richards and Rev. Dr. Kelvin McCune, July 7; Jimmy Gromen and Anthony Curcio-Bobbitt, July 8; Steve Dameron, Karlyn Davis, John Anthony III and my grandson Zachary Seidman, July 9; and my daughter Elaine Seidman, July 10.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

WASHINGTON NATIONALS & M-NCPPC BASEBALL CLINIC

Co-ed youth are invited to attend free baseball clinics Saturday July 12, 2014 from 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM. The clinics will be conducted by local high school coaches. Ages for the camp are 7-15. Bring your baseball equipment (glove, bat, shoes, hat and water) for active participation. The Baseball clinics will be held at Prince George's Sports Park 13200 Woodmore Road in Mitchellville Maryland. Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

A Horseback Riding Camp will be Monday, July 7, 2014-Friday July 11, 2014. The Camp offers a chance to explore the world of horses. Riding instruction, horse care and other various activities are included at the camp. The camp will take place at: Hideaway Horse Center, 12301 Crossroad Trail, Brandywine, Maryland. The Smart Link

number is 1386468. Contact number is 301-782-3200.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Thanks to all the participants in the 4th Annual Golfing for Education Tournament (Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPs, Inc.). The tournament was held at the Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville, Maryland Thursday, June 19, 2014. Your ongoing support of this annual event makes it possible for the Foundation to continue our commitment to academic excellence for all students. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the students we serve.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards scholarships and other education-related programs. With your help we will continue to provide out students with the tools for success.

CLUB 300 GROUP WALK

Seniors are invited to join Club 300 for the Summer Walking Program. You will be walk-

ing through Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area together. Walking is an easy way to stay in shape. The Summer Walking Program is free. Patuxent River Park is located at 16700 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Contact 301-446-3400.

THE SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON

Xtreme Teens get ready to rock the boat on the Spirit of Washington Party Thursday, July 31, 2014 with Young Motive. You will sail down the Potomac with dinner, dancing and a live DJ. Please wear dressy casual attire (no jeans allowed). Large bags/duffel bags will not be allowed on the bus or boat.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 30, 2014; make sure you have a valid M-NCPPC Smart Link account. Residents pay \$25.00. Register on line or at any community center location for ages 11-16. Bus Transportation and Pick-up locations provided. Contact 301-341-3749; TTY 301-445-4512. SMART Link# 1467417

Neighborhood Events

PG County Executive Named Honorary Chair of Library's Summer Reading Program

HYATTSVILLE, Md.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System announced today Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III will serve as honorary chair of the library's science-themed summer reading program.

"I am proud to serve as honorary chair for the 'Fizz, Boom, Read!' summer reading program. I applaud the efforts of our public library system to encourage summer reading for children and youth in our community," Baker said.

"Reading is one of the best ways to stimulate their young minds as well as continue learning during the summer months. The wonder of reading and the adventures found in books can transport us to new places, different cultures, back in history, into the future and to faraway lands."

The summer reading program, which runs through August, offers activities throughout the summer for preschool, elementary, middle and high school students and adults of all ages. Participants receive game boards and can earn badges and prizes as well as attend special events throughout the summer.

"This initiative will help young people to expand their imaginations and expose them to new worlds," Baker said. "Though I struggled with reading as a child, I later developed a lifelong love of books and reading that changed my life. I hope this program will challenge, motivate and inspire our residents, young and old, to the many wonders that books and reading can bring to their lives."

Participants can register for the summer reading program at all library branches or online at www.pgcmcls.info/Summer-AtYourLibrary.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System provides materials and information for study and personal enrichment, offering strategies for lifelong learning through access to varied media and professional guidance. The library system consists of branches in 19 communities including Ac-cokeek, Baden, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, South Bowie, Spauldings, Surratts-Clinton and Upper Marlboro. (www.pgcmcls.info)

Rick Wuest is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Winner in Maryland

Award Recognizes Entrepreneurial Excellence in Family Business

LANHAM, MD — Ernst & Young named Thompson Creek Window Company President and CEO Rick Wuest a winner in the Family Business category of the Entrepreneur of the Year Maryland Awards. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and

personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Wuest was selected by an independent panel of judges, and the award was presented at a special gala event on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel.

"It is an honor to be included among Maryland business leaders who have worked hard to build their dream companies," said Wuest. "We've all taken risks to innovate and expand our businesses and it's nice to be recognized for it."

As a Maryland award winner, Wuest is now eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2014 national program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 15, 2014.

Thompson Creek is a family owned company that Wuest took over from his father in 2000, simultaneously taking the company's products directly to the consumer for the first time. Success quickly followed and today Thompson Creek Window Company is the largest, most successful replacement window company in the mid-Atlantic region.

Laurel student selected for internship at Youth Villages

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rashidat Gbadegesin of Laurel, Maryland, was selected for an internship at Youth Villages, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and families live successfully.

Youth Villages provides a wide variety of programs to help children who may have suffered abuse or neglect, or who may have emotional and behavioral issues. Gbadegesin is interning at Youth Villages' Dogwood Campus just outside of Memphis, Tennessee, helping children in residential treatment learn more positive behavior patterns and deal with past trauma.

Gbadegesin is a senior in college. She is majoring in social work at Salisbury University and sociology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Headquartered in Memphis, Youth Villages this year will help more than 22,000 children and families in 11 states and Washington, D.C., through a wide array of programs, including intensive in-home services, residential treatment, foster care and adoption, transitional living services, mentoring and crisis services. Youth Villages' focus on strengthening families consistently produces an 80 percent success rate of children living successfully at home or in a home-like setting two years after completing a Youth Villages program. Youth Villages has been recognized by Harvard Business School and U.S. News & World Report, and recently was identified by The White House as one of the nation's most promising results-oriented nonprofit or-

ganizations. For more information about Youth Villages, visit www.youthvillages.org.

PG County Announces Cooling Center Locations

The National Weather Service advises temperatures in excess of 90 degrees with extreme heat and humidity conditions. The Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management warns that extreme heat can be dangerous and even deadly, if citizens do not take precautionary measures to protect themselves, their families and their pets.

"As we move into the summer months, it is very important that our residents take the steps necessary to stay safe and prevent heat related illnesses," said Ronald E. Gill Jr., Director, Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management. "Remember to minimize outdoor activity, stay hydrated and check on your neighbors, especially the elderly, to ensure that they do not fall victim to the heat."

We are encouraging citizens who are in need of relief from the heat to visit one of our designated Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Recreational Facility Cooling Centers. These neighborhood facilities have been identified and are open to all County residents. In addition, residents are encouraged to seek relief in other air-conditioned facilities such as theatres, shopping malls, grocery stores or libraries.

The following permanent Cooling Center Locations will be open to the General Public:

Weekday Hours of Operation (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.); Weekend Hours of Operation - Residents are encouraged to call the facility to confirm hours. All centers will offer a cooling area with seating any-time temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher.

