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West Nile Virus Detected in Maryland Resident

By PRESS OFFICER
MD DHMH

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) today announced the first confirmed case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Maryland this year. The infected individual is an adult who lives in the National Capital Region. In addition, WNV has also been detected in a horse, also in the National Capital Region, and in mosquito pools collected in Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's and Talbot Counties. A mosquito pool is a group of mosquitoes collected at one of several trap sites across the State.

"A case of WNV is not unexpected," said DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein. "Marylanders are reminded that they can take basic steps to reduce the risk of getting infected."

Measures people can take to protect themselves include:

- Avoid areas of high mosquito activity.
- Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and hats

See WEST NILE Page A5

Cardin, Mikulski Address Rising College Education Costs

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Senators

BOWIE, Md. – U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara A. Mikulski (both D-Md.) visited Bowie State University Thursday for a roundtable discussion with BSU President Mickey L. Burnim, students and officials. At the forefront of the conversation were the many challenges Maryland students face in paying for higher education. As prices at public four-year institutions rise at unprecedented rates and U.S. student loan debt

balloons to roughly \$1 trillion – a sum larger than Americans' total collective credit card debt – the senators are committed to finding new ways in Washington to make college a more attainable prospect for a greater number of Maryland students. Getting a college degree opens the door to job opportunities, and for the average worker, means \$1 million more in earnings over a lifetime compared to those with a high school diploma.

See EDUCATION Page A7



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA.

President Barack Obama shakes hands following remarks at the Milwaukee Laborfest at Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, Wis., on Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014

President Obama Rallies Workers at Milwaukee's Laborfest

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

The President celebrated Labor Day by visiting the city of Milwaukee for Laborfest, an annual festival hosted by the local AFL-CIO. While there, he spoke on a number of issues -- most notably the need to raise the minimum wage for America's workers.

Kicking off his remarks, the President said that Labor Day belongs to the "working folks who are here today, and the unions who've always had your back," and emphasized the importance of building our economy from the middle class out:

"I didn't run for President to double down on top-down economics. I ran for President because I believed in bottom-up

economics. I believed in middle-out economics. I placed a bet on you. I placed a bet on America's workers. I put my money on American workers and the belief that our economy grows best when everybody has got a shot -- when folks who are willing to work hard can get into the middle class and stay in the middle class. And I've come back to Laborfest to say

that because of your hard work, because of what we've been through together, that bet is starting to pay off."

The President then went on to detail exactly how America is stronger:

• We've created nearly 10 million new jobs over the past 53

See LABORFEST Page A3

Ingrid Turner at the Ribbon Cutting for New CCI Prenatal Health Care Facility

By ANGELA ROUSON
CouncilMedia@co.pg.md.us

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner (D) – District 4, joined Kaiser Permanente Executive Director of Community Benefit Maritha Gay; Community Care, Inc. (CCI) CEO, Kathleen Knolhoff; City of Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, CCI, Inc. and Kaiser Permanente employees; patients and members of the Greenbelt community for the ribbon-cutting and official grand opening of the CCI Prenatal Care Center in Greenbelt on Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

During her congratulatory remarks, Council Member Turner thanked CCI and Kaiser Permanente for their continued investment in Prince George's County and District 4.

"CCI's new prenatal care facility will offer access to quality health care when it is most needed," said Council Member Turner. "We want our children to have the best start possible, and prenatal care improves the health and birth outcomes for both mothers and babies. This new location, in close proximity to the Greenbelt metro, will give more resi-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Turner joins Kaiser Permanente and Community Care, Inc. to Open Prenatal Care Center in District 4

dents an opportunity to take advantage of the services provided and we are pleased to welcome this new facility to District 4."

Community Clinic, Inc. (CCI) is a nonprofit, community-based health care agency serving residents of Prince George's and Montgomery counties who are uninsured or underinsured. Kaiser Permanente provided funding to expand care, furniture for additional examination rooms, and dedicated four clinicians to treat patients through its community amb-

sador program. During its first year, the center is expected to provide prenatal care to over 200 new expectant mothers.

CCI's stated mission is to provide quality primary care, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition services, and other health-related services to medically under-served persons, promote improved access to health care services, and conduct its mission in a non-discriminatory manner, sensitive to the needs of the community and the dignity of every individual.

PGCC Student Awarded MTEF Tourism Scholarship

By JENNIFER L. COLTER
PGCommunity College

Annapolis, MD – The Maryland Tourism Education Foundation, Inc. (MTEF), originally established in 2007 as a 501-C-3 corporation, is delighted to announce that Marilyn Ann Cox of Oxon Hill, MD is the winner of its \$1,000 scholarship for 2014. Ms. Cox submitted the application and winning essay that put her ahead of the rest of the applicants. Certified in Hospitality Services Management, she graduated from the Prince George's Community College program in May 2014.

As the first generation of her family to attend college, Marilyn spoke of her belief in education...a belief that was strongly supported by her Mother. She is going to pursue her AA degree at Prince George's Community College in Hospitality Management, with the intent to transfer to the University of Maryland to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Communications, followed by a Master's degree in Business Management with a concentration in International Business.

Ms. Cox has recently obtained employment with MGM Resorts National Harbor, as the Administrative Assistant to the Project Director, John Rooney. A team leader in her church, she is particularly interested in the Philanthropic efforts of MGM Resorts International and its many benefactors.

In Marilyn's words: "There is no greater feeling of accomplishment when you are working in your passion and in the field that makes you "tick" as a person." MTEF President, Deb Carter, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Campgrounds, is excited about the new awardee, and her strong beliefs and goals. "So often we hear bad news, negative reports from all around us on a daily basis. To read through the essays we received, was such a positive experience that confirms what a great industry we're in. To be able to make our customers happy, and make a living doing it – what could be better?"

Ms. Cox was recognized at the recent MTEF Board meeting. She is shown here receiving her scholarship award from



PHOTO COURTESY PGCC
MARILYN ANN COX OF OXON HILL

Stephen Kensinger, Senior Vice President of Old Line Bank, and Treasurer of MTEF.

...serves to build the capabilities of Maryland's tourism workforce. Since 2008, MTEF has awarded nine (9) tourism education scholarships. MTEF also licenses two customer-service training programs: Hospitality Maryland Style, a college credit course, and Maryland Smiles, a certification non-credit course. Additionally, MTEF provides a monthly, one-day Taxi Host class for Taxi Drivers and BWI Shuttle Drivers at the Baltimore City Community College. This popular class has certified over 200 drivers as Maryland Taxi Hosts in the last 12-month period. For more information on scholarships or programs listed, please call 410.573.1300 or visit the website at www.mdtef.org.

