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OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

President Barack Obama delivers remarks on the economy at the Uptown Theater in Kansas City, Mo., July 30, 2014

BBQ, Iced Tea, and the Economy

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

On July 29, President Obama traveled to Kansas City, Missouri for a short one-day trip to have dinner with several people who had written him letters, and to give a speech today on ensuring that the economy works for everyone.

The President had dinner at Arthur Bryant's BBQ in Kansas City with four local residents who had written to him to share how they're working hard to get ahead in America.

This is just the latest stop the President has made while on the road to meet with hard-working Americans who have written him, and to let them know he's listening.

Victor, who joined the President for BBQ last night, is one of those letter writers. He wrote the President to explain how a student loan Income Based Repayment Plan had helped him and his family, and during dinner, told the President that the Affordable Care Act was key to his family getting health insurance. Victor introduced the

President earlier today at the historic Uptown Theater in Kansas City, and joked that the President "can really tear up some ribs."

After taking the podium, the President noted that Victor wasn't too shy about eating, either. But the President quickly got

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Lt. Governor Brown, MSDE Announces \$4.3 Million in Grants to Fund Maryland's Prekindergarten Expansion

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Dept. of Education

PERRY HALL, Md. – Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown was joined by President of the Maryland Board of Education Dr. Charlene Dukes, Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dallas Dance, other state and local officials, and early childhood education advocates for a press conference announcing \$4.3 million in Prekindergarten Expansion Grants to 24 providers throughout the state. The grant program is made possible by the O'Malley-Brown Administration's Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 (SB 332), which Lt. Governor Brown led the effort to pass during this year's legislative session. Under the expansion, the State is partnering with local providers and schools systems across the state to expand high-quality full and half day pre-K to another 1,563 children.

"Every child in Maryland deserves to be able to climb the ladder of opportunity towards success, and expanding access to quality early childhood education is a critical part of our effort to close the achievement gap throughout our state," said Lt. Governor Brown. "With this \$4.3 million investment, we're ensuring that another 1,560 of our children will have access to a high-quality Pre-K program this year. By working together with educators, advocates, parents, and members of our communities, we're one step closer to making high quality, voluntary Pre-K available to each and every one of Maryland's children."

The announcement took place at White Marsh Child Care Center (WMCCC), one of five programs in Baltimore County that are receiving a total of \$770,000 in funds to expand their services under the grant program. WMCCC will receive \$112,000 to support an



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Lt. Governor Brown at White Marsh Child Care Center.

additional 20 four year old children. The Center also plans to use these funds towards teacher salaries and technology upgrades in the classroom (including computers) in order to reach families in need of educational services.

"Baltimore County has been, and continues to be a

leader in early childhood education, and this \$770,000 in State funding for pre-kindergarten expansion recognizes our ongoing commitment and will make a real difference in

See GRANTS Page A6

PG Community College Smoke and Tobacco Free

By PRESS OFFICER
PG Community College

Prince George's Community College today announced its brand new campaign, Breathe Free, which supports efforts to create a smoke/tobacco-free environment and decrease the risk factors that contribute to preventable diseases associated with smoke and tobacco use. An institution known for its deep-rooted stance in the surrounding community, the College, in cooperation with its Health Education Center, recognized the growing rate of smoke/tobacco-related illnesses adversely impacting county residents, and made the concerted commitment

to implement a new College-wide policy. The initiative provides cessation and wellness materials, screenings and workshops. The smoke/tobacco-free policy takes effect on September 15, 2014.

"We take our commitment to serving very seriously, and this forward-thinking policy to make PGCC a smoke/tobacco-free environment is in line with that commitment," said Charlene M. Dukes, PGCC president. "To ensure the 'Breathe Free' program meets its goals of reducing and eliminating the number of individuals, employees, stu-

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Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

While the vast majority of federal contractors play by the rules, every year tens of thousands of American workers are denied overtime wages, not hired or paid fairly because of their gender or age, or have their health and safety put at risk by corporations contracting with the federal government that cut corners. Taxpayer dollars should not reward corporations that break the law, so today President Obama is cracking down on federal contractors who put

workers' safety and hard-earned pay at risk.

As part of this Year of Action, the President will sign an Executive Order that will require prospective federal contractors to disclose labor law violations and will give agencies more guidance on how to consider labor violations when awarding federal contracts. Although many contractors already play by the rules, and federal contracting offers already must assess a contractor's record of integrity, these officers still may

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Local Governments Show Progress on Chesapeake Bay Restoration

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Dept. of the Environment

BALTIMORE, MD – (July 31, 2013) Evaluation of twenty-two sets of goals for local water restoration activities shows that Maryland's communities are committed to improving the water quality of their streams, rivers, lakes and drinking water reservoirs and they are making progress, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) announced today. This assessment of two-year milestone goals is part of the landmark Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2010.

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL is a set of federal pollution limits on the amount of nutrient pollution and sediments that can enter the Bay and its tidal rivers to meet water quality standards. In response to these pollution limits, the seven Bay jurisdictions created individual Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), or restoration blueprints, that de-

tail specific steps each will take to meet the pollution reduction goals by 2025. The blueprints guide local and state Bay restoration efforts through the next decade and beyond. The Bay jurisdictions use their two-year pollution reduction milestones to track and assess progress toward completing their WIP restoration actions; EPA regularly reviews each jurisdiction's milestones.

The 2013 local two-year milestones were set by the county and municipal governments and represent the progress that those local governments believed they could complete during that time period. MDE is evaluating the progress of local jurisdictions to assess progress toward completion of the State's Bay restoration blueprint in the following areas: resource enhancements; legal authority enhancements; organizational enhancements; planning; public engagement and addressing appropriate pollution source sectors.

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INSIDE

Tour Highlights Commitment to Reducing Overdose Deaths in Maryland

Overdose deaths represent one of the most compelling public health challenges facing the nation. As one of the strategies to address the overdose epidemic in Maryland, Governor O'Malley signed an executive order establishing the Overdose Prevention Council just last month. **Community, Page A3**

Mikulski and Shelby Praise FBI's Work to Rescue 168 Juveniles From Underage Prostitution

Operation Cross Country is part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative that was created in 2003 by the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, in partnership with the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. **Commentary, Page A4**

Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Funding for Hagerstown Manufacturer

National Golden Tissue formed in Hagerstown, Washington County in 2008. NGT manufactures paper towels, bath and facial tissue, and napkins, and currently provides brand name and private label products throughout the United States and Canada. **Business, Page A5**

Movie Review: "Wish I Was Here"

Aidan Bloom, a struggling L.A. actor who, unlike most struggling L.A. actors, has a wife and kids yet won't even consider getting a day job. His wife, Sarah, makes enough at her dull office gig to basically support the family, though they're reliant on Aidan's aging father, Saul, to pay for the kids' Hebrew school. **Out on the Town, Page A6**

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Where are some good "eco-travel" destinations right here in the continental U.S. that I can consider for a family vacation?

– Janet Devino,
Brooklyn, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

This column started 38 years ago "Starting today," I began, "I will be writing a column for the Skyline-Morningside area. I hope you will call me with family and neighborhood news."

I started writing it because Mayor Jerry Glaubitz asked me to. That first column ran in the Enquirer-Gazette of July 8, 1976. Here's some of the hot news I covered:

Morningside Seniors will picnic at the home of Bernice Burdette on August 7.

Frank Brizzi, of Reamy Drive, returned from a hunting trip, with a bear!

Art and Henrietta Zdobysz have a new grandson, Christopher.

Charlie and Henrietta Tretler have a new granddaughter, Jessica.

Skyline Homemakers have new officers—Rita Tewell, president; Ann Gardner, vice-president; Betty Rayle, secretary; Barbara Graves, treasurer. One of the members, Dot Burgess, plans to put out a Skyline Cookbook.

Bookmobile hours will be the same. (The County Library Bookmobile used to come to the Randolph Circle in Morningside every week, when most moms were at home with the kids.)

Dwight "Snuffy" Snider is the new president of the Skyline Citizens Association. Other officers are Charles Brown, Jerome Jones, Helen Cordero, Mable Harper, Jim McGrath, and Van McGee.

For Independence Day, Jean Glaubitz made a special Fourth of July dress.

That was 1976, and I'm still here, waiting for your call.

Neighbors

Ceil Julian, longtime resident of Henderson Road and the oldest parishioner of St. Philip's Church, died July 28 at the age of 99. I'll pay tribute to her in a future column.

Pamela Anstead-Berry, a graduate of La Reine High School, died June 16 at her home in Annandale. She had careers in computer support at Naval Air Systems and eventually in nursing. Survivors include her husband of 28 years, David Berry, and other family.