Baden Community Center
13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine
301-888-1500;
TTY 301-203-6030

Beltsville Community Center Park
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville
301-937-6613;
TTY 301-445-4512

Bladensburg Community Center Park
4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg
301-277-2124;
TTY 301-445-4512
Información en español: 301-445-4509

Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie
301-464-1737;
TTY 301-218-6768

Cedar Heights Community Center Park
1200 Glen Willow Drive, Seat Pleasant
301-773-8881;
TTY 301-218-6768

College Park Community Center Park and Soccer Complex
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park
301-441-2647;
TTY 301-445-4512

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

What to Do if You Inherit Someone's 401(k)

Talk about good news wrapped in bad: In the midst of grieving the loss of a loved one, you learn that you were named beneficiary of their 401(k) plan. Chances are you've got too much on your mind to make any sudden decisions about what to do with the money.

However, don't procrastinate too long. The IRS has ironclad rules, deadlines and penalties concerning inherited retirement accounts, which vary depending on what type of account it is. This column discusses inherited 401(k) and similar employer-provided plans.

Under federal law, surviving spouses automatically inherit their spouse's 401(k) plan unless someone else was named beneficiary and the surviving spouse signed a written waiver. If someone is single at death, their plan's assets go to their designated beneficiary.

The IRS has basic tax and distribution rules and timetables for inherited 401(k) plans. However, the plans themselves are allowed to set more restrictive guidelines if they choose, so read the plan documents carefully. Basically:

You must pay income tax on distributions (except for Roth accounts, which have already been taxed), although you may be able to spread out withdrawals and tax payments over a number of years, depending on how you structure it.

Many 401(k) plans require beneficiaries to withdraw the money in either a lump sum or separate payments extending no longer than five years after the person's death; however, some will allow you to keep the money in the plan indefinitely, so check their rules.

Note that distributions will be added to your taxable income for the year, which can greatly increase your tax bite. Thus, many people prefer to spread the payments out as long as possible. Plus, the longer funds remain in the account, the longer they accrue earnings, tax-free.

If the original account holder had already reached the mandatory withdrawal age of 70 ½, you may be allowed to continue withdrawing funds according to his or her withdrawal schedule. Your minimum annual withdrawal amount is based on your own life expectancy, according to IRS tables (see Appendix C in IRS Publication 590 at www.irs.gov). Alternatively, you could speed up the payment schedule or take a lump sum.

You may also be able to transfer your balance into an "inherited IRA," which must be named and maintained separately from your other IRAs. With an inherited IRA, you must withdraw a certain amount each year, based on your life expectancy. Distributions must begin the year following the donor's death, regardless of whether or not you're retired.

Make sure the 401(k) trustee transfers funds directly to the inherited IRA's trustee so you never touch the money; otherwise the transfer may be voided and you'll have to pay taxes on the entire sum that year.

Surviving spouses have an additional option: Instead of opening an inherited IRA, they're also allowed to do a "spousal rollover," which means rolling over the balance into an existing or new IRA in their own name. The key advantage of a spousal rollover is that you don't have to begin taking mandatory withdrawals until you reach 70 ½, unlike inherited IRAs where you must begin withdrawals the year after the donor's death.

One last point: Always withdraw at least the required minimum distribution (RMD) amount each year, if one is specified. If not, you'll pay a penalty equal to 50 percent of the difference between the RMD and what you actually withdrew.

Bottom line: Talk to a financial or legal expert before taking any action on your inheritance.



O'Malley Issues Executive Order to Study School Construction Funding

O'Malley-Brown Administration to Examine Funding Structures to Maximize Investments in State School Construction Projects

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Annapolis, MD (May 6, 2014) -- Governor O'Malley today issued an executive order as part of an effort to build on the record investments Maryland has made in recent years to construct 21st century school facilities across Maryland.

The Governor signed the order directing the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) to work with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) and conduct a study on school construction in Maryland. Building on the record school construction funding during the O'Malley-Brown Administration, the State will work to continue investment in school facilities and ensure that we replace temporary learning shacks with 21st century teaching and learning environments to better prepare Maryland students for the new innovation economy.

"We've made a commitment to Maryland families to make education a top priority and improve student achievement by 25 percent by 2015. Even in the face of the worst national recession since the Great Depression, we've made record investments for the last seven years in our top-ranked public schools, along with \$2.7 billion in school

construction, to make this goal a reality," Governor O'Malley said. "We've made tremendous progress, and our efforts are paying off, but there is still more work to do. This executive order will lay the groundwork for protecting our hard-earned progress so that every child, parent and educator will have the tools they need to win the 21st century, not just in Maryland, but across the globe."

"When we invest in school construction, we're building a brighter future for more of Maryland's young people and ensuring that every student in our state has the opportunity to learn and train in a safe, high quality facility," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "While we've made record investments in Maryland's schools and built one of the best school systems in the country, our work is far from finished. Together, we're going to continue to invest in our children's futures, giving them the education and training today that they'll need to compete for the jobs of tomorrow."

The order also directs the IAC to make recommendations -- consistent with the goals of maintaining a structurally balanced state budget and sound debt management practices -- on:

1. developing creative means, financing or otherwise, to increase funding for public

school construction;

2. creating more reliable revenue streams that could include leveraging funds by counties to meet public school construction needs;

3. the use of lease payments or other alternative financing methods; and

4. local funding for public school construction, county tax capacity, and county tax effort.

During a recent visit to Maryland, Moody's chief economist Mark Zandi cited investments in education and infrastructure as key components for building a strong business climate. Maryland is already investing an additional \$4.4 billion over the next 6 years on top of what was already planned -- and creating more than 57,000 jobs -- to build roads, bridges and transit projects as a result of the 2013 Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act.

The study in this executive order will help ensure that we responsibly increase our investment in school construction as well. This will help stimulate business growth, boost Maryland's economy, and develop our students' ability to compete for good jobs in the global, high-technology economy.

Specifically, the order requires the development of a robust school construction program that will further State policies on high per-

formance building design, the revitalization and stabilization of existing communities, resilience in the face of emergency events, as well as Minority Business Enterprise participation. The study will also include efforts to pursue a path forward by looking at the best options for meeting the financial demands of public school construction.

The order also directs lead agencies to solicit input from the State Treasurer's Office, county boards of education, and county governments. The order calls for the final report to be delivered to the Governor on or before September 1, 2015.

After five years of number-one-in-the nation rankings, the O'Malley-Brown Administration's FY 15 budget included over \$6 billion in new investments in education and an additional \$275 million in school construction.

The Governor recently signed the Administration's 2014 pre-k education legislation into law, expanding options for 1600 additional preschoolers across Maryland through a grant program and paving the way for further statewide expansion in coming years. According to College Board, Maryland not only has the lowest college tuition in the nation, students in Maryland also rank #1 in AP success.

Nonprofit from A1

So if a church or another community organization needs wheelbarrows, hoes and rakes, the ToolBank rents them out.

Hoping for some notice But a big part of Smock's job is to let Baltimore know that the ToolBank exists. He's hoping the casino's presence helps.

"I think it's going to bring in a lot of vibrant activity into the space because we're in an industrial park," he said. "And as dynamic as some of the businesses and the community interest are that are here, more activity should mean more positive exposure for Baltimore."

Concussion from A1

They do not erase academic performance, but they allow a university to make an informed decision, Newman said.

Ohio State University, one of Dinardo's other college options, does not have a similar avenue for students suffering a concussion to share their story in their applications. The university uses a common application -- used by more than 500 colleges and universities -- which does not ask for extenuating circumstances, said admissions counselor Polly Pinelli.