INSIDE

Fairmount Heights Branch Library Reopens

Library customers will notice new contemporary finishes, new windows, new information monitors, multiple personal access computer stations, modernized Wi-Fi lounges and a completely revamped service desk. Energy upgrades have been made throughout the building.
Community, Page A3

Mikulski, Kaine, Warner, Wittman Urge Better Labeling of Imported Crab Meat

"Maryland's seafood industry is critical for jobs on the Eastern Shore and our way of life." "When families read the crab meat they're consuming is the product of the United States, they expect it to be. We must end the practice of dangerous and deceptive labeling of imported crab meat."
"Commentary, Page A4

BECO Management Signs Six Leases Totaling over 35,000 Sq. Ft. of Space in Prince George's County

Located near US Route 50 in the Lanham area of Prince George's County. Together, these business communities offer more than 1.2 million square feet of commercial office, flex/office and warehouse space.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "The One I Love"

This movie about a married couple who take a weekend retreat to restore vitality to their strained relationship? Your interest would probably not be particularly aroused. But what if I added that when they arrive at the country estate with its charming guest house, they discover a "Twilight Zone"
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

We must really be swimming in electronic waste, what with all the iPhones and other devices that are so common. How is this all being dealt with?

— Mary Shufelt, New Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Colonial Tavern Dinner served in Upper Marlborough

Darnall's Chance House Museum invites you to be their guest as they re-create the atmosphere of a mid-18th century tavern dinner in Upper Marlborough on Saturday, Sept. 27, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy colonial food and spirits. Following dinner, listen to Ship's Company sing sea chanties and tavern songs of the period.

Capacity is limited, so reservations and payment (\$40) are required in advance. Call 301-952-8010, or mail to Darnall's Chance, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

McNamara begins celebration of their 50th

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, will be the celebrant for a Mass on Sept. 15, marking the start of a year celebrating the 50 anniversary of Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville. Mass will begin at 8 a.m. in the main gym and will be followed by a reception in St. Joseph's Library. The Brothers of Holy Cross, past school principals, Presidents, and additional dignitaries will be in attendance.

La Reine alumnae invited to Queen of Hearts Reunion

La Reine High School alumnae, of all years, are invited to a very special Queen of Hearts Reunion on March 1. (You do know, I assume, that La Reine means The Queen.) It'll include a tour of the original La Reine High School in Suitland, Mass and a reception at McNamara. Some of their teachers, including Bernardine Sisters, will be there. The Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis founded the school in about 1960. Sad to say, it closed in the mid-'90s. The building was eventually purchased by the County Schools and is now Drew-Freeman Middle School.

Neighbors

There's a placard on the wall of Jiffy Sub, on Allentown Road, honoring Steve Kanios who died Nov. 14, 2013. For 40-plus years he was half-

owner of the restaurant.

Mary Mitchell, longtime resident of Auth Village, was guest of honor at her 91st birthday party on Sept. 4. I was happy to be there to celebrate with my dear friend of so many years.

Morningsiders are urged to attend their monthly Town Meeting Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.

Skyline Citizens Association holds its quarterly meeting Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. at Skyline School.

Community Yard Sale & Back-to-School Giveaway in Suitland

The Suitland Civic Association invites you to their Really Big Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the soccer field at Drew-Freeman Middle School, 2600 Brooks Drive. They'll be selling, furniture, clothing, tools, household items, jewelry, collectibles, baby items, electronics, toys, etc! And there will be music and food for sale.

It is probably too late to reserve a table but you could call 301-485-9766 or email wilkaren@comcast.net.

Students under the age of 18, who live in Prince George's (particularly Suitland) will receive free backpacks & school supplies with proof of residence, as long as supplies last.

Changing landscape

The intersection of Pennsylvania Ave. (MD 4) and Suitland Parkway has been funded for design, construction and right-of-way. Work begins in the fall of 2015.

May they rest in peace

Eleanor Elizabeth "Sissy" Mangum, 89, of Suitland, one of the former owners of Cedar Hill Inn Restaurant, died Aug. 22. She grew up in

Washington, daughter of Heiskell and Cathleen Gray, and graduated from Anacostia High School. Survivors include her children, Gregory Mangum, Terrie Wilcoxon, Cathleen Nelson, John Mangum and Ernest "Butch" Mangum; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at

Mount Calvary Church with burial at Cedar Hill.

Helen Krahling, 84, member of the VFW 9619 Ladies Auxiliary in Morningside, longtime resident of Camp Springs, recently of Chesapeake Beach, died at home on Aug. 29. She enjoyed bowling, cruises and, especially, visiting her family in Greece. She was the wife for 59 years of Edwin Krahling; mother of Jeffrey and Wayne; grandmother of four; great-grandmother of three; and sister of Constance Beale.

Robert Russell "Bob" Ripple, 91, of Upper Marlboro, Clinton and Cheltenham, died Aug. 10. He was born in Cheltenham, the youngest of the eight children of Mary Catherine and Ammon Cyril Ripple. He graduated from Surrattsville High in 1940, married Betty Selby and joined the Air Force. After the war, he worked for the Architect of the Capitol, was a Justice of the Peace, obtained a real estate license and started his own construction company, Triple-R-Construction. He was a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Clinton and a Past Commander of American Legion Clinton Post 259. His wife Mary Catherine, son Lawrence and a granddaughter predeceased him. Survivors include four children, Karen, Robert, Betty Ann and William; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Hank Busky and Anthony Thomas, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; Kenny Clark, Sept. 14; El-nora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16; Agnes Barber, Kimberly Brewer, Everett Mason, Jr. and Joan Stakem, Sept. 17.

Happy anniversary to former Morningside VFD Chief Les and Kathy Hedrick, their 45th on Sept. 13; to Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, their 11th on Sept. 14; and to Lavine and Bill Callicott, their 54th on Sept. 15.

Neighborhood Events

Navy Seaman Apprentice Anisha Tucker of Upper Marlboro, serves aboard PCU Gerald Ford



Seaman Apprentice Anisha Tucker is a personnel specialist aboard Pre-Commissioning Unit Gerald R. Ford.

by Lt. j.g. Jennifer Cunningham, Navy Office of Community Outreach

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — An Upper Marlboro, Maryland native and 2012 Largo High School graduate, is serving in the U.S. Navy as part of a hand-picked crew charged with bringing the Navy's newest aircraft carrier into service.

Seaman Apprentice Anisha Tucker is a personnel specialist aboard Pre-Commissioning Unit Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the first ship in its class and the successor to the Navy's Nimitz-class aircraft carriers that have been in operation for the last half century.

Tucker and the rest of the 1000-Sailor crew are slowly bringing the ship to life, a crew that will eventually grow to more than 4,500 when the ship is at sea. When complete, the aircraft carrier, powered by two nuclear reactors, will measure more than three football fields long at 1,092 feet in length and will weigh more than 100,000 tons. It will be capable of sailing at nearly 35 mph and will carry more than 75 Navy aircraft.

"Seaman Apprentice Tucker plays a vital role in preparing our Nation's newest and most technologically advanced warship for sea," said Ford's Commanding Officer, Capt. John F. Meier. "We have the opportunity to build this command with the ideals of our namesake and we are creating the command climate and a culture of excellence that we have always wanted. This crew is setting that standard, a standard that will last for the 50-plus year life of the ship."