County Exec Rushern Baker and Sheriff Melvin High were among the VIPs who turned out at Skyline's Night Out Aug. 5.

Emanuel and Juanita Chaplin, of Skyline, are proud of grand-

son Dominique who recently ran track in the Junior Olympics in Iowa. He is the son of John and Nicole Chaplin who also have two other children participating in sports.

I'm back after 10 days in Saginaw, Mich., with sisters Rosie and Stella and brother Tom. First time I've been home in two years. Had a great time. Returned home on the Greyhound Bus. The terminal is now at Union Station.

Reunions

Sue Mason sends word that the Suitland High Class of '64 has a 50th reunion coming up in October. She'll send more information as it becomes available. Back in 1964, highschoolers from Morningside and Skyline attended Suitland.

Bishop McNamara/La Reine Classes of 1974 have a 40th coming up on Sept. 20, 7 p.m., at the BMHS Fine Arts Center. Contact Mike Russell at rusdog@verizon.net or 703-675-2572; or Bill Krug, 301-399-0893 or bill@area-corp.net. (By the way, Bill Krug used to live in Skyline.)

Coming up

Joint Base Andrews invites you to their next free military concert—open to the public—on Sept. 6. The concert will be at the new Heritage Park, located near the gate opposite Andrews Manor Shopping Center. I'll see if I can get the time and let you know.

Fish Fry, Blues Concert and Open Mic starring Anthony "Swampdog" Clark and the All Star Blues Band, 1:30 to 5 p.m., will be held Aug. 16 at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church. The fish fry will take place until 3:30 with a suggested donation of \$10 for full plate with 2 fillets, sides, and a selection of beverages. The Blues Concert and Open Mic is no charge, but donations accepted. The church is at 7400 Temple Hills Road. Web: www.dmuuc.org. Or call 301-449-4308.

The John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour will leave from the Surratt House on Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27. I've taken this all-day tour three times, and it's remarkable. Call the Surratt House (301-868-1121) for information and availability.

A Colonial Tavern Dinner will be served at Darnall's Chance House Museum on Sept. 27, 7 to

9 p.m. Enjoy the atmosphere and flavor of a mid-18th century tavern dinner in Upper Marlborough. Enjoy colonial food and spirits. Following dinner, listen to Ship's Company sing chauties and tavern songs of the period. Capacity is limited; reservations and payment (301-952-8010) required in advance. Resident, \$40; Non-Resident, \$48.

Loyola on the Potomac, a Jesuit Retreat House, is offering a weekend retreat for men and women, Sept. 12-14. As always, I'll be there. I love my cell (tiny bedroom, with sink and toilet), the meals (also, dining hall open 24 hours with refreshments, including homemade cookies), the beautiful grounds overlooking the Potomac. For information, call 301-392-0800, or go to www.loyolaonthepotomac.com.

Will the FBI come to Prince George's?

The headquarters of the FBI is moving, and from among about ten possible locations, three are still under consideration: Greenbelt, Landover and Springfield. The move will consolidate 11,000 personnel from 20 locations.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Maximilian "Max" Howard, Ruth Sanford and William Billy Stewart, Aug. 8; Savannah Foster, Aug. 11; Mary Berkley and Brittany Short, Aug. 13; Margaret Hunt, Nancy Stacey and Gracie Mothershead, Aug. 16; Hildagard Koenig, Aug. 17; my granddaughter-in-law Heather McHale, Le August Breat and Mark Cummings, Jr., Aug. 19; Melody Barnes, Aug. 20; and Austin Michael Fowler, Aug. 21.

Happy 35th anniversary to Sharon and Mike Fowler on Aug. 11.

Scary!

I took time out from writing this column and went to the kitchen for a snack and a call from son Brian. As I was speaking to him, I was startled by a big bird flying right at me. I did some hollering ("It's a bird. It's a bird. It's a bird in the house!!") and dashing around, closing doors. I trapped him or her behind a closed door, in the library. I can tell, through the window in the library door, that it's a bat. Now, what do I do?

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY

Clinton United Methodist Church will celebrate Family and Friends Day at both their 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM on Sunday August 17, 2014 services. Rev. Dr. Alliee Bryant Smith will be the guest Minister. The Men's Choir will render musical selections at the 8:00 AM service and the Gospel Choir will sing at the 10:30 AM service. Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Telephone number is 301-868-1281, e-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net. Bring a friend or a neighbor.

FABULOUS FRIDAYS

Come out on Fridays and enjoy rounds of miniature golf for one price per person and unlimited rides on Watkins Regional Park's carousel and train on Friday August 15 and Friday 22, 2014 from 5:30 PM-8:30 PM. You can bring dinner or snacks and enjoy sitting on the outdoor patio enjoying the surrounding grounds. The event is weather permitting.

Each evening, and for that day only purchases are made on

site. Cash, VISA, and MasterCard are accepted. Resident pay \$5.00 and Non-Resident pay \$6.00. All ages are welcome.

The location is Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20774. Contact number is 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544.

LOCAL BOUNTY FARMERS

The Local Bounty Farmer's Market at St. Thomas Church August 16, 23, 30, 2014 is from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. The Market located at 14300 St. Thomas Church Road Croom, Maryland 20772 features fresh vegetables and fresh fruits.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for our Praise Break (Celebrating the Works of God) Vacation Bible School. Reverend Constance Smith is our Pastor. Vacation Bible School will be August 18- August 22, 2014 from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM. Address is New Hope Fellowship 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro,

Maryland, 20772. For additional information or to register contact Jina at jjmwilliams@gmail.com.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Marcus Long, Rosamond Panda, Brian Harper, Anna Tucker, Diamond Hall, Emeka Mbakwe, Ben Caple, Karl Pinkney, Valentine Grant, Donovan Joiner, Kevin Augustus, James V. Dorsett, Norville Hughes, Esther Neckere, Carlton Williams, Georgia Kinard, Janice Moore and Denia Parelta to Clinton United Methodist Church who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of August.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversaries to Elton and Janet Smalling, Wayne and Beverly Baker, Jeremy and Christina Stevenson, Roy and Shela Sedgwick, John and Pamela Stahl, Cameron Barron and Betty Rivers, Umaru and Mariama Davis, Judy and William Terry who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries during the month of August.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Introduces the Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act

Washington, DC—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards [MD-4] introduced The Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act today to repeal the unnecessary and increased contributions of federal employees to their own pensions.

Under current law, recently hired federal employees have been forced by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 to raise their contribution amount to pensions from 0.8% to 4.4%. After three years, federal workers have made mandatory contributions of well over \$138 billion in order to balance the budget. This is in spite of the fact that the main pension fund, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF), is fully funded.

"Federal employees are the backbone of our federal government and agencies. Whether protecting our borders, conducting life-saving medical research, or ensuring our food is safe to consume, public servants perform duties vital to the health, safety, and economic well-being of the American people. Despite their sacrifices and commitment to service, federal employees have experienced a three-year pay freeze, unpaid furloughs, the elimination of cost-of-living increases, and seen their own contributions to their pensions increase by over 500%."

"As a nation it is our duty to ensure the fair treatment of our federal employees, especially during times of economic strain. Let's stop unduly burdening our federal workers, and start asking wealthy corporations to pay their fair share. I look forward to working with others in Congress to pass this legislation and to providing relief for those whose daily labors keep our government up and running and who keep us safe."

Congresswoman Edwards' legislation would restore the Federal Employee Pension contribution plans to their original 0.8%, and instead close corporate tax loopholes for companies that are incorporated overseas, but managed and controlled in the United States.

PGCPS Now Hiring Registered Nurses

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is offering immediate employment to qualified Registered Nurses (RN) to serve as school nurses throughout the school district.

Eligible RN applicants must have a verifiable and active Maryland license as a Registered Nurse; copies of current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid certifications; a bachelor's degree with a minimum of two years of experience in pediatrics and/or public health/community health; and a valid driver's license.

This is an exciting time to join PGCPS as we embark on a "Choosing to Be Great" Health and Wellness Plan for students and staff, with the ultimate goals of improving academic outcomes for all students, preventing disease and reducing health care costs. School health is being transformed throughout PGCPS. Please join us in serving the children of Prince George's County so that they are ready for college, for career, and for citizenship!

Benefits include health, dental, and vision insurance, as well as retirement plan(s). Ad-



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

ditional benefits include paid holidays and full benefits with the summers off. Applications are also being accepted online at www.pgcpss.org; click "Careers" and enter job code IRC 73387 (RN).

For more information about this opportunity, please call 301-952-6132 or email Nicole.Eubanks@pgcpss.org.