And not all believe those details should be shared in an application. Vincent Vanzuela of Collegewise, a division of The Princeton Review that provides college admission counseling services, said he does not think that concussion information should be included unless the student plans to play sports in college. The information is unrelated to a student's academic plans, he said.

The college application may not be the only stumbling block after a concussion.

The ToolBank, which opened in 2012, has 250 member agencies, and Smock said this number increases by two or three a week. Smock, 34, began his job as executive director in January.

"If we're not doing good community work we're not doing our job. We only exist to make other work possible," Smock said.

To help with that community work, Smock sees the opportunity to recruit casino employees to volunteer at the ToolBank. The ToolBank isn't lacking for things to do. Smock is one of only two who work full time there.

"If they're sincere in their efforts and don't just want window

ates every proposal it receives from community groups.

Smock is slightly concerned that the success of the casino could lead to an increase in rents in his industrial park. "I cannot imagine a better space than this and I would never want to leave. So I want to make sure that our lease does not skyrocket."

But he said he's not worried about the increased traffic some neighbors have warned will start with the opening of the casino. "If we have more people driving by our facility, more people aware of what we do, that's just an opportunity for us to do more good work," he said. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

stricting her from anything that would cause a headache, like extensive writing.

"Yeah, the grades may drop a little bit, but that's where the 504 plan steps in to make it equitable, so their grades aren't affected too negatively," Moore said.

"Luckily, I was taking film study, publications (yearbook) and tech theatre at that time, so my fourth class, AP human geography, was one of the only classes I had to struggle to catch up on," Dinardo said.

Her human geography teacher made packets that summarized the lessons and allowed her to "cover most of the information with the least amount of work possible," she said.

She had a more difficult time getting accommodations her second semester, she said. "I was taking AP literature, statistics and probability and AP Spanish. ... Because I had gotten the concussion months before, none of my second semester teachers really believed me about the severity of my concussion, or they just assumed the symptoms had blown over, so I wasn't very well

accommodated the few times that I felt I needed to be," Dinardo said.

She said her mom helped by reading some of her class material to her.

She finds school more difficult now, even with the medication she takes to manage her symptoms. "Before I was mostly straight As. I never really struggled with school. ... Afterwards, I would still understand things, but I don't think I test as well as I used to," she said.

Despite the setbacks, Dinardo was accepted to all three of the schools she applied to. She said she plans to study criminology at the University of Maryland.

Her advice to others experiencing similar symptoms and hurdles?

"The best advice I feel like I can give is just to take it as an incredibly serious injury -- whether it seems like one or not. I've had a few friends who have gotten concussions and just written them off as nothing, and that's one of the things that worries me most, because it's so dangerous," Dinardo said.

Fireworks from A1

fireworks related injuries; 61% of 2011 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 34% were to the head.

The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 5-19, and adults 25-44 in an atypical year of a very comparable risk across much of the population. Over the past several years, during the July 4th week, there has not been any significant injury or property damage in Prince George's County. Our fireworks law is a law we can live with!

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks ac-

count for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS BY JON SULLIVAN.
Independence Day fireworks in San Diego.

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Heralds Women's Health Initiative Report Detailing Significant Health and Economic Gains

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today heralded a new report released earlier this month that found investments in a Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Postmenopausal Hormone Therapy Trial through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has resulted in significant long-term health gains for women and a return of \$140.00 in net economic value for each dollar invested in the trial.

"This report goes to show that including women in health research saves lives and saves money," said Senator Mikulski, Dean of the Senate women. "For far too long, women were being excluded from clinical research trials and women's health issues were being ignored. Twenty years ago, women did not have much to celebrate when it came to scientific advances — we weren't even at the table. Now researchers look at disease in a gender-specific way, and we've made great strides in breast cancer and cervical cancer research, AIDS research and mapping the human genome. Women's health researchers have made important strides, but we must remain vigilant. I will continue fighting to make sure that women are adequately represented in clinical trials that save lives."

The WHI, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), has followed women in the study since 1993. Senator Mikulski was instrumental in working on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to help establish the NIH's Office of Women's Health and fought to include women in these clinical trials. A paper exam-

ining the long-term financial and health outcomes of the study was published this week in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The report found that each dollar of investment in this women's health study has resulted in \$140.00 in net economic return, for a total of more than \$37 billion since 1993. Additionally, the analysis found that the result of the WHI clinical trial led to:

- 76,000 fewer cases of cardiovascular disease
- 4.3 million fewer combined hormone therapy users
- 126,000 fewer breast cancer cases
- 145,000 more quality-adjusted life years
- \$35.2 billion in direct medical expenditure savings

Senator Mikulski, a life-long advocate for women's health, helped create the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Women's Health after she learned the NIH was not including women in its clinical trials. She is continuing to charge forward in her fight to include women in federally backed medical research. She recently joined a bicameral group of legislators in requesting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study whether there are a sufficient number of women in additional NIH clinical trials to provide meaningful results. That letter is available here. In addition, Senator Mikulski was among a bipartisan group of women Senators last week to urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) include more women and minorities in clinical trials. That letter is available here.

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Mayor Baraka — A New Direction for Newark

"When I become mayor, we all become mayor."
 — Ras Baraka,
 new mayor of Newark, New Jersey

Add Newark, New Jersey to the list of big cities now being headed by a new wave of progressive mayors. On the heels of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's successful "economic inequality" campaign last year, another urban crusader, Ras Baraka, was elected mayor of Newark on May 13. A Newark native, city councilman, high school principal and son of the city's most well-known poet and activist, the late Amiri Baraka, he will be sworn in on July 1.

Baraka succeeds interim mayor, Luis Quintana, who became the acting mayor last October when former mayor, Cory Booker, was elected to the U.S. Senate. Facing an unemployment rate of 13%, a resurgence of homicides, and a budget deficit of \$93 million, Baraka ran a populist campaign highlighted by his local roots, his experience as an educator and a promise to fight to regain local control of Newark's public schools, which have been under the jurisdiction of the state for the past two decades.

Education was an over-riding issue in the campaign, as it has increasingly become in communities across the nation. Baraka staunchly defended public education and received enthusiastic support and financing from the Newark Teachers Union. He also stressed his progressive roots, as the son of renowned poets, Amina and Amiri Baraka, a family that has lived in Newark for more than 70 years.

Further distinguishing his progressive background during the campaign, Baraka touted his 20 years as a community organizer, his stint

as Deputy Mayor in 2002 and his 2010 election to the Newark Municipal Council representing the South Ward. He has also served as principal of Newark's Central High School and taught elementary school for 10 years.

Undaunted by opposition from Cami Anderson, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's appointee as superintendent of Newark's public schools, Baraka has been in the forefront of widespread community resistance to the state's One Newark reorganization plan, which involves closing and consolidating some neighborhood schools to make space for more charter schools. While not categorically opposed to charter schools, Baraka rallies against what he sees as a top-down, profit-driven privatization of Newark's schools. He is calling for more community input and, ultimately, a return of decision-making to local authorities.