As one of the sailors who will commission the ship, Tucker, who has been in for nine months and is the first in her family to join the Navy, has the opportunity to see firsthand the innovations being incorporated into the design of the ship; from a redesigned flight deck to allow for more efficient aircraft operations to equipment that requires less maintenance.

As the crew grows and works toward the goal of joining the fleet in 2016, Tucker and other Gerald R. Ford sailors will be accepting spaces on the ship, training to operate it and building a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes.

Training for the crew has to come from some unique sources. There are no Navy schools for some of the new equipment, so the crew is partnering with Huntington Ingalls, Newport News Shipbuilding, and other vendors to master the new systems.

"This is a unique opportunity to see first-hand how the

systems are installed and tested, which is an advantage that future crews won't have an opportunity to experience," said Meier. "Seaman Apprentice Tucker and her shipmates are becoming the subject matter experts. They are working hand in hand with the Shipyard throughout the testing phase and in turn teaching the Navy how to operate this new class of aircraft carriers."

Tucker said it is an exciting time to be in the Navy, helping to build a crew and a ship from scratch, something she never expected to be doing just a couple years ago. She also said she is proud of the work she is doing to help commission and man the Navy's newest aircraft carrier. As a 19-year-old with numerous responsibilities, Tucker said she is learning about herself as a leader, sailor and a person. "I've learned that I can do more than I ever anticipated," said Tucker. "I've matured greatly."

Tucker adds she is ready to accept the sacrifices the Navy and her country are asking her to make. This humbling reward is being a part of something much bigger than she ever expected.

Like the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers that came before it, USS Gerald R. Ford's mission is to protect and defend America on the world's oceans. When the ship deploys it will bring four-and-a-half acres of survivable, sovereign U.S. territory, increasing the Navy's strike capability and defending the country's interests in any region of the world.

12 Bowie State University Student-Athletes Chosen As 2013-14 D-IIADA Academic Achievement Award Winners

BOWIE, Md. - The Division-II Athletics Directors Association (D-IIADA) announced the 2013-2014 recipients of the D-IIADA Academic Achievement Awards. Twelve Bowie State University student-athletes were chosen as 2013-14 D-IIADA Academic Achievement Award winners. The Academic Achievement Awards is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division-II level.

The 12 student-athletes awarded from Bowie State are:

Graduate students Uchechi Ahaiwe and Ashley Davis (Women's Basketball) juniors Cassandra Clayborne and Haley Flint along with seniors Mariela Hernandez and Adria Lewis (Softball), senior Symone Jordan (Volleyball), junior Marcus King (Football), Channae Manning (Women's Tennis), Adrienne Tolson (Bowling) and junior Ayanna Tweedy (Women's Track).

"We are excited about our twelve student-athletes academic achievement in receiving this award", said Interim Athletic Director Donna Polk. "This is a reflection of their commitment to success in the classroom and our coaches' support for academics. We are proud to see our student-athletes recognized."

A total of 155 institutions and a record number of student-athletes (6,949) are being recognized for the 2013-14 Academic Achievement Awards. For the second straight year, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Association had 679 student-athletes honored, a record-high for the program, followed by the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) with 653 student-athletes. The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) had 68 student-athletes awarded from five institutions (Bowie State - 12, Chowan - 27, FSU - 4, Shaw - 13, and Virginia State - 12).

In order for a student-athlete to receive an Academic Achievement Award, the athletics director of the Division-II institution MUST BE a CURRENT dues paying member of the D-IIADA.

Also, the student-athlete must:

- have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters of college level work
- have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year

State Agriculture Department Launches Maryland Animal Emergency Network

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 1, 2014) — The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Health Section has launched the Maryland Animal Emergency Network (MAEN), a group of animal professionals, animal emergency responders, and other organizations interested in addressing the needs of all animals — including companion animals, livestock and horses — in the event of an emergency or disaster in Maryland.

Any emergency that impacts people also impacts animals. MDA created the Animal Emergency Network to connect animal disaster response partners in Maryland and to promote preparedness for animal owners and animal professionals to mitigate the effects of animal disasters. The group aims to maximize coordination of animal disaster response efforts through a central information exchange.

Membership in the network is open to any professional animal group in Maryland, including local animal control groups, animal emergency response groups, animal rescue groups, and veterinarians.

Current membership includes: MDA, Charles County Animal Response Team, Montgomery County Animal Response Team, Humane Society of Carroll County, Baltimore County Animal Control, American Humane Association (AHA) and National Animal Rescue & Sheltering Coalition (NARSC). For more information visit the MAEN website.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS SUMMIT

Prince George's County Board of Education and Prince George's County Public Schools will host their 2ND Annual College & Career Readiness Summit on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM at Charles H. Flowers HS. The address is 10001 Ardwick-Ardmore Road Springdale, Maryland 20774. This event is free. Register at www.l.pgeps.org/summit. Transportation is available. Students in need of bus transportation have to be accompanied by parent/guardian. For information, call 301-952-6115.

UMM DISTRICT PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Washington East District United Methodist men will be having their annual prayer breakfast on Saturday, September 20 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Brandywine Maryland. The breakfast will begin at 9:00 AM. Donations are \$10.00. The theme for the breakfast is "Pressing towards the Mark". If you need additional information please contact Cary Montgomery at cman77all@verizon.net.

MEDSTAR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

A free strong Support Group is offered fourth Thursday of every month, 5:00 PM to -6:30 PM in the Hospital Library. Registration is required. Call 301-877-5858 for more information.

Blood Pressure screenings are given on Thursday from noon to 4:00 PM in the Hospital Solarium. For location, time and topics please call 301-877-5700 or visit website: MedStarSouthernMaryland.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeremy Mitchell, the grandson of Ruth Turner and the son of Larry and Patricia Turner Mitchell graduated from Advanced Training School, Tuesday, August 19 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Mental Health Committee, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, will be holding a blood drive on Saturday, September 20, at CUMC. The church address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Office telephone number is 301-868-1281.

CLEARWATER NATURE CENTER

Attractions at Clearwater nature Center include the Natural Treasures exhibit hall. You will be able to watch fish and turtles swim in the large indoor pool. Natural hiking trails allow visitors to explore the fauna and flora of Prince George's County. Call for more information 301-689-2544.

LITTLE TREASURES DAY CARE

Play, learn and grow together. Little Treasures Day Care provides Parent Night Out, Full Time, Part-Time, Drop-In's, Summer Programs, Before & Aftercare Programs. For additional information contact the office at 240-244-5607 or www.treasurechildren.com.

AQUASCO FARM

Did you know that you can bow hunt at Aquasco Farm? The Aquasco Farm is agricultural property with managed bow hunting area in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The farm is located at 16665 Aquasco Farm Road in Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Social Security to Resume Mailed Benefit Statements

Call it a paperless experiment that didn't quite pan out. In 2011, a budget-strapped Social Security Administration (SSA) stopped mailing annual benefit statements to workers over 25 in order to save \$70 million on annual printing and mailing costs.