Preparing for School: Transition and Orientation Days August 21 and 25

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - In preparation for the 2014-15 school year, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will host a transition day for students entering middle school grades 6 or 7 (according to middle school configuration) and high school students entering grade 9, and an orientation day for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation Day August 21

On Thursday, August 21, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will attend a program at their schools. Parents will be receiving a schedule of events from their child's school.

Middle and High School Transition Day August 25

On Monday, August 25th, students entering middle school in the 6th or 7th grades and high school in the 9th grade for the first time will attend an all-day program at their schools. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Students who ride buses will be picked up and dropped off at their regular time and bus stop location. Please utilize the PGCPS website for specific drop off and pick up times. Additionally, notification by letter will be sent to all students.

To help prepare students for middle and high school, the Transition Day allows students to participate in their regular school schedule, attend an information session designed to provide them with the resources needed for an academically and socially successful school year, and meet key staff members, as well as their student guides.

Students should arrive to school with their printed schedule from SchoolMAX, as they will attend classes throughout the day, in accordance to their A and B day schedules. Additionally, students will participate in an information session where a wide variety of topics will be discussed, including:

- Understanding middle/high school schedules;
- bus schedules;
- school policies;
- lockers
- extracurricular activities, etc.
- tools for success, such as student handbooks; and calendars;
- strategies for success including homework and student responsibilities;
- important school staff and offices to help make each student's high school experience a success;
- profile

of a graduate with information on SchoolMax, transcript, testing, etc. • getting home successfully by respecting bus rules

PGCPS looks forward to making all students' transition to elementary, middle and high school a positive experience by answering their questions and helping them ease their way into their new school. If parents have any questions about transition days, they should contact their child's school.

The first day of school for all other PGCPS students is Tuesday, August 26

DHCD Opens "My HOME" Homeownership Assistance Program with \$8 Million in Funding

Largo, MD --- The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced today that the funding for its "My HOME" homeownership assistance program is now available and DHCD will be accepting applications effective October 7, 2013. For the next three years, over \$8 million has been committed by the County from federal and state sources, the "My HOME" program will continue to support a key housing policy strategy of providing affordable homeownership for low, moderate and middle income households.

"The program helps hard-working, credit-worthy people obtain the cash they need to get into a home," says Eric C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development. "It also helps stimulate the economy by creating investment in our neighborhoods and generates transfer and recordation taxes for much needed county services."

Through the "My HOME" program, income eligible, first-time homebuyers can receive a deferred payment loan of up to 5 percent of the home's purchase price for down payment and closing costs assistance. To minimize the risk of defaults, applicants must meet strict debt ratio requirements and make a minimum cash contribution to the transaction. Additional program guidelines can be found at: <http://redevelopment.mypgc.us> and click on Services.

To date, the "My HOME" Program has provided 288 loans to first-time homebuyers; and has generated over \$1 million annually in transfer and recordation tax revenue. The "My HOME" Program is implemented by the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County in partnership with over 50 participating lenders, realtors, and HUD approved housing counseling agencies.

The "My HOME" Program is one of two county homeownership assistance programs. For buyers interested in purchasing homes in Suitland and parts of District Heights and Morningside, funding is still available through the Buy Suitland Program. See program guidelines at: <http://redevelopment.mypgc.us> and click on Services. Both homeownership programs are being managed by the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County.

For more information about the My HOME program, call: (301) 883-7323 or visit the county website at: <http://redevelopment.mypgc.us> and click on Services.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Consumer Reporting Agencies Follow Your Moves

By now, you've probably heard about the Big Three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion), which monitor your financial history and issue credit reports and credit scores to potential lenders. But did you know that there are dozens of other specialty consumer reporting agencies that track your history for activities that may not appear on your regular credit reports — things like bounced checks, late utility payments, insurance claims and prescription orders?



Most people never hear about these companies until they're suddenly turned down for an apartment, checking account, insurance policy or even a job or promotion. But you need to know that potential landlords, banks, insurance companies and employers are very likely ordering specialty reports to help them assess the risk of doing business with you.

That's fine if you've got a squeaky-clean track record. But what if their files contain mistakes; or worse, what if someone has hijacked your identity and is poisoning your record with their own bad behavior?

Fortunately, you do have recourse. Under federal law, you can request a copy of your report once a year from each agency, generally for free. You're also entitled to a free copy whenever an "adverse action" is taken against you because of something in the report. (For example, if you're turned down for a checking account.)

Unfortunately, there's no central clearinghouse for these specialty agencies so you need to contact each individually. However, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has taken some of the legwork out by compiling a list of the most commonly used agencies, along with instructions and contact information for ordering your reports. (Search "Specialty Consumer Agencies" at www.cfpb.gov.) Another great resource is the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse's fact sheet on specialty reports at www.privacyrights.org.

Specialty consumer reporting agencies collect information about you from various sources and share it with creditors and other businesses, including:

- Public records of criminal and civil cases
- Credit history
- Bankruptcy filings
- Companies with which you have an existing or prior relationship
- Medical information
- Driving records

Typical inquiries might include:

- Check-writing history — for banks, credit unions and businesses that accept payments by check. They'll look for things like bounced or returned checks and fraud.
- Medical conditions and prescription drug history — if you're applying for an individual life, long-term care or disability insurance policy. (Note: Health insurers can't deny coverage or charge higher premiums because of preexisting conditions.)
- Residential — landlords checking your tenant history, credit, criminal background, etc.
- Auto or homeowner/renter's insurance — insurers will screen your records for things like traffic violations, claims and property losses.
- Payday lending — creditors investigating people who don't use traditional financial services (banking, credit cards, etc.) might evaluate payday loans, check-cashing services, prepaid cards, etc.
- Utilities — If you're trying to open a new utility, phone, cable or Internet account.
- Employment background — By law, employers must obtain your permission to run a background check. Unfortunately, they're generally not required to identify which company they're using unless they decide not to hire you — it doesn't hurt to ask ahead of time, though.

Note that when you dispute information in your reports, agencies are legally obligated to investigate and correct any inaccurate or outdated information. Also, they must give you an update on the status of your request to view your report. However, there is no time limit on when your request must be processed.

Bottom line: You might not realize there's false or potentially damaging information being reported about you, so get in the habit of ordering specialty consumer reports along with your credit reports.

ADVERTISE!

in

The Prince George's Post

Call Brenda Boice at

301 627 0900

Governing for Results Tour Highlights Commitment to Reducing Overdose Deaths in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley today unveiled new data on overdose deaths occurring in the first quarter of 2014. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the state has committed to drive down overdose deaths by 20 percent by 2015 and has added drug and alcohol overdose deaths to the Administration's 16 strategic goals.

Overdose deaths represent one of the most compelling public health challenges facing the nation. Locally, here in Maryland, there were more overdose deaths than traffic fatalities in 2013. As one of the strategies to address the overdose epidemic in Maryland, Governor O'Malley signed an executive order establishing the Overdose Prevention Council just last month. The Council will advise and assist in establishing an unprecedented effort among multiple State agencies to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Maryland.

"The Overdose Council represents a new level of coordination, data collection, analysis, and information sharing among State agencies. Together, as One Maryland, we're breaking down silos to collect up-to-date statistics, better target resources and empower citizens to combat this epidemic and save lives," said Governor O'Malley. "With this data guiding us, we will continue to fight to keep Maryland families and communities safe while also developing innovative strategies to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Maryland."

Economy from A1

down to the primary reason for his speech.

"I'm here because Victor is the sort of person I'm working for every single day, somebody who never quits, somebody who is doing everything right, somebody who believes in the American dream. Somebody who just wants a chance to build a decent life for himself and his family. And that's the vast majority of Americans. That's who I'm fighting for right here in Kansas City and all across this country."

When the President took office, the economy was in free fall, but since then we've fought back and our country has improved by almost every economic measure. The President pointed out the progress we've made together.

"Today, our businesses have added nearly 10 million new jobs over the past 52 months. Construction is up. Manufacturing is back. Our energy, our technology, our auto industries, they're all booming.

"Come on and help out a little bit. Stop being mad all the time. Stop just hating all the time...Let's get some work done together."

The unemployment rate is at its lowest point since September of 2008. It's dropped faster than any time in 30 years. This morning, we found out that in



PHOTO COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Martin O'Malley at the Annapolis Police Department.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released a report that contains updated overdose intoxication data for the first quarter of 2014 and two data briefs. The report and data briefs shows that from January to March 2014 there were 252 total overdose deaths, a 33 percent increase from the same time last year. The increase is largely driven by a rise in the number of deaths related to fentanyl-laced heroin since last fall, which coincides with trends reported by states up and down the East Coast. The data briefs also show an increase in heroin-related emergency department visits from 2008 to 2013.