As urban America faces a plethora of challenges stemming from worsening educational, income and economic inequality, a growing number of cities and mayors are fighting back with progressive policies that put people above profit, support living wages, and are designed to give more working families a real shot at the middle class. In addition to the new mayors of Newark and New York, Marty Walsh, a former union leader, is the newly-elected mayor of Boston. Also, Edward Murray, who became mayor of Seattle in January, has called for raising the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Like Murray, who describes his administration as "committed to progressive principles and practical solutions," Ras Baraka and a new wave of progressive mayors are taking the lead for urban America as Washington continues to be mired in gridlock.

London Town and Gardens



Open to the Public

LONDON TOWN AND GARDENS

23-acre museum and park features history, archaeology, and horticulture. Explore the Historic Area, which includes the circa 1760 William Brown House, a National Historic Landmark, reconstructed colonial buildings, and an ongoing archaeological investigation in search of the "lost town" of London. Wander the eight-acre Woodland Garden of native plants and exotic species arranged along a one-mile trail before enjoying the seasonal Ornamental Gardens overlooking the South River. Our modern Visitor Center and Pavilion support weddings, business meetings, family events, as well as school and group tours. Museum hours are every Wednesday through Saturday, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday hours are 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Admission is free to members \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors and \$52.00 for children ages 7 to 17. There is no charge to explore the gardens.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Inspiring Lessons from Seattle Pacific University

On June 14th I had the honor of giving the undergraduate commencement address at Seattle Pacific University. Commencement speakers usually do their best to share a lesson or two with the graduates, but this year Seattle Pacific University students, administration, and faculty inspired me and people across the nation by how they responded after a campus tragedy that should have been unthinkable but instead has become all too routine: a shooting at their beloved school.

Just days before graduation a young man with a history of mental illness entered a science and engineering building on the university's campus armed with a shotgun and more than 50 rounds of ammunition and began firing. He killed 19-year-old freshman Paul Lee, a young man with an enormous smile whose friends said he was known for his laugh and sense of joy, and wounded two other students before 22-year-old student security monitor Jon Meis pepper-sprayed and tackled him as he paused to reload, ending the deadly rampage. The shooter's plan had been to harm as many people as possible before taking his own life.

The private Christian university's expressed mission is to equip students to engage the culture, change the world, and pursue scholarly excellence rooted in the gospel. How wonderful to see it in practice during such a difficult time. It brought the community closer together, united by a common sense of faith. While students expressed anger, there was also an immediate sense of forgiveness and mercy towards the shooter, with many expressing pity instead of hatred for him.

Jon Meis, the courageous student who stopped the attack, has been adamant about not wishing to be considered a hero. He helped set the tone in a powerful statement released after the shooting where he said: "[W]hat I find most difficult about this situation is the devastating reality that a hero cannot come without tragedy. In the midst of this attention, we cannot ignore that a life was taken from us, ruthlessly and without justification or cause.

Others were badly injured, and many more will carry this event with them the rest of their lives. Nonetheless, I would encourage that hate be met with love. When I came face to face with the attacker, God gave me the eyes to see that he was not a faceless monster, but a very sad and troubled young man. While I cannot at this time find it within me to forgive his crime, I truly desire that he will find the grace of God and the forgiveness of our community." Other students spent the day after the shooting in prayer circles and small groups studying passages like this one: "Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness." Sophomore Hallie Brinkman told a reporter what that passage meant to her: "'Everyone is shocked and angry,' she said of the campus and the pervasive sense of violation. But at least in her circle of friends, she said, sympathy, charity, and forbearance are fighting back. Of the gunman, she said, 'I haven't heard anyone, so far, say anything other than, 'I feel sorry for the guy.''"

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the new *The*

Book of Forgiving coauthored with his daughter says: "It is perfectly normal to want to hurt back when you have been hurt. But hurting back rarely satisfies. We think it will, but it doesn't. If I slap you after you slap me, it does not lessen the sting I feel on my own face, nor does it diminish my sadness over the fact that you have struck me. Retaliation gives, at best, only momentary respite from our pain. The only way to experience healing and peace is to forgive. Until we can forgive, we remain locked in our pain and locked out of the possibility of experiencing healing and freedom, locked out of the possibility of being at peace." The genuine sense of forgiveness and grace at Seattle Pacific University is remarkable. The school's students, faculty, and administration truly struggle to live their faith. I was deeply moved that my mother's favorite hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," opened the graduation ceremony, walling off despair though not sadness during this difficult time. Even in the middle of tragedy and loss there was also a profound sense of gratitude that the attack was able

See WATCH, Page A5

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Building A Better Relationship With Your Boss

Recent economic problems have most companies pushing harder to get maximum performance from every employee. As a result, many people find themselves facing a harsher work environment and deteriorating relationships with supervisors as performance goals become more critical.

Building and maintaining positive relations with your boss will pay benefits in terms of reducing work-related stress, improving overall job satisfaction, and how you are treated (and paid) at your job.

But a more positive relationship with your boss doesn't just happen. Getting there requires you being pro-active and taking the lead in building that better relationship.

Start by learning about what matters to your boss. As you learn your supervisor's values and concerns, it becomes easier to interact with him or her as a person, rather than simply as a boss.

It's also important to understand your boss's expectations. Are there reports or other job actions your supervisor needs to do his or her own job? Are there certain "pet peeves," such as dress codes or timeliness, that matter a lot to him or her? Make time to talk with your supervisor and ask questions about what's really expected of you.

Communication is a vital step. That doesn't mean always being ready to complain, but rather being open and approachable. Ask periodically, in a genuine way, how you're doing. Make it easy for your boss to talk with you, try out new ideas, offer suggestions, and feel that his or her responsibilities can be shared with you. When there are problems, try a solution-based approach, offering ideas on how to fix things, rather than just complaining.

It also helps to be flexible. When meeting times, deadlines, or job goals are changed, it's easy to blame your boss for such problems, but it often isn't his or her fault. Blaming the boss won't improve a relationship. Instead, try to accept and adapt to changes, and realize that an employee who can handle the unexpected will be appreciated. Discuss the problem if the changes are really making something impossible for you.

A supervisor wants to know you're interested in more than just collecting a paycheck. Supervisors notice when there's open communication, when criticism is accepted in a positive manner, and when an employee is actively working to build a relationship that will help you both work better. And in tough economic times, a happier boss is a very good thing.

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

Business Spotlight

Johnson Publishing Company Announces Transition of JET Magazine to Digital Magazine

CHICAGO — Johnson Publishing Company (JPC), announced today that JET magazine, founded in 1951, will transition to a digital magazine app at the end of June. JPC is making the proactive decision to adapt to the changing needs of its readers as their desire to get information quickly and easily increases.

JET, the number three magazine in the African-American market, with a rate base of 700,000, started as a publication for Black-Americans to get weekly news on issues central to their community in a quick and easy to read format.

The new weekly digital magazine app will leverage a variety of storytelling tactics, including video interviews, enhanced digital maps, 3D charts and photography from the JPC archives. Breaking news will be updated daily. The app will be available on all tablet devices and mobile platforms. In addition, JET will publish an annual special print edition.

"Almost 63 years ago, my father, John Johnson, named the publication JET because, as he said in the first issue, 'In the world today, everything is moving faster. There is more news and far less time to read it,'" said Linda Johnson Rice, chairman of JPC. "He could not have spoken more relevant words today. We are not saying goodbye to JET, we are embracing the future as my father did in 1951 and taking it to the next level."