In return, the agency launched the "my Social Security" online tool that allows 24/7 access to your statement, as well as other helpful information. (Your statement shows a complete record of your taxable earnings as well as estimated retirement, disability and survivor benefits.)



Although more than 13 million people have opened accounts, that's only about 6 percent of the American workforce. With millions of Baby Boomers at or approaching retirement age, Congress was justifiably concerned that not enough people were accessing this critical retirement-planning tool.

That's why this month SSA will resume mailing paper statements every five years to workers from ages 25 to 60, provided they haven't already signed up for online statements. The expectation is that more people will migrate to electronic services over time, as Social Security continues to close field offices and reduce in-office paperwork services — thanks to years of funding cutbacks.

The paper statements are a good first step, but creating an online account allows you to log in anytime and:

- Estimate retirement, disability and survivor benefits available to you under different work, earnings and retirement-age scenarios.
- Estimate benefits for which your family would be eligible when you receive Social Security or die.
- View a list of your lifetime earnings to date, according to the agency's records.
- See the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid over your working career.
- Find information about qualifying and signing up for Medicare.
- Review topics to consider if you're 55 or older and thinking about retiring.
- Read general information about Social Security.
- Access calculators to estimate your projected benefits under different scenarios.
- Apply online for retirement and disability benefits.
- Access a printable version of your Social Security statement.

To create an online account, go to the "my Social Security" website (www.ssa.gov/myaccount). You must have a valid email address, Social Security number, U.S. mailing address and be at least age 18.

You'll need to verify your identity by providing personal information and answering questions whose answers only you should know. Social Security contracts with Experian to design these questions based on the credit bureau's records.

(Note: If you've got a security freeze or fraud alert on your Experian credit report, you'll either have to temporarily remove it or visit your local Social Security office — with proof of identity — to open an online account.)

Once your identity has been verified, you can create a password-protected account. Social Security emphasizes that you may sign into or create an account to access only your own information. Unauthorized use could subject you to criminal and/or civil penalties.

Review your statement at least annually to ensure the information on file for you is correct — for example, your yearly taxable earnings. Otherwise, when Social Security calculates your benefits at retirement, disability or death, you could be short-changed; or, if your earnings were over-reported, you could end up owing the government money.

If you do find errors, call 800-772-1213, or visit your local office. You'll need copies of your W-2 form or tax return for any impacted years.

Bottom line: Even if retirement is a long way off, it's important to review your Social Security statement now to know what benefits you can expect — and to correct any mistakes well before you need to sign up.

Fairmount Heights Branch Library Reopens

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS, Md.—Prince George's County Memorial Library System reopened its Fairmount Heights Branch after a major renovation. The renovated building features a modernized interior, new children's area and Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media (D.R.E.A.M.) Lab. "The Fairmount Branch opened in the 1970s as an experimental library and has always been a very integral part of the Fairmount Heights community. These renovations have truly

helped us to be able to better meet the ongoing needs of the community. The highlight of the new facility is a state-of-the-art D.R.E.A.M. Lab, one of the few in the country. This complete digital resource center allows people to make videos, record music, create apps, computer programs and games and learn code. Additionally, the newly renovated and expanded children's area supports early literacy and has a colorful outer space theme," said Kathleen Teaze, director of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

Library customers will notice new contemporary finishes,

new windows, new information monitors, multiple personal access computer stations, modernized Wi-Fi lounges and a completely revamped service desk. Energy upgrades have been made throughout the building and accessible public restrooms and a meeting room kitchenette are now available. The design team was led by Grant Brunnett Architects.

The grand reopening event, which is open to the public, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Fairmount Heights Branch at 5904 Kolb Street in Fairmount Heights, Md. RSVP by calling 301-699-3500 or emailing pr@pgcmls.info.

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

Laborfest from A1

months -- and over the past six months, we've created more than 200,000 jobs each month.

- Our businesses are exporting more goods made in America than ever before.
- The United States is now the world's number-one oil and gas producer -- and for the first time in almost 20 years, we're producing more oil than we buy from other countries.
- We're also producing more clean energy, which is creating tens of thousands of good jobs across the country.
- America's high school graduation rate is at a record high, and more middle-class families can afford college -- and as a result, more young people are earning college degrees than ever before.
- Millions more Americans have quality, affordable health insurance that they can count on.

"By almost every measure, the American economy and American workers are better off than when I took office," the President said. But "none of this progress has come easy. Every inch of it we have had to fight for. Every inch of it we've had to work against a lockstep opposition that is opposed to everything we do."

"The question now is, are we going to make the right decisions to accelerate this progress?"

It's a good thing that corporate profits are high; I want American businesses to succeed. It's a good thing that the stock market is booming; a lot of folks have 401Ks in there. I want them to feel good. But I also want to see the guy who's breaking his back on two eight-hour shifts so he's got enough money to send his kids to college, I want to make sure that guy is getting a break. I want to make sure he's getting some help. I want to see that woman who's worked for 40 years be able to retire with some dignity and some respect. That's how I measure progress -- not just by how well the economy is doing overall but how it's doing for folks who are working so hard doing everything right, just want a fair shot, and didn't have anything handed to them in their lives, weren't born with a silver spoon in their mouths.

"That's what at stake," the President said. "Making sure the economy works for everybody."

I've got a vision of an economy where opportunity is open to everybody who's willing to work hard. I want an economy where new, long-term investments in American energy and American infrastructure and American manufacturing and American innovation are unleashing new jobs in new industries right here in Wisconsin, right here in Milwaukee; an economy where our workers have the chance to earn new skills that lead to that good job; where children graduate from school fully prepared for the global competition they're going to face.

I want an economy where your hard work pays off with higher wages,

and higher incomes, and fairer pay for women, and workplace flexibility for parents, and affordable health insurance, and decent retirement benefits. I'm not asking for the moon, I just want a good deal for American workers.

President Obama also noted that we could get more done "if we had a Congress that cared about policies that actually helped working people." But until then, he said, "it's up to us to fight for these policies" -- and noted some of the actions he's taken on his own:

I acted on my own to make sure more women had the protections they needed to fight for fair pay on the workplace -- because I think when women succeed, America succeeds. I was raised by a single mom, so know how hard it is for a lot of women out there. And, by the way, men, you should want your wife to get paid fair. She's bringing that money home. That's not a women's issue, that's your issue. That's money out of your family's pocket.

That's why I took action on my own to give millions of Americans the chance to cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their incomes. I don't want young people saddled with debt when they're just starting out in life. That's why I acted on my own to make sure companies that receive federal contracts, that they pay their workers a fair wage of at least \$10.10 an hour. If you work full time in America, you shouldn't be living in poverty, you shouldn't be trying to support a family in poverty.