To combat the rise of opioid overdoses, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Maryland State Police have launched a new initiative to train

and equip Maryland State Troopers with naloxone, a life-saving medication that can safely and effectively reverse opioid overdoses. As of July 1, 2014, the State Police has collaborated with local health officers in Cecil County, Allegany County, and Somerset County to participate in the effort where troopers, along with county and municipal police officers, will be trained and equipped with Naloxone.

"Our goal is to train and equip each of our patrol troopers with this life saving medication," Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Marcus L. Brown said. "As first responders, our troopers have the potential for saving lives by providing prompt treatment to overdose victims. We will also support the state's efforts in the overdose prevention public aware-

ness campaign. Our 22 barrack commanders are already informing citizens in each county of the increase in overdose deaths, the fact that no region of the state is immune, and that help is available to anyone by dialing 211 to locate the closest treatment resources."

The press conference today continues the "Governing for Results" series — a statewide effort to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the different strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

President Barack Obama talks with a youngster outside Arthur Bryant's Barbeque in Kansas City, Missouri, July 29, 2014.

the second quarter of this year our economy grew at a strong pace, and businesses are investing, workers are building new

oil and gas producer, that our high school graduation rate is at a record high, home prices are rising, and millions of families are getting the affordable health insurance they need. And the President made it clear that we'd be even stronger if Republicans would be willing to work together.

In two days, Congress leaves Washington for a month, and the President noted that there is still time to get things done. But rather than voting on bills that would pro-

vide resources to fight wildfires in the West, or prevent the Highway Trust Fund from running out of money, the President pointed out that Republicans in Congress are focused on one issue.

"The main vote that they've scheduled for today is whether or not they decide to sue me for doing my job."

Despite the gridlock in Washington, the President is optimistic about the "inherent goodness and generosity of the American people."

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski and Shelby Praise FBI's Work to Rescue 168 Juveniles From Underage Prostitution

Senators Herald the FBI's Action to Date Focusing on the Recovery of Sexually Exploited Children

WASHINGTON — Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the FBI and other Justice Department programs, today thanked Director James B. Comey and the hundreds of FBI special agents who partnered with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States this past week, in arresting those responsible for exploiting underage children through prostitution. The eighth iteration of Operation Cross Country, a week-long law enforcement effort across 106 cities, led to the recovery of 168 children. Additionally, 281 men and women who facilitated the exploitation of these children were arrested by law enforcement officials on a variety of prostitution related charges.

"I'm so proud of the men and women of the FBI who worked alongside state and local police and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to rescue more than 160 children and arrest 281 pimps who were exploiting them. I commend all the agents who broke up these despicable child prostitution rings," Chairwoman Mikulski said. "This

major operation is an example of the good that can be accomplished when the federal government works with state and locals to keep our children safe."

"I am pleased that 168 children, including one in Alabama, have been rescued as a direct result of Operation Cross Country," Vice Chairman Shelby said. "We must protect our children from predators. I applaud the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement to bring these innocent children home and remove dangerous child predators from our streets."

Operation Cross Country is part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative that was created in 2003 by the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, in partnership with the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), to address the growing problem of domestic child sex trafficking in the United States. To date, the Innocence Lost Task Forces and FBI partners have recovered nearly 3,600 children.

Chairwoman Mikulski and Vice Chairman Shelby thank the many local, state and federal law enforcement officers and agents representing 392 separate agencies who participated in Operation Cross Country and their ongoing enforcement efforts.

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



National Urban League Annual Conference: "Bridges to Jobs and Justice" Brings Together More than 13,000 Attendees

"We have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies...only permanent interests."
 — Former Congressman William Clay, Sr.

In a sign of the ongoing strength of the civil rights community and the Urban League Movement, more than 13,000 people joined us in Cincinnati last week during our 2014 National Urban League Conference for four power-packed days of diversity and dialogue about where we have been and where we are heading in our search for solutions to the pressing problems facing urban America. We also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the National Urban League Young Professionals, the 25th anniversary of our Youth Leadership Summit and the 10th anniversary of our Women of Power awards. Over the past 15 years, the Young Professionals have changed the trajectory of the Urban League Movement — producing strong, effective CEOs who are infusing a new energy and passionate leadership into our affiliates across the country. This year's Youth Leadership Summit was held at Cincinnati's Xavier University where 400 14-18 year-olds were exposed to the college experience and the important skills they will need for success in college, work and life. As a part of the National Urban League's investment in STEM, we teamed up with GE Aviation in a unique experience day for Youth Leadership Summit participants, titled STEM Rising: Uplifting STEM Learning through Aviation, where they had an opportunity to visit the GE Aviation campus and learn about aviation industry technologies and innovations, as well as developing their leadership and teamwork skills.

A highlight of the conference was Vice President Joe Biden's keynote address on Thursday, July 24 during which he noted the National Urban League's role in advancing civil rights and the many economic and social gains for African Americans since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Vice President

also touted the Obama Administration's focus on job creation and infrastructure spending, quoting a National Urban League finding that "Every \$1 billion in investment creates 30,000 jobs, 14 percent of which go to African-Americans." The Vice President echoed the National Urban League's opposition to recent attacks on voting rights, pointing out that, "This year alone, there were 83 initiatives in 29 states to limit access to the ballot box, in the name of preventing corruption where no corruption was found, in the name of preventing widespread fraud where none was occurring." He added, we should call it what it is — "an attempt to repress minority voting masquerading as an attempt to end corruption."

In addition to the Vice President's views, as a non-partisan organization, the National Urban League has always welcomed ideas and dialogue from across the entire political spectrum, and this year's conference attracted a number of notable voices who were eager to share their ideas and reach out to the African American community. U.S. Conference of Mayors President and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson addressed conference attendees, noting that "Mayors don't have time to deal with the partisan bickering that goes back and forth between Democrats and Republicans. We're pragmatic, practical and problem-solvers, and we are with you in the trenches. We are your allies in the movement." During a session that immediately preceded the Vice President, seven mayors — Akron, OH Mayor Don Plusquellic; Columbia, SC Mayor Stephen Benjamin; Columbus, OH Mayor Michael Coleman; Denver, CO Mayor Michael Hancock; Gary, IN Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson; Jacksonville, FL Mayor Alvin Brown; and Memphis, TN Mayor AC Wharton, Jr. — participated on a panel that focused on strategies for addressing underemployment, in-

See CONFERENCE Page A5

The National Capital Trolley Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, DC and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Child Watch
 by Marion Wright Edelman



Kiwia In The Bronx

For years the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx in New York, home to St. Ann's Episcopal Church, was the poorest section of the poorest Congressional district in the United States. I recently had another wonderful visit at the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® summer program hosted at St. Ann's, whose incomparable rector is the Reverend Martha Overall—known to everyone as Mother Martha. While there outside on the church grounds for Harambee, our opening ceremony of reading aloud and singing, I remembered her telling me during a visit a few years ago about planting a kiwi tree in the front of the church yard and asked her whether it was still alive. She said it wasn't really a tree, but a kiwi vine, and it had spread across a trellis and was thriving and blooming on its way to producing a harvest of fruit. This was her story of how the kiwis came to be there.

A local gardener and nutritionist had been volunteering her time with St. Ann's children's programs, teaching the students about growing beautiful plants and good food in lessons that were always infused with spirituality. The gardening experience was a treat in St. Ann's cement-filled neighborhood. One day the gardener said to the children, "You know, I'm always telling you what we are going to grow. This time, what would you like to grow?" To her surprise, the children had a unanimous answer: "Kiwis!"

Now, kiwis aren't a common sight growing in the Bronx. She suggested the children begin by using the church's computer lab to research whether kiwis would actually survive in New York City's climate. The children did their research and came back excitedly reporting that as long as they picked the right hardy variety, the answer was yes. So after a little more study and planning, the children got what they needed—a male and a female kiwi plant. Mother Martha says, "It took six years, but last year, the kiwi plants got together, the squirrels stopped interfering, and lo and behold—an abundance of kiwis!" She told me if I came back in September those vines will be full of the sweetest kiwis you ever tasted.

The adults at St. Ann's listened to the children, supported their dream, and patiently waited with them for their kiwi plants to bear fruit. They did this even when it was taking a very long time and others might have told the children they were probably going to fail and should just give up. It should be little surprise that just as the resilient kiwis they faithfully nurtured are now blooming, the children St. Ann's serves have blossomed and thrived despite the odds too.

Mott Haven, St. Ann's children's programs, and Mother Martha herself have all been featured in award-winning and best-selling writer Jonathan Kozol's series of extraordinary books on the lives of children in poverty—along with some of the many, many children St. Ann's has served. The children often come to St. Ann's with many strikes against them, beginning with poverty. Family and community violence, failing schools, homelessness and unsafe housing, substance abuse, and AIDS all affected children's lives. Many parents did not speak English. A lot of people might have thought expecting these children to succeed was as hopeless as the kiwi idea. But certainly not Mother Martha and the other adults at St. Ann's.