"The JET magazine online presence is continuing to grow, and JPC feels strongly we can provide great and timely content to our readers with the first weekly digital magazine app in the African-American space," said Desiree Rogers, CEO of JPC.

This JET online content will feature strong entertainment news along with politics, pop culture and social issues that impact African-Americans, as well as a new EBONY/JET digital store.

Kyra Kyles, formerly a senior editor of JET magazine and digital managing editor of JETmag.com, has been appointed the digital editorial director for JET online.

Baker Announces Landmark Agreement with MGM Resorts International to Bring Jobs, Business, and Investment to PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced the signing of a historic Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) between Prince George's County and MGM Resorts International that includes an ambitious commitment to hire county residents and ensure contracting opportunities for local businesses at the world class gaming facility and resort at National Harbor. Other highlights of the CBA include sustained charitable donations and educational opportunities for students and employees. In addition, the CBA opens up opportunities for County residents to invest in the project and institutes robust mechanisms for measuring and ensuring compliance with the agreement. The agreement is the result of months of negotiations between the County and MGM and goes above and beyond the local benefits and revenues already required by the state law authorizing gaming.

"After months of negotiating, I am proud to say that we have reached a deal with MGM that ensures this facility will have a transformative impact on our residents, businesses and commu-

nities," said Baker. "The goals for local hiring and contracting in this agreement are both ambitious and fair. I want to thank MGM for their dedication to this County and am hopeful that the County Council will support this landmark agreement."

The terms of the agreement establish a target of 40% of employees being county residents and veterans in years one and two, 45% in years three and four, and 50% in year five of operation as well as an aspirational goal of hiring county residents for 50% of all jobs at the facility by day one. The agreement also has a goal of hiring county residents for 20% of all construction jobs, with an aspirational goal of 30%. While the facility is in operation, MGM has committed to a best efforts goal of 20%—with an aspirational goal of 30%—of contracts being awarded to County-Based Minority Businesses (CMBE). During construction, MGM has agreed to use its best efforts to award 30% of contracts to Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), 12% to CMBEs, and 16% to local businesses (LBE), with aspirational goals of 35%, 15%, and 20%, respectively. The agreement spells out specific standards against which MGM's "best ef-

forts' to achieve these goals are judged and includes a process to ensure compliance.

"Prince George's County has never had an entity make a commitment of this scale in terms of bringing high quality and diverse jobs and contracting opportunities to our residents and businesses," said Roland Jones, Acting Director of the Office of Central Services, which is the primary County agency responsible for increasing job opportunities for residents and growing the capacity of local and minority businesses. "We believe that MGM has set reasonable but aggressive targets for employment and contracting, which — combined with their job training and business development programs — will be a game-changer for our County."

In addition to local hiring and contracting goals, the agreement sets up sustained philanthropic commitments. Before the opening of the facility, MGM has agreed to donate \$1 million to local organizations that provide workforce training and to non-profits that benefit the County. After the opening, MGM will donate \$400,000 each year, a funding commitment which—unlike most agreements for similar projects—does not expire. The Community Benefits Agreement also

contains provisions for educational opportunities, youth internships, a high school culinary program, and contractor scale-up and mentoring programs.

The Community Benefit Agreement has been submitted to the County Council, where approval is required in order to allow for the issuance of use and occupancy permits for MGM. "My office held productive meetings with the County Council early on in this process, before MGM's site plan was submitted, and their input was invaluable in forming the framework of this deal," said Baker. "I want to thank the Council for their hard work and am hopeful that they will support this historic agreement."

MGM Resorts International was awarded the State of Maryland's 6th Gaming License by the Maryland Video Lottery Facility Location Commission in December of 2013 following a year-long competitive bidding process. The approximately \$1 billion resort and casino will include a luxury hotel, restaurants, entertainment and retail and will generate over \$40 million in estimated annual County revenue, \$1.2 billion in projected State revenue over the first five years of operation, and approximately 4,000 direct permanent jobs.

Board of Public Works Approves \$446,908 in Agricultural Cost-Share Grants

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Board of Public Works Today approved \$446,908 in Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share grants, which help farmers install best management practices that significantly reduce nutrient runoff in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and accelerate Bay restoration. The O'Malley-Brown Administration has supported more farmer pollution reduction projects cost-share program than any other administration in the nearly three decades since the program began.

The Board approved grants for 34 projects in 11 counties that will prevent soil erosion, manage nutrient pollution and safeguard water quality

in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Together, these projects will prevent 3,760.83 pounds of nitrogen, 1,111.53 pounds of phosphorus, and 1,962.57 tons of soil from entering the Bay and its tributaries. These projects are funded by state general obligation bonds.

"Our farmers are true partners in protecting our natural resources, and Maryland continues to support their efforts by providing grants to install proven conservation measures and innovative, state-of-the-art practices," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Working together, we can ensure a smart, green and growing environment for future generations, preserve open space, and maintain the rich agricultural heritage of our State."

For the past 28 years, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been providing farmers with grants to cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install conservation measures known as best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to prevent soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Since the program started in 1984, farmers have installed 21,900 water quality projects. The average lifespan of a BMP is 10 to 15 years. Over the last 15 years, farmers spent \$15.8 million of their own money to match \$72.8 million in state cost share to install more than 10,800 water quality projects (not including annual practices like planting cover crops). In-

stallation of agricultural BMPs on farmland is a key feature of Maryland's recent plan submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Grassed waterways constructed to prevent gully erosion in farm fields, streamside buffers of grasses, trees planted to filter sediment and farm runoff, and animal waste management systems constructed to help farmers safely handle and store manure resources are among more than 30 BMPs currently eligible for MACS grants. For a summary of Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program Grants by County as of May 14, 2014, visit: http://www.mda.maryland.gov/Documents/bpw_macs-05-14-14.pdf

Watch from A4

to be stopped before more life was lost.

What if the shooter had had an assault weapon? The student security monitor was able to subdue the shooter because he had to stop to reload his shotgun. If he had been armed with a semi-automatic rifle and a large capacity magazine capable of firing more than a few rounds without reloading, the tragedy would almost certainly have grown—as we have seen over and over again in similar attacks. Instead a young man with a brave heart armed only with pepper spray was able to seize available seconds to act with the help of other unarmed bystanders and bring a tragedy to a quick end.

At the same time we must all ask: could this have been prevented from happening at all? The shooter, who reportedly had an obsession with the shootings at Columbine High School and a long history of mental illness,

was detained and committed to mental health facilities twice before the attack at Seattle Pacific University. In 2010 he called 911 to report he "had a rage inside him" and wanted to hurt himself and others, and in 2012 police found him lying intoxicated in a roadway, where he told officers he wanted a SWAT team "to get him and make him famous." Both times he was taken to a hospital for evaluation. His history of involuntary commitments to mental health facilities should have barred him from possessing a gun. Washington State does require reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, according to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, but does not have a universal background check law in place. At least one source says the shooter, who also reportedly worked for eight years at a gun range, used that loophole and purchased his gun legally through a private seller. And another critically important concern continues

to go unaddressed—the need to ensure timely and appropriate mental health treatment, in the community whenever possible, for children of all ages and for young adults. While steps have been taken in Connecticut and a few other states since the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, so much more is needed.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, the attack at Seattle Pacific University was the 73rd shooting on a school or college campus in the United States since the tragedy at Sandy Hook. I am so grateful to the Seattle Pacific University community for their witness of strength, forgiveness, and deep faith. Yet I am heartbroken that they and so many other children, youths, and adults walk in fear on a daily basis and keep having to worry about experiencing this at all. Why is our nation saturated with guns—four million in military and law enforcement hands and 310 million in civilian hands? Why are American children and teens 17 times more likely to die

from gun violence than their peers in 25 other high-income countries combined? Why is our mental health system still so inadequate to respond to the cries of those needing help? When will we all say enough?