And in the year and a half since I first asked Congress to raise the minimum wage -- of course, the Republicans in Congress have blocked it -- but more and more Americans are doing their part to make it happen. This is why I stay optimistic, even with some of the nonsense that goes on in Washington. You've seen business leaders at companies like The Gap that raised base wages for tens of thousands of workers because they knew it was good for business. You've seen mayors across the country doing their part, and today, on Labor Day, the mayor of Los Angeles is announcing a plan to raise his city's minimum wage.

"There is no denying a simple truth: America deserves a raise."

President Obama also highlighted the important role that unions play in protecting American workers, saying that "if I were looking for a good job that lets me build some security for my family, I'd join a union."

If I were busting my butt in the service industry and wanted an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, I'd join a union. If I were a firefighter or police officer risking my life and helping to keep my community safe, and wanted to make sure I came home safely to my family, I'd join a union. I'd want a union looking out for me.

"And if I cared about these things," he said, "I'd also want more Democrats looking

out for me ... because when the rest of the country is working to raise wages, but Republicans in Congress won't, it ain't right."

When the rest of the country is working to open up more businesses, but Republicans in Congress block investments that would help more businesses grow, it ain't right. When unions and CEOs, when law enforcement and the evangelical community, when folks who usually don't agree on anything agree that we should be fixing our broken immigration system, but the Republicans in the House of Representatives have been sitting on a bill for more than a year, it ain't right.

The President then explained that we need to continue to fight, and implored the crowd to believe in their own ability to "bring about the change we need."

I'm asking you to believe in you. Because even when our politics just ain't right, there's a whole lot that is right with America.

America is that dad who punches in every morning to put food on the table. America is the mom who's working the graveyard shift to provide for her kids. America is the child who dreams of being the first in his family to go to college. America is the teacher who stays after work and dips into her own pocket for supplies to help that child get there. America is the autoworker who thought she'd never make another car again, and now she can't make them fast enough. America is the construction worker who's helping build more homes and businesses to get solar panels on the top. America is on the move. America is on the move.

America is not the party we belong to, but the values we share. America is hard work. America is responsibility. America is sacrifice. America is looking out for one another. Let's embrace some economic patriotism that says we rise or fall together as one nation, as one people.

He also noted that changing the status quo is one of the hardest things to do, and reiterated that people need to get involved, organize, vote -- and stay hopeful:

Cynicism is fashionable these days, but cynicism didn't put anybody on the moon. Cynicism never won a war, it never cured a disease, it never started a business, it never fed a young mind, it never built a road or a bridge.

Cynicism is a bad choice. Hope is the better choice. Hope is what gives us courage. Hope is what gave soldiers courage to storm a beach. Hope is what gives young people the strength to march for women's rights, and worker's rights, and civil rights, and voting rights, and gay rights, and immigration rights.

Hope, the belief that there are better days ahead; the belief that together, we can build up our middle class and hand down something better to our kids -- that's what built America. And America's best days are still ahead. I believe it. You need to believe it, too. Let's get to work.

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski, Kaine, Warner, Wittman Urge Better Labeling of Imported Crab Meat

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), and Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.-1) urged the Administration to include fraudulent labeling of crab meat in its efforts to combat fishing and seafood fraud. Some seafood processors are deceptively labeling foreign crab meat as a “product of the United States” by importing foreign crab meat and repacking it in domestic facilities, misleading consumers as to its origin.

“Maryland’s seafood industry is critical for jobs on the Eastern Shore and our way of life,” Senator Mikulski said. “When families read the crab meat they’re consuming is the product of the United States, they expect it to be. We must end the practice of dangerous and deceptive labeling of imported crab meat that puts in jeopardy the livelihoods of Maryland’s watermen.”

“Consumers deserve to know that Chesapeake Bay products are really from the Chesapeake Bay and are not foreign imports skirting seafood fraud laws,” said Senator Kaine. “I look forward to being briefed on actions underway to combat seafood fraud and safeguard the livelihoods of Virginia watermen.”

“Importing foreign crab meat, simply repacking in the United States, and labeling it made in the USA is dishonest and threatens the livelihood of thousands of Virginia watermen,” Senator Warner said. “The seafood industry is one of Virginia’s oldest and largest industries, with an economic impact of over half a billion dollars a year, and it is critical that we not allow this deceptive tactic continue.”

“Virginia watermen and seafood processors who fish the Chesapeake Bay must often compete against improperly or deceptively labeled foreign crab meat,” Wittman said. “This unfair practice of mislabeling imported crab threatens the sustainability of Virginia’s

commercial watermen and seafood industry. The Administration should use all the existing tools in the toolbox to ensure a level playing field for the Chesapeake Bay’s seafood industry.”

A copy of the letter is available here and the full text is copied below.

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your announcement on June 17, 2014 calling for the establishment of a Comprehensive Framework to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud. We agree that it is in the national interest of the United States to combat seafood fraud and applaud your administration’s efforts to focus on these important issues.

As the Departments listed in your memorandum undertake their work on this effort, we’d like to draw your attention to the issue of fraudulent labeling of Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean blue crab meat. It has come to our attention that some processors are importing foreign crab meat, repackaging it at a domestic processing facility, and then labeling it as a product of the United States. As a result, domestically harvested crabmeat is competing against less expensive foreign crabmeat fraudulently labeled as a “product of the United States.” Deceptive labeling misleads consumers and threatens the livelihood of the watermen in our states.

Since many different federal agencies play a role in the oversight of imports, processing, and sale of crabmeat, we appreciate the Comprehensive Framework taking a holistic view of this pressing issue. In addition to incorporating fraudulent labeling into the Framework, we respectfully request a briefing with relevant federal agencies to discuss current enforcement efforts relating to foreign imports, accurate country of origin labeling, and consumer fraud protection.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The Lessons of Ferguson, Part One: Economic Inequality a Root Cause of Unrest

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am haunted by the words spoken by Lesley McSpadden immediately following the shooting death of her son, Michael Brown, at the hands of Ferguson, Missouri police officer Darren Wilson almost three weeks ago. She said, “Do you know how hard it was for me to get him to stay in school and graduate? You know how many Black men graduate? Not many. Because you bring them down to this type of level, where they feel like they don’t got nothing to live for anyway.” Lesley McSpadden’s words reflect more than her own deep anguish. They have been echoed by many of Ferguson’s citizens and civic leaders who have rallied for justice since Brown’s killing. They also expose the pervasive problems of joblessness and hopelessness fueling so much of the anger and tension in communities of color across America.

Michael Brown’s death was the spark that ignited a long-smoldering fire in Ferguson; and while the immediate goal of the National Urban League and our affiliate network is the arrest and indictment of Officer Darren Wilson, this column represents the first in a three-part series that aims to examine some of the root causes and identify solutions that must be implemented to avoid more crises like Ferguson in the future.

Let’s begin with the lack of jobs and the epidemic of unemployment in Ferguson, a city that is 67% Black. The National Urban League’s 2014 State of Black America report found that the St. Louis metro area, which includes Ferguson, had a Black unemployment rate of 19.6% and a white unemployment rate of 6.9% — resulting in an unemployment Equality Index of 35.2% on a 100-point scale. This level of economic inequality reflects a glaring disparity of opportunity and has created a chasm of misunderstanding and distrust that is behind much of the violence that has erupted

between police and citizens.