St. Ann's serves 100 children in their after-school program for students in local public schools and 100 during the summer at their Freedom School—though Mother Martha says there is always a waiting list and it is very difficult to turn eager children away. When St. Ann's first started hosting its Freedom School fifteen years ago she guessed it would be a challenge for the summer literacy program to live up to its promise of teaching its "scholars" to love to read. But sure enough, the Freedom Schools books—all carefully chosen to reflect students' own images and experiences—proved irresistible. Soon children were reading for pleasure and signing up for contracts to take books home. She says, "Freedom School makes the children blossom ... When so many children have lost the love of school, I think it would be wonderful if every child had the opportunity to be part of a Freedom School."

St. Ann's after-school programs have long provided a safe space, a chance for homework help, and caring adults, and as the church puts it, "Sometimes,

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Reducing The Stress Out Of That Visit To Your Doctor

A visit to the doctor can be a stressful and frustrating experience. While doctors may care as much as ever about their patients, today's ever-busier health care systems can make medical visits feel rushed and impersonal.

Other things can add to the stress. You're worried about your illness or symptoms, intimidated by those white coats, and perhaps confused by the medical jargon. Add in a rushed doctor with little time to offer counseling and reassurance to each patient and the stress level only increases.

Yet there are ways to minimize the stress while also helping insure that you're getting the most from that visit.

Start by being what professional counselors call "appropriately assertive." That means speaking clearly and directly while also being aware of both your and the other person's needs. You want to establish a climate of mutual respect that acknowledges the doctor's busy schedule as well as your needs to have your questions answered.

Prior to your doctor visit, write a list of your health questions, leaving space for the answers. Tell your doctor you have questions and ask if he'd like to answer them before or after the exam.

If your doctor is using medical jargon or technical terms, politely ask him or her to restate what's being said in simpler terms. Doctors don't mean to confuse, but common terms to them can be confusing to patients. Don't just listen, pretending to understand.

If a doctor visit makes you too nervous to really hear what's being said, ask a friend or family member to come along as a second set of ears. You might also ask the doctor for permission to record his answers.

Your goal is to get the information you need. Assertive communication means being politely proactive. Ask follow-up questions if something is unclear. If the doctor advises waiting to see what develops, ask for specifics on time and what type of developments to look for. At the end, summarize what you've heard about your diagnosis and possible treatments. Give the doctor a chance to correct anything you may have misinterpreted.

Having open communications between doctor and patient makes it easier for patients to voice their fears, anxieties and needs. When doctors and patients work as partners, communicating effectively with each other, the result is less stress and confusion, and the best care, for the patient.

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

Conference from A1

cluding education and training, transportation, small business development, technology and innovation, and healthcare. The following day, Republican Senator Rand Paul made a strong argument for criminal justice reform, announcing legislation that eliminates any disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine, and revealing that he and Senator Cory Booker have teamed up on ideas to overhaul the criminal justice system, including legislation that expunges non-violent felonies from a person's record. While some of these ideas hold merit, there are many others that diverge from the interests of the Urban League Movement including opposition to a raise in the minimum wage and any support of voter ID laws. However, as I've previously stated, history has shown us a consistent truth - that it is only by talking, listening and reasoning together that we build trust, end stalemates and transform conflicts into solutions. We don't have to adopt every view that is presented to us, but we should never devolve to a place where we stop listening to — or worse — respecting each other.

Our 2014 Conference was a resounding success — thanks in large part to the support of our 94 affiliates in more than 300 communities across the nation, the people of Cincinnati who welcomed us with open arms and the dedicated and committed companies who provided their support, including our title sponsors, P&G, Toyota, and Western & Southern. Many lessons were gained during the course of our four days together, but perhaps the most important was the ongoing need for coalition-building to address the nation's many challenges. In order to build bridges to jobs and justice, we must first have meaningful dialogue that leads to action. As former Congressional Black Caucus member William Clay, Sr. famously said, "We have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies...just permanent interests." I hope our 2014 Conference was an example of the type of respectful and insightful exchange necessary to defend the permanent interests of urban America and lead to lasting change.

**Serving Prince George's County
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Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Funding for Hagerstown Manufacturer

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) announced today that the State has approved a \$1 million conditional grant to Washington County to help facilitate the expansion of National Golden Tissue, a Hagerstown-based manufacturer of paper towels, bath and facial tissues and napkins. The company has acquired the former Boat USA building in Hagerstown and plans to upgrade the facility and more than double its workforce by adding 100 new jobs.

The State's grant comes through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), which are federal funds for community and economic development administered by DBED and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Washington County Board of County Commissioners has also approved a conditional loan of

\$300,000 to the company and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland has approved a \$400,000 loan.

"We are pleased to work with our many partners — Washington County, the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and SunTrust Bank — to help this home-grown Maryland company continue to expand and add new jobs," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Manufacturing is an important part of Maryland's history and heritage, with growing manufacturers like National Golden Tissue adding to the caliber and diversity of the industry."

"Maryland's manufacturing industry is critical to our economic growth and we are committed to ensuring companies like National Golden Tissue have the support they need to stay and grow here, and to create good-paying, middle-class jobs for families across Maryland," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.

"We are proud to be a manufacturer in the great state of Maryland," said Gus Shahrooz, Chief Operating Officer for NGT. "We owe a large portion of our success to the support we have received over the years from Washing-

ton County, Hagerstown, and the State. The level of cooperation and support that these organizations have given NGT should be a testament for any manufacturer in the country looking to relocate."

"National Golden Tissue has continued to grow and substantially increase jobs in our community in a challenging economy," said Terry Baker, President of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners. "In partnership with the State, the County Commissioners and the Department of Business Development are pleased to continue supporting NGT's job growth and capital investment and we look forward to the positive economic impact for our County's citizens."

"It is a great pleasure serving as the banking partner for the Shahrooz Brothers and National Golden Tissue as they execute their ambitious growth plans which will continue to create needed jobs in Hagerstown," said Adam Winder, Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking for SunTrust Bank. "This project is a great example of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) using private sector funds in conjunction with government

entities such as the State of Maryland, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and Washington County. SunTrust Bank is committed to supporting our local businesses and communities through creative partnerships like this."

In addition to the CBBG grant, DBED will provide a \$5 million loan guarantee on an \$11.2 million loan from SunTrust Bank to National Golden Tissue, through the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority (MIDFA). DBED has supported the continued growth of National Golden Tissue since production began in Hagerstown more than five years ago, and previously provided the company with a \$5.3 million MIDFA loan guarantee.

National Golden Tissue formed in Hagerstown, Washington County in 2008. NGT manufactures paper towels, bath and facial tissue, and napkins, and currently provides brand name and private label products throughout the United States and Canada. The family-owned company is managed by two brothers, Gus Shahrooz and Sam Shahrooz, who each have over 20 years of experience in the paper and manufacturing business.

Smoke from A1

dents, and visitors who smoke or use tobacco products, including electronic devices, we partnered with Dimensions Healthcare Systems, CareFirst Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, and other health-focused organizations to provide on-going programs and information to assist individuals during and throughout this transition."

Former Prince George's County Executive, the late Wayne K. Curry, knew all too well that cigarette smoking disproportionately affects African Americans, who have a higher risk of lung cancer and death resulting from lung cancer, than

other smokers. Curry advocated for better educational programs for African Americans in order to raise awareness about lung cancer and its mortality rates, particularly among African Americans. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death, disease and disability in the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Recently, more and more colleges and universities in Maryland, and throughout the nation, have implemented similar policies on their campuses. The Surgeon General maintains that tobacco and the resulting smoke causes cancer. Moreover, reports from the World Health

Organization convey that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke. PGCC has taken a significant step by officially putting a policy in place that educates the college community, while providing a cleaner and healthier environment.

To learn more about the College's Breathe Free campaign and smoke/tobacco-free policy, please contact Jennifer Colter at Prince George's Community College (Largo campus) by calling (301) 322-0157.

Prince George's Community College is a National Center of Academic Excellence and White House Champion of Change. Established in 1958, Prince George's Community College

provides transfer and career programs that help students transition to four-year colleges and universities and prepares them for the workforce. Each year, 40,000+ students take part in more than 200 academic programs and workforce development and continuing education courses. Located in Largo, Maryland, Prince George's Community College has additional sites at Joint Base Andrews, University Town Center in Hyattsville, Laurel College Center, Skilled Trades Center in Camp Springs, and Westphalia Training Center in Upper Marlboro. For more information, visit the college website at www.pgcc.edu.