We can and must do better. - See more at: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/newsroom/child-watch-columns/child-watch-documents/inspiring-lessons-from-seattle-pacific-university.html#sthash.OvRAZEMW.dpuf>

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

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

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Edge of Tomorrow”

Edge of Tomorrow
Grade: B+
Rated PG-13, a little
profanity and vulgarity, a lot of
moderate action violence
1 hr., 53 min

Like many big stars, Tom Cruise doesn't usually die in his movies, so “Edge of Tomorrow” – in which he dies early and often – is a novelty. It's also a satisfying chunk of sci-fi entertainment, breezily but carefully directed by Doug Liman (“The Bourne Identity,” “Mr. & Mrs. Smith”) to be a cerebral summer spectacle.

Cruise plays Maj. William Cage, an unserious U.S. Army spokesman with no combat experience who finds himself storming the beach with the infantry in a D-Day-like battle against alien invaders. These ferocious creatures, all CGI tendrils and snarls, are called Mimics for their ability to adapt to mankind's defenses; someone describes them as “perfectly evolved world-conquering organisms,” which is why they're winning the war so far. But when Cage is killed by one, he wakes up back at the base – and his day starts over, exactly as before. He dies again, he wakes up again, and the cycle repeats itself. It does this over and over. Yes, it's like that other movie.

Caught in a bizarre time loop and unable to convince anyone it's happening, Cage teams up with Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt), a Special Forces soldier who's become the Army's poster child for badassery. She believes Cage about the time loop because the same thing happened to her for a while. (She got better.) Having perfected her own battle skills during her loop ex-



The epic action of “Edge of Tomorrow” unfolds in a near future in which an alien race has hit the Earth in an unrelenting assault, unbeatable by any military unit in the world. Major William Cage (Tom Cruise) is an officer who has never seen a day of combat when he is unceremoniously dropped into what amounts to a suicide mission. Killed within minutes, Cage now finds himself inexplicably thrown into a time loop-forcing him to live out the same brutal combat over and over, fighting and dying again...and again. But with each battle, Cage becomes able to engage the adversaries with increasing skill, alongside Special Forces warrior Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt). And, as Cage and Rita take the fight to the aliens, each repeated encounter gets them one step closer to defeating the enemy.(C) Warner Bros

perience, she trains Cage to fight, taking advantage of the temporal disruption by having him practice against Mimic simulators that can kill him, then starting over when they do.

Cage is like a video game character with unlimited extra lives, and the movie treats the situation with morbid humor, killing him in a variety of unexpected ways. That's always good for a laugh. Based on a Japanese book with the awesome (but nonsensical) title “All You Need is Kill,” the screenplay was written

by Christopher McQuarrie (“The Usual Suspects”) and brothers Jez and John-Henry Butterworth. It moves swiftly, avoiding the potential problem where a repetitive story might start to feel, well, repetitive. Besides Cruise and Blunt's irresistibly appealing central performances, the film benefits from colorful turns by Brendan Gleeson and Bill Paxton as military officers, and from Liman's facility with – but not over-reliance on – rumbling action scenes.

The scenario that leads to Cage being sent to the front lines in the first place is a little hinky, but the only real mis-step is in the last act, after the time-loop business has been resolved. Without that hook, it becomes an ordinary alien-invasion story, handled in the usual way. But the film's final image (this is not a spoiler) is Tom Cruise grinning – and if that's not a great way to send an audience out of a theater feelin' good, I don't know what is.

Departments of Environment and Natural Resources Emphasize Need for Local Pollution Reduction Strategies to be Fully Implemented

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

(CONOWINGO, MD) – United States Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, held a field hearing today to expand the public's understanding of the environmental challenges presented by the build-up of sediment and nutrients behind the Conowingo Dam as well as the Dam's relicensing process. Information was presented to the public by experts from the many State and federal partners working together to improve water quality, protect aquatic and vegetative life and encourage recreation and fishing in our lakes, rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Robert M. Summers and Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Joe Gill released the following statement on today's hearing:

“Protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay to make it the most productive, vital

ecosystem, with good water quality and habitat that supports the diversity of fish, shellfish and other aquatic organisms, and safe for all recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing is a top priority of Governor O'Malley and the State of Maryland. We applaud Senator Cardin's efforts to enhance public knowledge and outreach on the Conowingo Dam's environmental challenges and the activities of State, federal and non-governmental partners to address the problems.

It is important to recognize that the Conowingo Dam is not the Bay's only or even its main problem. Scour of sediments from behind the dam in a storm event can add up to 20 percent of the pollution load, but 80 percent of the pollution load originates from the watershed to the Bay. Storm events and sediment and nutrient-filled runoff come from every part of the watershed. Just as in the reservoir behind this dam, sediment and nutrients are trapped in every farm pond, stormwater pond and reservoir throughout the Bay

and its tributary watersheds, and storm events carry trapped pollutants into local streams and rivers, just as they do in the Bay.

The key to restoring the Bay and its tributaries lies in reducing pollution from sources throughout each local watershed – following their Watershed Implementation Plans. Over time, as the Bay watershed is cleaned up storms will have less impact and the Bay will be healthier and more resilient.

Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have long been aware of the challenges related to the nutrients and sediments behind the Dam and have been working for decades to determine strategic solutions. From the late 1990s with The Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (SRBC), appointment of a special Sediment Task Force to assess the potential increase in sediment delivery by the Susquehanna river to the Bay and the Sediment Task Force recommendations in June 2002 to the ongoing Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment (LSRWA) Study.

To that end, we continue working with all our Chesapeake Bay Program partners from the original 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) through the 2017 Mid Point Assessment, the Conowingo Dam Relicensing effort with Exelon, and Army Corps of Engineers/Maryland Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment study to develop the best science and management solutions to efficiently and cost effectively mitigate for the potential negative impacts from excess sediments and nutrients from the Dam reaching “dynamic equilibrium” or capacity.

In addition to all of the studies and the work that needs to be done as part of the relicensing process, it cannot be said enough that the Watershed Implementation Plans are proven, science-based blueprints already in place that outline pollution reduction strategies needed to improve water quality in our local tributaries and the Chesapeake Bay. Their full implementation is critical to a successful Bay restoration.”

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Pelé Said What?



By criticizing the 2014 World Cup and the spending priorities of the Brazilian government, soccer legend Pelé has accomplished the rarest of feats in twenty-first-century sports media: he has shown the capacity to shock and surprise.

“It's clear that politically speaking, the money spent to build the stadiums was a lot, and in some cases was more than it should have been,” Pelé said during a lecture at Anahuac University in Mexico City. “Some of this money could have been invested in schools, in hospitals.... Brazil needs it. That's clear. On that point, I agree [with the protests]. But I lament what protesters are doing, which is breaking and burning everything. It's money that we will have to spend again.”