Four years out of the recession, America’s private sector is expanding, but too many people have been left behind. In fact, many communities like Ferguson are worse off. According to a recent Brookings study, “Between 2000 and 2010-2012, Ferguson’s poor population doubled.”

The National Urban League has long been leading the charge for targeted federal and state action to bring jobs and opportunity to hard-pressed communities across the nation. Our Jobs Rebuild America campaign is a \$100 million, five-year effort to engage federal government, business, and nonprofit resources to create economic opportunity in 50 communities across the country through the Urban League affiliate network with a special emphasis on vulnerable youth.

In response to the crisis in Ferguson, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders last week sent a letter to his Senate colleagues calling for both a thorough federal investigation of the shooting death of Michael Brown and targeted legislation to bring jobs to Ferguson and similar struggling cities. Sanders points out, “There is an economic crisis facing our nation’s youth, particularly young African-Americans. Nationwide, the youth unemployment rate today is more than 20 percent and African-American youth unemployment is nearly 35 percent. The legislation would provide \$5.5 billion in immediate funding to states and localities to employ 1 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24.”

At Michael Brown’s funeral service on Monday, Rev. Al Sharpton called the nation and our community to task: “We can’t have a fit, we’ve got to have a movement. We’ve got to be here for the long haul and turn our chants into change, our demonstration into legislation.”

One of the big lessons of Ferguson is the importance of investing in jobs, education and other tools to combat poverty in our communities instead of militaristic weapons for use against our communities. We hope that Washington and America are listening — and preparing to act.

Marietta House Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ???

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

Marietta, the Federal style brick home of Gabriel Duvall, an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built ca. 1813, Marietta remained under ownership of the Duvall family until 1902. Justice Duvall’s law office and root cellar still remain today. Marietta is situated on 25 acres of lawn and wooded areas and the grounds boast two County Champion trees and lovely old boxwood. Marietta operates as an historic house museum and is furnished and interpreted to reflect the three generations of Duvall’s that occupied the house. The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants has relocated the family graveyard from its original location to the serene surroundings at Marietta. Located at 626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, the museum is also the headquarters of the Prince George’s County Historical Society. Open to the public year round. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors/groups, \$1/ages 5-18, FREE/ages 4 & under \$2/person for groups of 10 or more. For information call 301-464-0590.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



The Emotional Toll of Growing Up Black in America

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, a brilliant Black Ohio State University professor, recently opened the Educational Testing Service and Children’s Defense Fund co-sponsored symposium on Advancing Success for Black Men in College by sharing a question his 14-year-old son asked him: why did he get in trouble for speaking out of turn when he jumped in to answer his teacher’s question, but when his White friend did the same thing she was praised for being excited about learning? Dr. Strayhorn noted that many parents and grandparents and educators and policy experts are concerned about the same question: “There are lots of Black and Brown boys who are often penalized for committing the same exact act that non-Black and non-Brown, usually White kids, commit in school—and some students are praised for certain behaviors that other kids are penalized for. It sends a very mixed message, because my son is confused: ‘So what should I do? Not be excited about learning? What if you just can’t wait for the question? How do I signal to the teacher I’m not a rule-breaker?’” Dr. Strayhorn said these questions are something we’ve got to think about.

Dr. Strayhorn highlighted a number of other roadblocks we must all be sensitive to and overcome to get all our children on a path of healthy development, confidence, and success. The disparate treatment of Black children in the classroom from the earliest years, especially Black boys, often discourages and knocks many off the path to high school graduation and college. The cumulative and convergent toll of subtle but discouraging adult actions in schools and other child serving systems they come into contact with too often impedes the success of children of color, especially those who are poor, and burdens them with an emotional toll they don’t deserve.

I used to sing loudly with my children and Sesame Street’s Kermit the Frog “It’s Not Easy Being Green.” I can only imagine the number of Black children and adults who sing inside daily “It’s Not Easy Being Black.”

I’m sure that Black youths seeing what happened to Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown and others who lost their lives for walking while Black and those who are stopped and frisked and arrested and victimized by excessive police force carry these burdens inside every day. Even the youngest Black boys, ages 4 and 5, who are put out of school and even preschool for nonviolent disciplinary charges for which White children would never be suspended or expelled must be confused and feel this way too.

Dr. Strayhorn spelled out another way Black children are harmed: through disparate resources in the classroom, including textbooks, that hold Black, Brown, and poor students back. He described an experience he had while a professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville working with a Knoxville high school that was 97 percent Black. “I found that in this high school these students were learning from textbooks that were at least 10 years old... What exactly are the implications of learning from a textbook that’s 10 years old? Well, I’ll tell you this: that if you don’t catch up too quickly,

especially in terms of science, there are certain technological revolutions that have happened at such a fast pace that they’re not even mentioned in the books from which they’ll learn—but will certainly be part of the test that they’ll take to demonstrate competency to go on to college. So it means a whole school of children and youths are set behind, not because they’re saying ‘Don’t take me into the future’ or ‘I don’t want to learn’ or ‘I don’t want to be successful,’ but in fact because they’re studying hard from textbooks that were set up to set them behind. That’s inequitable and that’s unfair.”

As he covered what does work in building a pathway to success, Dr. Strayhorn emphasized the need for positive interventions based on proven designs—because in his program evaluation experience he’s seen far too many well-intentioned efforts that lacked a measurable impact because good ideas weren’t well implemented. He said as an example mentoring programs are especially popular, but many don’t provide adequate

See WATCH, Page A12

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Keeping Your Life's Goals Alive and Well

We've all had dreams and goals in our younger years that seemed essential to our happiness, yet, for many of those dreams, we just never quite achieved them.

This doesn't necessarily mean we're unhappy with our current lives, but at some level we still may feel slightly frustrated or disappointed about those missed goals.

While there's no magic way to make all your dreams come true, you can take action to get closer to your life's goals and lessen those feelings of frustration.

Start by putting the past behind you. Unresolved anger and resentment over things that didn't work out uses up energy but accomplishes nothing. Instead, you need to begin managing your daily life so that it reflects who you are and what you value today.

Start by evaluating your old dreams and goals. There is, for example, no "ideal" romantic relationship or "perfect" mate. But there can be someone who can accept and care about the real you, and who is able to get things right more often than wrong. Similarly, there's no perfect job but there are work situations that can challenge you and provide a real sense of accomplishment.

Knowing yourself is vital to feeling more fulfilled. Identify your personal strengths and interests, and then put time and energy into nourishing them. Don't try to be someone you're not. Whatever you do well, do it frequently and proudly and you'll find that rewards will follow.