Fair Pay from A1

not necessarily know about companies' workplace violations. The new process is also structured to encourage companies to settle existing disputes, like paying back wages. And finally, the Executive Order also ensures that workers are given the necessary information each pay period to verify the accuracy of their paycheck and workers who may have been sexually assaulted or had their civil rights violated get their day in court by putting an end to mandatory arbitration agreements at corporations with large federal contracts.

By cracking down on federal contractors who break the law, the President is helping ensure that all hardworking Americans get the fair pay and safe workplaces they deserve.

Key Provisions of the Executive Order

The Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order will govern new federal procurement contracts valued at more than \$500,000, providing information on companies' compliance with federal labor laws for agencies. We expect the Executive Order to be implemented on new contracts in stages, on a prioritized basis, during 2016. The Department of Labor estimates that there are roughly 24,000 businesses with federal contracts, employing about 28 million workers.

1. Hold Corporations Accountable: Under the terms of the Executive Order, agencies will require prospective contractors to disclose labor law violations from the past three years before they can get a contract. The 14 covered Federal statutes and equivalent state laws include those addressing wage and hour, safety and health, collective bargaining, family and medical leave, and civil rights protections. Agencies will also require contractors to collect similar information from many of their subcontractors.

2. Crack Down on Repeat Violators: Contracting officers will take into account only the most egregious violations, and each agency will designate a senior official as a Labor Compliance Advisor to provide consistent guidance on whether contractors' actions rise to the level of a lack of integrity or business ethics. This advisor will support individual contracting officers in reviewing disclosures and consult with the Department of Labor. The Executive Order will ensure that the worst actors, who repeatedly violate the rights of their workers and put them in danger, don't get contracts and thus can't delay important projects and waste taxpayer money.

3. Promote Efficient Federal Contracting: Federal agencies risk poor performance by awarding contracts to companies with a history of labor law violations. In 2010, the Government Ac-

countability Office issued a report finding that almost two-thirds of the 50 largest wage-and-hour violations and almost 40 percent of the 50 largest workplace health-and-safety penalties issued between FY 2005 and FY 2009 were at companies that went on to receive new government contracts. Last year, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Tom Harkin issued a report revealing that dozens of contractors with significant health, safety, and wage and hour violations were continuing to be awarded federal contracts. Another study detailed that 28 of the companies with the top workplace violations from FY 2005 to FY 2009 subsequently received federal contracts, and a quarter of those companies eventually had significant performance problems as well—suggesting a strong relationship between contractors with a history of labor law violations and those that cannot deliver adequate performance for the taxpayer dollars they receive. Because the companies with workplace violations are more likely to encounter performance problems, today's action will also improve the efficiency of federal contracting and result in greater returns on federal tax dollars.

4. Protect Responsible Contractors: The vast majority of federal contractors have clean records. The Department of Labor estimates that the over-

whelming majority of companies with federal contracts have no federal workplace violations in the past three years. Contractors who invest in their workers' safety and maintain a fair and equitable workplace shouldn't have to compete with contractors who offer low-ball bids—based on savings from skirting the law—and then ultimately deliver poorer performance to taxpayers. The Executive Order builds on the existing procurement system, so it will be familiar to contractors and will fit into established contracting practices. Responsible businesses will check a single box on a bid form indicating that they don't have a history of labor law violations. The Federal contracting community and other interested parties will be invited to participate in listening sessions with OMB, DOL, and senior White House officials to share views on how to ensure implementing policies and practices are both fair and effective. DOL and other enforcement agencies along with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council will consider this input as they draft regulations and guidance, which will be published for public comment before being finalized.

5. Focus on Helping Companies Improve: The goal of the process created by the Executive Order is to help more contractors

See FAIR PAY Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Wish I Was Here”

Wish I Was Here

Grade: D+

Rated R for a lot of harsh profanity, brief sexuality, partial nudity.

1 hr., 54 min

I doubt I'm the only person who loved Zach Braff's *Garden State* in 2004 but has been hesitant to watch it again for fear it won't hold up. It spoke to a particular demographic at a particular time. I'm no longer at that stage of life, and it's no longer 2004, and it's possible *Garden State* would strike me now the way it struck its detractors then: twee, precious, quirky, and slap-worthy.

I'm even warier now that I've seen Braff's sloppy followup, *Wish I Was Here*, which is phony, shallow, and completely disconnected from reality. To make matters worse, it thinks it's sincere, deep, and realistic. Sometimes you get the impression a movie was made by cynical people who didn't believe what they were peddling but figured they could get audiences to buy it. That's not the case here. I think Braff is sincere about every aspect of *Wish I Was Here*, and that he thinks it says exactly what he wanted it to say. He's just wrong, that's all.

Braff, co-writing with his brother Adam, stars as self-centered b-hole Aidan Bloom, a struggling L.A. actor who, unlike most struggling L.A. actors, has a wife and kids yet won't even consider getting a day job. His wife, Sarah (Kate Hudson), makes enough at her dull office gig to basically support the family, though they're reliant on Aidan's aging father, Saul (Mandy Patinkin), to pay for the kids' Hebrew school. Aidan, an agnostic Jew, is glib about Judaism, mocking every aspect of his children's education one minute, harassing his father to pay the tuition bill the next.

When old Saul's money runs out (thanks a lot, terminal cancer expenses!), Aidan has to homeschool the children — 12-year-old Grace (Joey King) and 6-year-old Tucker (Pierce Gagnon) — because he hates public schools, because he got beaten up when he was a kid. Then he



Director Zach Braff's follow-up to his indie breakout hit "Garden State" tells the story of a thirtysomething man who finds himself at major crossroads, which forces him to examine his life, his career, and his family. (c) Focus

doesn't actually homeschool them, either, because it's hard and he doesn't take anything seriously. Meanwhile, he criticizes his stoner geek brother, Noah (Josh Gad), for living in a trailer and not having a job.

This probably sounds like the set-up for a story where the jerky protagonist gradually realizes he's immature and starts taking steps to redeem himself. Two problems, though. One, the movie doesn't seem to recognize just how bad Aidan is, presenting him as a lovable rascal rather than a negligent husband and father and all-around bastard. Two, when the movie is over (no spoilers here), Aidan has not changed. By sheer luck he has stumbled into a better employment situation, but he has hardly even acknowledged his past failures, much less rectified them. Yet here comes another inspiring alt-rock song on the soundtrack to convey the idea that Aidan has fulfilled his arc and found redemption!

This already-thin story is watered down further by extraneous characters and subplots. Uncle Noah meets a Comic-Con furry (Ashley Greene) and sets out to build a costume better than hers. Grace shaves her head on a

whim. Saul has a dog that pees everywhere that he needs Aidan to take care of. Sarah is sexually harassed by a pervy cubicle-mate (Michael Weston), giving the Braff brothers an opportunity to demonstrate how laughably out of touch they are with real-life office politics as well as their own characters: There isn't a company in America that would fail to discipline someone for saying what this guy says to Sarah, and Sarah isn't the kind of pushover who would tolerate it if they did.

Cut the furry, the head-shaving, the dog, and the co-worker out of the movie altogether and nothing would change except it'd be shorter and less slipshod. Same goes for the details that don't occupy enough screen time to be "subplots" but don't add anything, either: an elderly rabbi riding a Segway in a hospital hallway, for example, or young Tucker carrying a power drill everywhere he goes. Because of one (1) throwaway line about Grace not being able to swim, there's a scene at the end of the movie where Aidan takes her to a pool so she can jump in and be a metaphor.

The kernel of legitimacy at the center of the movie is

Aidan's spiritual crisis in the face of his father's impending death. He wants to know whether God exists and whether life is supposed to make sense. He meets with rabbis to discuss these issues (it's like a less serious *A Serious Man*), and he tries to reconnect with Saul. But Braff's idea of revelation is to have Aidan take the kids to the Mojave Desert with the express purpose of having an epiphany, and then to have them test-drive a luxury car that Saul always coveted but couldn't afford.

(Let me be clear: they don't take Saul with them on the test drive. They just take the drive and think about Saul, and throw their hands in the air to feel the breeze, and now they are all more connected, and somebody like Arcade Fire has earned some more song royalties.)

But aside from being larded with irrelevant scenes and sitcom-dumb jokes, having a protagonist with no character arc, addressing real human issues with careless superficiality, and wasting a rare good performance by Kate Hudson, the movie isn't too bad. It's got a grown man watching his father die, and that's always good for a few tears, right?