These comments are without question tepid given the scale of the assault taking place on Brazil's poor in the lead-up to the World Cup. It also ignores that much of the violence has been perpetrated by the Brazilian military police, who merit nary a dollop of criticism from the 73-year-old legend. What is remarkable is that Pelé said anything at all. There is a reason why Brazilian soccer star turned politician Romário once said of the soccer legend, “He is a poet when he does not speak.” Romário said this because Pelé has never failed to plant himself on the wrong side of history. Pelé was there arm-in-arm with Brazil's former President Lula da Silva when Brazil secured the World Cup for 2014 and the Olympics for 2016. To hear him raising actual criticisms of how the money has been spent is akin to Michael Jordan taking a stand against labor abuses perpetrated by Nike.

After all, this is Pelé: the first athlete to ever trademark his own name. This is Pelé, who as a brand and a blank-slate superstar athlete, was both ahead of his time and out of touch. This is Pelé, the person who said last year, as rubber bullets were flying and tear gas was being shot directly into the eyes of demonstrators and bystanders, that people should stop protesting and “think about the national team.” This is Pelé, who advised that demonstrations should be postponed until after the Cup and was roundly jeered.

This is who Pelé is. It is also who Pelé has always been. In the 1960s, when “the revolt of the black athlete” was on everyone's lips, Pelé was criticizing Muhammad Ali for resisting the draft and refusing to fight in Vietnam. In an era where the rulers and rules of the world were being challenged, Pelé met and entertained European royalty. He allowed Brazil's dictatorship to use his image on postage stamps and went on “goodwill tours” to newly independent African republics on behalf of whichever of the rotating dictators happened to be in charge. He dressed in African garb, celebrating a Brazil in which the position of the Afro-Brazilian masses was dire.

It is not that Pelé was a hardline, heartless right-winger, as much as he was someone who chose to risk very little. The Brazilian government was, ultimately, his most important patron, and he sided with the ruling power in his country, right or wrong, time and again on the question of the widespread poverty that plagued Brazil for decades. Pelé's stock answer was that God had made people poor and his function in their lives was to use his God-given athletic greatness to bring joy into their difficult lives.

After Brazil's victory in the 1970 World Cup, the military dictatorship pulled out all the stops to bask in his glow. Pelé was no unconscious actor in this. When asked in 1972 about the autocracy, he responded, “There is no dictatorship in Brazil. Brazil is a liberal country, a land of happiness. We are a free people. Our leaders know what is best for [us], and govern [us] in a spirit of toleration and patriotism.” Keep in mind that when Pelé was saying this, 25-year-old Dilma Rousseff, now the country's president, was being tortured in a military prison. One wonders if this has ever come up in conversation.

Pelé wanted to use this World Cup as his swan song on the international stage. He has released a book and is attempting to cash out while people are still paying attention. The fact that he feels compelled to actually speak out about the carnival of injustice FIFA and the Worker's Party are creating with the 2014 World Cup only underscores just how deep the crisis remains throughout the country. When you spend billions to host a soccer tournament and people are putting up murals like this on the walls of the country, discontent will boil and steam. Now even Pelé is getting smoke in his eyes.

ADVERTISE! in The Prince George's Post 301 627 0900

Calendar of Events

July 3 — July 9, 2014

Free First Fridays!

Date and Time: First Friday of the Month, April — October
Description: Get free admission to Montpelier Mansion with:
Self-guided tours from 11 am-6 pm
Tavern Games from 3-6 pm

Cost: Free!
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Mansion
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

First Fridays Wine Sampling

Date & Time: First Friday of the Month, May-October
(Except July) 6:30-8 pm

Description: Join us for our continuing series of Fine Wine Fridays! In this series, enjoy wine sampling from local vineyards, live entertainment and light refreshments. Don't miss it, it happens the first Friday of each month, May-October (with the exception of July)

Cost: Resident: \$25; Non-Resident: \$25
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Snow Hill Manor Historic Site
13301 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-446-6802

Dinosaur Program

Date and Time: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 12 noon-4 pm
Description: Dinosaur Park is a 41-acre park in Laurel, Maryland, featuring a rare deposit of fossils from the Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago). On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, you can join paleontologists and and volunteers on-site to interpret fossil deposits.

Ages: All ages
Location: Dinosaur Park
13200 block of Mid-Atlantic Blvd., Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-627-7755 or 301-627-1286; TTY 301-699-2544
Cost: FREE

Arts on the Waterfront

Date and Time: Sunday, July 6, 2014 6-7:30 pm
Description: Join us at the Waterfront with a great day of arts on the waterfront! There will be plenty of music and entertainment from jazz to rock—even a puppet show. Refreshments will be available for sale.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Flea Market

Date and Time: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, May 10-Sept. 27, 2014 10 am-3 pm
Description: This Spring and Summer set up a table at the local flea market! Sell unique items to patrons as a vendor. Vendors must bring their own tables and chairs; please pay prior to set-up.

Cost: Resident: \$15/space; Non-Resident: \$18/space
Ages: 16 & up
Location: Oakcrest Community Center
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights 20743
Contact: 301-736-5355; TTY: 301-218-6768

Peter Pan Club

Date and Time: 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month, 10:30 am

Description: Come to the Peter Pan Club for pre-school fun! Ideal for little learners up to five years old, the club includes story-time and hands-on craft activities. To schedule a group larger than 10, please call the museum to make a private group reservation.

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

Xtreme Teens (Safe Summer):

Rap Workshop and 5-on-5 Basketball

Date and Time: Saturday, July 5, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Join us as we learn the elements of Hip Hop culture; then work on a "freestyle" rhyme and lyric composition. After, let's get moving with some 5-on-5 basketball! For those who don't play basketball, we will be outside playing an intense game of freeze tag.

Light refreshments will be provided.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 12-17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum 20782
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-445-4512

Arts on the Waterfront

Date and Time: Sunday, July 6, 2014 6-7:30 pm
Description: Join us at the Waterfront with a great day of arts on the waterfront! There will be plenty of music and entertainment from jazz to rock—even a puppet show. Refreshments will be available for sale.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Safe Summer: Go-Go Conga Workshop

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 9, 2014 10 pm-11 pm
Description: School's out! Why don't you all join us for a fun Go-Go Conga workshop!

Cost: Free
Ages: 18-24
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills 20748
Contact: 301-505-0897

EARTH TALK ... The Rocky Mountain Institute and Weaning Ourselves off of Oil and Coal

Dear EarthTalk:

How does the Rocky Mountain Institute think we can get off of oil and coal by 2050 and save money in the process?

— James Greenville,
Redding, CT

Colorado-based sustainability think-tank Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) was founded in 1982 by American physicist and environmentalist Amory Lovins to research and promote market-based solutions to our energy crisis without breaking the bank. The group is focusing efforts on transforming domestic and eventually global energy use to create a clean, prosperous and secure energy future by mid-century.

"We can eliminate our addiction to oil and coal by 2050 and use one-third less natural gas while switching to efficient use and renewable supply," says Lovins, adding that doing so could actually cost less and support a more robust economy than continuing with business-as-usual: "Moreover, this transition needs no new inventions and no acts of Congress and no new federal taxes, mandate subsidies or laws..."