To achieve specific goals, it's vital to take action toward them, rather than simply dreaming about them and waiting for something to happen. Small steps in the right direction make a difference -- maybe a first phone call, rewriting your resume, or taking a class. Reaching the end result we want only will happen only if we take that first step.

You also want balance in your life. Saying "no" to excessive demands on your time, talent or goodwill will allow you time for the things you really want to do, without the resentment and anger that comes from agreeing to what you really don't want to do.

Reaching your life's goals means that you stop letting old beliefs and others' ideas define who you are and what you have to do. Instead, accept that you, and only you, can take action to reach the dreams and goals that really matter to you.

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



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BECO Management Signs Six Leases Totaling over 35,000 Sq. Ft. of Space in Prince George's County

Latest activity brings 2014 leasing total to more than 166,000 square feet of transactions at BECO Park at Forbes Center and Washington Business Park in Lanham, MD

By Larry Lichtenauer
Lawrence Howard & Assoc.

Rockville, MD — BECO Management has announced the signing of six leases totaling more than 35,000 square feet of space at BECO Park at Forbes Center and Washington Business Park, located near US Route 50 in the Lanham area of Prince George's County. Together, these business communities offer more than 1.2 million square feet of commercial office, flex/office and warehouse space. This latest activity brings to 166,000 the amount of square feet of new and renewal leases by the Rockville-based commercial real estate company at these two parks in 2014.

Rentex, Inc., a national company that rents computers, laptops, LCD projectors, large monitors and audio-visual equipment, expanded their suite and signed a lease for 19,301 square feet of space at 9701 Philadelphia Court in Washington Business Park. The firm, which intends to utilize the space for additional warehousing and tech bench space, typically inventories more than 20,000



PHOTO COURTESY LAWRENCE HOWARD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

BECO Park at Forbes Center and Washington Business Park.

pieces of computer rental equipment in each of its seven distribution locations.

US Remodelers, Inc., a company that manufactures, sells and installs home improvement products, renewed their lease for 8,295 square feet of space on 4855 Walden Lane in Washington Business Park. Aither Engineering, an organization involved in the fiber optic sensing industry, also renewed their lease for 5,530 square feet of space at

the Walden Lane building.

In addition, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence signed a lease for an additional 1,576 square feet of space at 4601 Presidents Drive and Gabrielle Alexis Group, Inc. and Corencic Construction Group together signed a lease for 1,228 square feet of space at 4485 Forbes Boulevard. Each of these three companies are positioned within BECO Park at Forbes Center.

"Leasing activity has been brisk throughout the year, as evidenced by our successfully completing more than 166,000 square feet of transactions throughout the BECO Park and Washington Business Park portfolios," explained Colleen Curry, Director of Leasing for BECO Management, who negotiated all six leases on behalf of the landlord. "Our buildings are flexible and can accommodate a full range of space

Two Maryland Companies Receive Accreditation Through National Security Cyber Assistance Program

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor O'Malley and Senator Mikulski congratulated two Maryland companies on receiving Cyber Incident Response Assistance (CIRA) accreditation from the National Security Agency (NSA) Information Assurance Directorate (IAD). The CIRA accreditation is the first accreditation offered to civilian cyber firms under the National Security Cyber Assistance Program. Only seven companies nationwide have been accredited, and two of them are from Maryland. The two Maryland companies receiving the accreditation are Bethesda-based Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions and Maddrix, LLC, a start-up cyber firm based in Baltimore.

"Maryland is the global epicenter of cybersecurity, leading the way in finding cyber tech solutions that make our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger," Senator Mikulski said.

"With Maryland's leading federal assets and dynamic private sector, America's cyber defense starts in Maryland. The battlefield is real and the battleships are being built right here in Maryland."

"The fact that multiple Maryland companies have been accredited speaks to our state's leadership in this emerging, job-creating cyber sector," said Governor Martin O'Malley.

To become accredited, a company must undergo a positive assessment in 21 critical focus areas of Cyber Incident Response Assistance (CIRA) derived from Industry and Government best practices. As accredited vendors, these companies will help protect critical consumer information. The accreditation also provides vulnerable organizations with the assurance that certified companies have the expertise to handle cyber attacks.

"Lockheed Martin was honored to be designated as one of the first participants in NSA's cyber incident response initiative, which further reinforced our commitment to customers and our cy-

ber posture delivering Intelligence Driven Defense," said Darrell Durst, vice president, Cyber Solutions for Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions. "We support the CyberMaryland program for its efforts with industry and government to enhance education and training programs, technology and innovation," he continued.

"Maddrix is proud to be included in the inaugural class of elite cyber security providers accredited under the NSA's newly formed National Security Cyber Assistance Program (NSCAP)," Stephen Windsor, President of Maddrix, LLC said. "This accreditation validates our proven protocol and our long term support to the United States government and private sector critical infrastructure organizations."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration continues to do the things that work to accelerate innovation, both here in Maryland and on the national level. For two years in a row, Maryland has been named the number one state in the nation for Innovation

and Entrepreneurship by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Over the last seven years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has invested \$84 million through the InvestMaryland and the Maryland Venture Fund, and \$7 million in the Cyber tax credits to incentivize and support cyber firms in Maryland.

In February 2012, the State entered into an MOU agreement with Montgomery County and the National Institutes of Technology (NIST) establishing the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE). It is the first Center in the nation bringing together cybersecurity experts from industry, academia and government to create solutions and accelerate their adoption. Earlier this year, Gov. O'Malley joined Senator Mikulski, and County Executive Leggett, among other partners, to sign a Partnership Intermediary Agreement, expanding and formalizing the State's collaborative efforts to drive innovation and help more businesses protect critical data.

West Nile from A1

when concerned about mosquito exposure.

- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent according to package directions.

Most individuals infected with WNV will not have any symptoms. People that do develop illness will usually have any combination of fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. These symptoms generally appear two to 14 days following the bite of an infected mosquito. Less than one percent of persons exposed to the virus will develop more severe infections, with symptoms such as headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. In rare instances, WNV can be fatal. Persons over 50 years of age have the highest risk of developing more severe disease. People who are immunocom-

promised may also be at high risk of WNV infection.

Residents are urged to monitor their own yards and gardens for standing water that can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Small amounts of water in a discarded can or container will support dozens of mosquitoes. To eliminate mosquito-breeding areas:

- Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
- Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used as playground equipment.
- Turn over wading pools, wheelbarrows, wagons and carts when not in use. Flush water from bottom of plant holders twice a week.
- Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week.
- Turn garbage can lids upside down and make sure trash receptacles are empty of water.

- Fix dripping faucets.

- Aerate ornamental pools and water gardens or stock with fish and use a circulating filter system.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture will spray all participating communities within a one-mile radius of where the person resides, and continue routine spray operations in all other participating communities throughout the state.