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Preordained: Why LeBron James Was Always Coming Back to Cleveland



In 2013, I predicted that LeBron James would shock the world and return to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Many, "insiders" with pipelines into executive suites and owners' boxes said there was no way this would happen. The consensus was that the four-time-MVP would never marry the last years of his prime to a profoundly dysfunctional franchise and a wretched team owner, in Dan Gilbert, who insulted James like a bratty adolescent on his way out of town.

All logic said they were right. But I still thought they were wrong and was confident, even throughout this last Bynum-and-Bailey circus of a season in Cleveland, that LeBron would find his way home. I apologize for this self-aggrandizing "snoopy dance" over my predicting something correctly, especially when my personal record of predictions is, on the whole, wretched. (My belief that a Zach Randolph, Eddy Curry-led Knicks team would make the 2008 NBA finals remains a sore subject.)

But for me, the idea that James would return to Cleveland, no matter how much of a train wreck of a franchise it had become, seemed preordained, even obvious, to anyone paying attention to his off-court persona. First of all, LeBron James is the most "meta", self-aware, consciously cinematic athlete we have ever seen. If Michael Jordan was the superstar of his own blockbuster movie, LeBron has always aspired to be actor, producer and director. Every step he takes has one eye on posterity. "The Decision" of 2010, when LeBron "took [his] talents to South Beach", which brought him the rings that he craved but left hurt feelings and bad vibes in its wake, did not fit the script that LeBron James had already written in his own mind. If LeBron sees himself as Martin Scorsese, *The Decision* was his *Bringing Out the Dead*. By coming home to possibly bring a sports championship to the city of Cleveland for the first time since 1964, LeBron James can make *Goodfellas*. He can produce and direct his own magnum opus even—perhaps especially—if it means an ending where he's eating egg noodles and ketchup.

Securing a title for Cleveland would establish a legend far greater than winning multiple championships in Miami. Dragging a snake-bitten city to the heights of the sports world and smashing on all of the Modellian bad karma in his path would establish a narrative singularly his own. Choosing to return to Cleveland, a city that has lost almost a fifth of its population over the last two decades, makes him a prospective folk hero.

LeBron, as I wrote in 2013, has always aspired to be something more than a collection of specialty sneakers. Early in his career, he said he wanted to be a "global icon like Muhammad Ali" without the clearest sense about what that meant. In recent years, by speaking out for Trayvon Martin or becoming the first prominent NBA player to say that Donald Sterling had no business in the league, it seemed like he was figuring out what Jordan never did: that "being Ali" meant standing for something bigger than yourself.

By going back to Cleveland, LeBron is embracing his power as someone transformative, someone who could be, without cliché or Nike branding, more than an athlete. By making all the haters, from Dan Gilbert to the fans who burned his jersey, to the vicious media voices, sob in gratitude over his return, he is making this about more than just his own redemption, but theirs as well. Even by insisting on maximum money and not succumbing to the owner-friendly media-driven narrative that stars should accept less "for the good of the team", he is doing right by young players currently getting hosed by a boss-friendly collective bargaining agreement. It may take some time to make it all work in Cleveland, but by shouldering the burden of a city's collective damaged psyche and demonstrating the power to rebuild the most burned of bridges, LeBron is going for folk-hero status. He is attempting to produce the ultimate movie of his athletic life. Succeed or fail, it will be a collective thrill to see him try to write the final act. In other words, he's already won.

Grants from A1

our communities," said County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. "I want to thank Governor O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown for their commitment to education in Baltimore County."

The Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 (SB 332) builds on the State's existing pre-K system and expands the number of pre-K slots available to include Maryland children whose families make up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The bill represents the first step toward expanding pre-K to all Maryland children by establishing a competitive Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant Program and Fund through which local school systems and local providers were able apply to establish, expand and enhance existing pre-K programs and highly effective Judy Centers. Recipients were selected by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) following the application process which began in April. See attached for a full list of recipients.

"This Prekindergarten Expansion Grant builds upon the existing public prekindergarten

system and moves us even closer to the target goal of providing universal access to high-quality prekindergarten for Maryland children of all income levels," said Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools.

The programs selected for expansion span nearly every part of Maryland (see map here) and reflect the wide spectrum of high quality early childhood programs in the state that serve 4-year olds:

- \$1.8 million for 17 community based providers who in partnership with their local school systems will expand pre-k to children at their existing sites;

- \$2.5 million to 7 local public school systems to expand pre-k, including three new Judith B. Hoyer Centers; and

- A unique partnership in Baltimore City between the State and Baltimore Community Foundation, sponsored by the Ravens and M&T Bank, that will allow for a new Judy Hoyer Center to open at Arundel Elementary School in Baltimore City.

"High quality pre-k plays a critical role in preparing Maryland's children for success. This initial expansion is part of a larger effort to one day provide pre-k to all Maryland children.

We want to thank Lt. Governor Brown for his leadership and partnership in this important effort," said State Senator Nancy King who, along with State Senator Bill Ferguson, was a leading supporter of this legislation in the Senate.

A 2007 study by the Economic Policy Institute found that in Maryland, revenues to the State Treasury would increase more than \$2 for every \$1 spent on early education. The overall return on investment on general economic activity is predicted to be 8.7 times the amount invested. This is due to the fact that investments in early education help children succeed later in life and reduce the likelihood that a child will end up needing government assistance or spending time in a correctional facility. ("Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation Maryland Summary," Lynch, Economic Policy Institute, July 2007)

"Today's pre-K announcement is an important step forward for Maryland children and families," said House Ways and Means Chairman Sheila Hixson. "Providing our children with high quality pre-k helps prepare them for a lifetime of learning,

engages families in their children's education and reduces long-term costs to government." Other leading pre-K expansion advocates in the House included Delegate Anne Kaiser and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg.

"Maryland has made incredible progress over the last decade in closing the achievement gap," said MSEA President Betty Weller. "Expanding our pre-k program is a smart, research-backed method for further closing existing gaps and better preparing all of our children to achieve and excel in school."

In order to encourage partnership with the private sector and local and national foundations, the grant program allows businesses and philanthropic entities to contribute funds to support the expansion, which will be matched by MSDE. In addition to the \$4.3 million in State funding announced today, the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) has established an agreement with MSDE and Baltimore City Public Schools to fund the opening of a new Judy Center at Arun-

Calendar of Events

August 14 — August 20, 2014

Farmer's Market

Date and Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014-

Saturday, November 1, 2014 9 am

Description: Visit the local Farmer's Market! Shop for fresh produce, crafts and other foods from local vendors. Much of the produce sold is organic.

Cost: Free admission. Various prices for goods

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Marietta House Museum

5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, Md. 20769

Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544 (Mary Amen)

Blue Star Memorial Program

Date and Time: Friday & Sundays, June 27-August 31,
12 noon-4 pm

Description: Darnall's Chance honors active duty military members and their families by participating in the Blue Star Memorial Program. All active duty U.S. service members and their families showing appropriate ID can receive free admission to the museum.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum

14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Concerts in the Park! The Comfort Zone Band

Date & Time: Thursday, August 14, 2014, 7-8:30 pm

Description: Sultry Jazz Mixed with Upbeat R&B!

Celebrate 17 years of music at Watkins Regional Park! Enjoy 7 weeks of cool tunes at twilight. Family and friends can enjoy a variety of FREE music under the setting sun. Bring a blanket and delight in the harmony on these jivin' Thursdays. Please note: This is a non-smoking venue!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages

Location: On the Green at Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

Beltsville CC Summer Concerts: Project Natale

Date & Time: Saturday, August 16, 2014, 7 pm

Description: A premiere, traditional jazz group.

M-NCPPC & the Beltsville Recreation Council invite you to bring your family and friends to enjoy FREE musical performances. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit comfortably!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages

Location: Beltsville Community Center

3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705

Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Hawaiian Luau Ice Cream Social

Date & Time: Saturday, August 16, 2014 11 am-1 pm

Description: Join us for an afternoon of fun celebrating the Hawaiian culture! The day will include roller skating, face printing, music and ice cream! Admission price includes two tickets good for ice cream; get your ice cream tickets at the front desk of the Community Center. Advanced registration and payment is required by Wednesday, August 13, 2014.

Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4

Ages: 5 & up

Location: North Forestville Community Center

2311 Ritchie Rd, Forestville 20747

Contact: 301-350-8660; TTY 301-218-6768

National Model Aviation Day

Date and Time: Saturday, August 16, 2014 10 am-2 pm

Description: Learn all about model airplanes! The Sky Lancers of Washington will be flying their control line model airplanes and offering training flights. A workshop to make your own static model airplane will be also be available. Please call the museum in advance to register for the workshop.