To get there, Lovins acknowledges that we have to start thinking differently now. RMI is advocating cutting U.S. electricity consumption by 18 percent over the next 10 years while almost doubling renewable energy's

share of generation from 16 to 30 percent.

Few would argue with the cost savings and environmental benefits of such a plan—implementation is the challenge. According to Lovins, we already have the technologies to help foster a rapid evolution of our electricity system, but we still need the political and institutional will to make it happen. RMI has begun a dialogue with utilities and other entities to align incentives and create more opportunities for electricity users to contribute clean power to the grid themselves through technologies like rooftop solar power.

One key feature of RMI's plan is rate structures that reflect the true benefits and costs of moving to more distributed (small scale/decentralized) energy resources. The group is working with utilities to launch six "Electricity Innovation Labs" nationally as well as a "Solar Development Excellence Center" to highlight the feasibility of distributed renewables. RMI also wants to simplify commercial photovoltaic financing, incorporate renewables into real estate finance and make solar financing affordable to underserved markets.

RMI also wants to make large buildings much more energy efficient, and aims to make a billion square feet of commercial space 35 percent more efficient by 2025 through so-called "deep energy" retrofits, including the adoption of more renewables.



CREDIT: RUDOLF SIMON

The Colorado-based sustainability think-tank Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) believes we already have the technologies to help foster a rapid evolution of our electricity system, but we still need the political and institutional will to make it happen. Pictured: RMI founder Amory Lovins speaking at an energy summit in Berlin, Germany in 2013.

RMI is targeting four of the largest, most influential segments of the buildings market—major companies, the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense and "activist" cities (those already on the green cutting edge)—for major energy retrofits, and is working to persuade private investors to consider overall impact and long-term costs, not just short term gains.

Another major part of RMI's plan is to work with large metro regions with upwards of 10 million residents, and with university campuses, to make major efficiency gains. Other keys to getting us off oil and coal by 2050 include transforming how we design and use vehicles, and

getting Fortune 500 corporations to rejigger their energy supply chains to facilitate procurement of more renewable energy. Beyond the U.S., RMI is working along similar lines with China and other large developing countries to help them avoid some of the energy development missteps undertaken here at home.

CONTACT: Rocky Mountain Institute, www.rmi.org.

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OCEANS from A1

major threat to the sustainability of our world's fisheries, economies and to global security.

Recognizing these significant challenges, President Obama launched the National Ocean Policy early in his first term. The National Ocean Policy seeks to streamline more than 100 laws that govern our oceans and create a coordinated, science-based approach to managing the many resources and uses of our coasts and oceans. National Ocean Policy initiatives range from voluntary marine planning to releasing offshore renewable energy projects to making our ports more resilient to sea level rise.

This week, the State Department is hosting the "Our Ocean" conference, an international conference on sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and ocean acidification that concludes today. Secretary Kerry has also issued a global call to action to protect the oceans. As part of the conference, the President is announcing several steps that the United States is taking to answer that call. During the closing events of the conference, the State Department will announce additional steps and commitments it has secured to protect our oceans.

New Actions to Protect and Preserve the Ocean

Today, in a video message to conference participants, President Obama is announcing new executive actions to preserve and protect the oceans.

• New protections for world-class marine areas. The President today announced a commitment to use his authority to protect some of our most precious marine landscape just like he has for our mountains and rivers and forests. To meet the President's commitment, the Administration will immediately consider how we might expand protections near the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in the south-central Pacific Ocean,

an area which contains some of the most pristine tropical marine environments in the world. These tropical coral reefs and associated marine ecosystems are also among the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. Before making decisions about the geographic scope and details of future marine protections, we will consider the input of fishermen, scientists, conservation experts, elected officials, and other stakeholders. The President is also calling on other world leaders to join him in this effort to ensure that the world's most valuable ocean ecosystems remain productive and pristine for our children and grandchildren.

• Combating black market fishing and supporting fishermen. The President is directing Federal agencies to develop a comprehensive program aimed at deterring illegal fishing, addressing seafood fraud, and preventing illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace by increasing traceability and transparency. Black market fishing constitutes up to 20 percent of the wild marine fish caught each year around the world, and drains up to \$23 billion from legitimate fishing enterprises. The program will be an important step in ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, building the market for legally and sustainably caught seafood, and supporting the men and women of the fishing industry.

In addition, the Administration is taking steps to protect coastal communities from the impacts of climate change, improve domestic aquaculture, and providing research to better understand the challenges facing our oceans.

• Establishing a pathway to new marine sanctuaries. Last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a final rule re-opening the public nomination process for proposing new sanctuaries in our oceans and Great Lakes. For the first time since 1995, Americans will be able to

nominate nationally significant marine and Great Lakes areas as marine sanctuaries. This reflects the overwhelming consensus of more than 18,000 comments NOAA received on the proposed version of the rule and will give local communities and organizations the opportunity to voice their support for significant marine areas in need of protection.

• Meeting diverse coastal needs with regional marine planning. Under the President's National Ocean Policy, voluntary marine planning bodies are working all over the country to find commonsense ways for the wide range of people and organizations who live, work, and play in the ocean to enjoy the full benefits of its resources. Regional marine plans help balance coastal use issues including fishing, energy, and marine transportation with the interests of communities, ensuring maximum benefits for all. Last week, the Administration announced that the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regional marine planning bodies will have their plans out the door by the end of the President's term. This will allow fishing and coastal communities from Maine to Virginia to meet diverse needs and establish priorities for the use of their ocean areas, while making them less vulnerable to economic shocks and the resilience of climate change.

• Understanding the impacts of ocean acidification. Today, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is releasing a white paper on ocean acidification, summarizing current scientific knowledge about this key challenge, its relationship to climate change, and its impacts on society, as well as highlighting key steps the Obama Administration is taking to better understand the problem and potential solutions.

• \$102 million to build resilience in coastal communities. Yesterday, the Department of the Interior announced \$102 million in competitive grants funding science-based solutions to re-

store flood plains and natural barriers, such as marshes and wetlands along the Atlantic Coast. The funded projects will help deliver on the Administration's Climate Action Plan commitment to make local communities more resilient against future storms.

• Bolstering domestic shellfish aquaculture. Federal agencies are completing work on a new roadmap to streamline the permitting process for shellfish aquaculture. The roadmap will help shellfish farmers understand how to secure the permits they need and will help federal agencies identify ways to improve efficiency in the permitting process. By removing barriers in the permitting process, the United States can encourage shellfish farming and help rebalance our seafood trade. Currently, most seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, resulting in a seafood trade deficit of between \$8 and \$10 billion a year. Farming more shellfish will also be an economic boon to local communities, creating jobs and investment on our shores.

• National Strategic Plan for Federal Aquaculture Research. Aquaculture is an increasingly integral source of safe, nutritious, sustainable seafood for consumers in the United States and worldwide. Today, the inter-agency National Science & Technology Council's Committee on Science is releasing a new National Strategic Plan for Federal Aquaculture Research to provide a framework for coordination and collaboration across agencies on research related to this important agricultural domain and to guide Federal agencies going forward as they prioritize their aquaculture-related research and development activities.

For more information on the Our Ocean conference, visit <http://www.state.gov/>. For more information on the President's National Ocean Policy, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>.

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