Cost: \$8 workshop fee

Ages: 10 & up

Location: College Park Aviation Museum

1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park, 20740

Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Teen Choice

Date and Time: Saturday, August 16, 2014 7-10 pm

Description: Come out and enjoy a night of board games, arts & crafts, basketball, or just hang out and talk with your friends. Whatever you choose, let's have an awesome time.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Vansville Community Center

6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705

Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-445-4512

Club 300 Group Walk (Northeast Branch Trail)

Date & Time: Monday, August 18, 2014 9:30-11 am

Description: Hey seniors, join Club 300 for our Summer Walking Program! Walking is an easy way to stay in shape. And we'll do so walking on the Northeast Branch Trail together! Please arrive on time and meet us at the Wells-Linson Complex.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 50 & better

Location: Ellen E. Linson Splash Park

5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park 20740

Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-446-3402

Francis Scott Key, A Life

Date and Time: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 7 pm

Description: While Francis Scott Key is known as the author of "The Star Spangled Banner," he was also at the Battle of Bladensburg. Marc Leepson talks about his new biography of the lawyer and poet. Books will be available for purchase.

Cost: FREE

Ages: Ages 12 & up

Location: Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737

Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... U.S. Eco-Travel Destinations

Dear EarthTalk:

Where are some good "eco-travel" destinations right here in the continental U.S. that I can consider for a family vacation?

— Janet Devino,
Brooklyn, NY

Many of us are looking to green our lifestyles today and this commitment to Mother Earth can also include how and where we travel. And those of us looking to take a vacation that benefits instead of harms the natural environment no longer have to travel to the ends of the Earth to do so. In the so-called "Lower 48," many resorts and destinations work hard to minimize their impact on the environment.

One example is California's Costanoa, where guests can use tented bungalows—safari-style canvas tents with hardwood floors, heaters and real beds with high thread-count sheets—as base camps for exploring the surrounding 30,000 acres of state parks and wildlife preserves. Grilling stations for cooking as well as bathrooms with showers are scattered around the grounds so guests can take care of worldly concerns. Interested guests should think ahead as the bungalows book up a year or more in advance.

In Washington State, ecotourists should check out the Rolling Huts, a series of small mobile cabins designed by modern architect Tom Kundig and situated in a field alongside the rushing Methow River amid one of the nation's best networks of cross-country ski and mountain biking trails.

Restoration from A1

"From crabs and oysters to boats and beaches and most important, clean drinking water supplies in our groundwater, streams, rivers and reservoirs, Maryland has the most to gain from our Bay restoration efforts," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Robert M. Summers. "This effort is a federal, state and local partnership to improve our local water quality, natural habitats and ecosystems and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland appreciates the local jurisdictions' participation in the two-year milestones as well as the great progress the jurisdictions are making toward the 2025 goals."

Of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland, 22 adopted Milestone

The "huts" sleep up to four and are heated with wood-burning fireplaces, while the adjacent restaurant Kelly's serves up local organic fare with panache. If you aren't lucky enough to score one of the six huts, you can always rough it in the canvas platform tents down a footpath and a world away from the everyday hubbub.

If a more refined form of green is your thing, try San Francisco's Orchard Garden Hotel, designed from the ground up to qualify for the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) status. Among other green touches, the hotel's guestrooms feature key-card-based energy control system, eco-friendly bath products, and decor utilizing natural woods and fabrics.

Another option is the Rock Harbor Lodge on remote Isle Royale on Michigan's Lake Superior. Accessible by boat or seaplane only, the lodge offers direct access to the 893 square-mile island wilderness that is America's least visited national park—where wolves, moose, loons, beaver, fox and other wildlife rule. The lodge rents boats, kayaks and canoes and offers guided fishing and sightseeing tours. Given its northerly location and lack of light pollution, the lodge also serves up free viewing of the Northern Lights.

commitments for the 2012-2013 period. Most of the 22 jurisdictions received a rating of high or medium. Jurisdictions that received top marks for their restoration activities include Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Washington counties. The two jurisdictions that did not submit status reports for their restoration actions are Frederick and Dorchester counties.

"Maryland continues to make progress towards the goals for healthy local waters and a restored Bay, underscoring the vital role local jurisdictions play in these efforts," said Jon Capacasa, Water Program Director for EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region. "Creating clean, healthy creeks, rivers and streams that benefit

Fair Pay from A6

come into compliance with workplace protections, not to deny contracts to contractors. Companies with labor law violations will be offered the opportunity to receive early guidance on whether those violations are potentially problematic and remedy any problems. Contracting officers will take these steps into account before awarding a contract and ensure the contractor is living up to the terms of its agreement.

6. Give Employees a Day in Court: The Executive Order directs companies with federal contracts of \$1 million or more not to require their employees to enter into predispute arbitration agreements for disputes arising out of Title VII of the Civil

Rights Act or from torts related to sexual assault or harassment (except when valid contracts already exist). This builds on a policy already passed by Congress and successfully implemented at the Department of Defense, the largest federal contracting agency, and will help improve contractors' compliance with labor laws.

7. Give Employees Information About their Paychecks: As a normal part of doing business, most employers give their workers a pay stub with basic information about their hours and wages. To be sure that all workers get this basic information, the Executive Order requires contractors to give their employees information concerning their hours worked, overtime hours, pay, and any additions to or de-

Grants from A6

del Elementary/Middle School in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City. BCF's contribution, sponsored by the Ravens and M&T Bank, is \$165,000 per year for three years which represents 50% of the operating costs for a Judy Center. The remaining \$165,000 is covered by MSDE. After three years, MSDE will assume total operating costs for the Judy Center.

"One of the Baltimore Community Foundation's education goals is to ensure that 90% of Baltimore's kindergarteners are ready for school by 2017," said BCF President and CEO Thomas E. Wilcox. "The Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 will provide a boost for getting all children to arrive at Kindergarten ready to learn. We know that public-private investments are a powerful way to address what seem like intractable problems. That

is why our partnership with Maryland State Department of Education and City Schools is so central to the success of our school readiness goal."



CREDIT: ED BIERMAN

California's Costanoa, where guests can use tented bungalows -- safari-style canvas tents with hardwood floors, heaters and real beds with high thread-count sheets -- as base camps for exploring the surrounding 30,000 acres of state parks and wildlife preserves.

For another type of domestic eco-travel experience, sign up for a trip with Earthwatch, a nonprofit that sends citizen-scientists on environmental research trips with leading scientists. Some of the group's upcoming Lower 48 trips include exploring Boston's urban forest, researching the causes and effects of rising tides in South Carolina and

uncovering the mysteries of ancient Colorado.

Of course, there are many other ways to indulge in eco-travel without leaving the continental U.S. A simple Internet search for eco-travel and a specific region will surely yield plenty of worthy options for places to go to get away from that computer screen and interact directly with the natural world.

CONTACTS: Costanoa, www.costanoa.com; Rolling Huts, www.rollinghuts.com; Orchard Garden Hotel, www.theorchardgardenhotel.com; Rock Harbor Lodge, www.rockharborlodge.com; Earthwatch, www.earthwatch.org.

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local communities and their economies, ultimately leads to a restored, healthy and economically viable Bay watershed."

Meeting Maryland's 2025 goals in a cost-effective manner will require continued implementation of innovative practices to reduce stormwater runoff and limit the pollution carried with it, further implementation of conservation practices by farmers across the state and nutrient trading to harness the innovative ideas of everyone working together to restore water quality. Working with local governments, Maryland will submit another blueprint of our efforts in 2018, called the Phase Three Watershed Implementation Plan.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the

Maryland Department of the Environment recently announced a Watershed Assistance - Two-Year Milestone Support grant program. This program will support design assistance, watershed planning and programmatic development associated with protection and restoration programs and projects that lead to improved water quality in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Maryland portion of the Youghiogheny watershed and the Maryland Coastal Bays. For more information or to apply visit the Chesapeake Bay Trust website.

Learn more about Maryland's Bay restoration effort at Baystat.Maryland.Gov or follow @MDEnvironment and @EyesontheBay on Twitter.

other new entrants, and more affordable to taxpayers.

Part of the basic American bargain is that if you take responsibility, work hard and play by the rules, workers can count on fair wages, freedom from discrimination on the job, and safe and equitable workplaces. Taxpayer dollars shouldn't be used by unscrupulous employers to drive down living standards for our families, neighbors, and communities. By creating incentives for better compliance and a process for helping contractors come into compliance with basic workplace protection laws, the Executive Order is basic good government that will increase efficiency in federal contracting and will help strengthen our workforce and our economy.

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the way to global competitiveness for our children. It includes a record \$6.12 billion investment in K-12 education, which is an increase of 37 percent compared to FY2007. In addition to the \$4.3 million for additional Pre-K opportunities, the Administration will invest \$289 for the Public School Construction Program, bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration's average annual investment to the highest ever at \$345 million.