Although birds are not routinely tested for WNV in Maryland, sick or injured birds can be reported to an appropriate local wildlife rehabilitator. Residents can call 1-877-463-6497 for a list of licensed rehabilitators or visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources web site at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/rehab.asp. Detailed instructions on what to do when you find a sick or dead bird can be found at [\[land.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/s/west-nile.aspx\]\(http://land.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/s/west-nile.aspx\).](http://phpa.dhmm.mary-</p>
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The number of human WNV cases in Maryland has varied over the years. The peak years of human activity occurred in 2003 and 2012, with 73 and 47 WNV cases reported statewide, respectively. In 2013, there were 16 reported cases of WNV infection in Maryland.

DHMH provides weekly updates of WNV detected in humans, mosquitoes and horses in Maryland

on its website. For each case, DHMH indicates whether the infected individual is a child or an adult and the region of the state where the individual resides. The case announced today will be reflected in the report posted on Wednesday, September 3rd.

The reports will be available each Wednesday at <http://phpa.dhmm.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/west-nile.aspx>.

For additional information on West Nile virus, visit:

- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: <http://phpa.dhmm.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/west-nile.aspx>
- Maryland Department of Agriculture: http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“The One I Love”

The One I Love

Grade: B+

Rated R, some F-words, a little sex

1 hr., 31 min

What if I told you “The One I Love” is about a married couple who take a weekend retreat to restore vitality to their strained relationship? Your interest would probably not be particularly aroused. But what if I added that when they arrive at the country estate with its charming guest house, they discover a “Twilight Zone”-style peculiarity that could be just the thing their marriage needs? Now we’re talking!

Alas, I am not allowed to tell you that. Forget I said anything. Ever since its premiere at Sundance in early 2014, the film’s handlers have been urging writers not to reveal its “twist” — by which they mean its premise. Seriously, it’s 13 minutes in that something first seems amiss, and only a few minutes later that the whole situation is laid out for us. That’s not a twist. It’s what the movie is about! How is anyone supposed to talk about the movie if they can’t talk about what the movie is about?!

Anyway, it’s a playful story with eerie undertones and implications, written by Justin Lader, directed by first-timer Charlie McDowell, and starring Mark Duplass and Elisabeth Moss as the couple, Ethan and Sophie. Apart from a few minutes with their therapist (Ted Danson), they are basically the only people in the film, and they carry it easily. Duplass and Moss are personable, smart ac-



The highly anticipated debut feature from acclaimed author Charlie McDowell, THE ONE I LOVE is an original tale that continues to showcase McDowell's keen observations of human relationships with a distinct and comedic voice. THE ONE I LOVE, written by Justin Lader, was produced by Mel Eslyn and executive produced by Mark Duplass who stars opposite Elisabeth Moss. On the brink of separation, Ethan (Duplass) and Sophie (Moss) escape to a beautiful vacation house for a weekend getaway in an attempt to save their marriage. What begins as a romantic and fun retreat soon becomes surreal, when an unexpected discovery forces the two to examine themselves, their relationship, and their future. (C) TWC- Radius

tors with an easy rapport, and the characters are nicely defined. We get the sense that Ethan and Sophie’s marital problems aren’t devastating or insurmountable. They love each other; they just need a tune-up. They must confront the idealized versions they have of one another and determine what changes or expectations are realistic.

Speaking of reality, it seems for a while that one

or both of the spouses might not be perceiving it accurately. This proves false, however: what they think is happening really is happening. And once that peculiar reality is accepted, the film lets them have fun with it. They address their bizarre situation the way two sensible, intelligent adults would — which means playing games with it, testing its limits, and looking for loopholes.

It ends up being a thin story (again, this could be a single hour-long “Twilight Zone,” or maybe “Supernatural”), but it’s a lightly funny and vaguely disturbing look at the workings of a relationship, and perhaps at the different priorities men and women have when looking for a partner. The fun part will be after you’ve seen it, when you can discuss it openly and debate whether the ending is happy.

\$12 Million for Biotech Tax Credit in FY 2015 Draws More Than 100 Registrants

By PRESS OFFICER
MD DB&ED

BALTIMORE, MD (2014) — Investors seeking a portion of the \$12 million available in FY 2015 for the State’s popular Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit submitted more than 100 registrations online this morning, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development announced. The program provides tax credits to promote private investment in qualified Maryland biotechnology companies. Since it was first funded in FY 2007, it has stimulated investment of more than \$120 million in 70 Maryland biotech companies.

“The Biotechnology Tax Credit is one of our most effective tools for helping Maryland biotech companies attract new investors and bring their innovative medical devices and diagnostics to the commercial marketplace,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “Increasing funding for the credit is critical as we continue to nurture a healthy Innovation Economy in Maryland.”

The credit is a key part of Governor O’Malley’s BioMaryland 2020 plan, the 10-year, \$1.3 billion strategy for moving the State’s life sciences industry forward, stimulating investment in targeted fast-growth businesses and encouraging creation and re-

tention of intellectual property in Maryland. Since 2007, Governor O’Malley has doubled the funding, from \$6 million to \$12 million, for the popular program.

The online system for the Biotech Tax Credits was launched four years ago to make the process easier, more efficient and eliminate the need for investors and biotech firms to line up in person in advance as they had done in past years. Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and investors will learn after 30 days if their prospective investment may be eligible for the credit. Funding is distributed in the form of a refundable tax credit equal to 50% of an investment to eligible investors. Although recipient companies must be based in Maryland, investors from outside the State and around the world are encouraged. Investments from \$25,000 to \$500,000 per individual investor are eligible, with a company limit of \$1.5 million.

Companies receiving investments from the program in calendar year 2013 include 20/20 Gene Systems (Montgomery County); Alper Biotech (Montgomery County); American Gene Technologies International (Anne Arundel County); Animalgesic Laboratories (Anne Arundel County); BeneVir Biopharm (Montgomery County); BioMarker Strate-

gies (Montgomery County); Cerecor Inc. (Baltimore City); Clear Guide Medical (Baltimore County); Creaty MicroTech (Montgomery County); Cosmos ID Inc. (Prince George’s County); ConvergGene (Montgomery County); Diagnostic Biochips (Howard County); DioGenix (Montgomery County); Fyodor (Baltimore City); Gliknik (Baltimore City); GrayBug (Baltimore City); InfraTrac Inc. (Montgomery County); InnoVital Systems (Prince George’s County); Noxilizer (Baltimore City); Otraces Inc. (Montgomery County); Path-sensors (Baltimore City); Plant Sensory Systems (Baltimore County); Plasmonix (Baltimore County); Rafayer (Montgomery County); Royer Biomedical (Frederick County); Sequella (Montgomery County); Synergy America (Montgomery County); and Xcision Medical Systems (Howard County). See the complete report here.

To qualify, companies are required to: be less than 10 years old; have their headquarters and base of operations in Maryland; employ fewer than 50 people, and have a valid certification from the Department of Business and Economic Development. Investors are required to submit applications prior to making an investment. DBED reviews the applications and issues initial credit certifications within 30 calendar days.

ABOUT BIOMARYLAND CENTER

The BioMaryland Center, an office within Maryland’s Department of Business and Economic Development, connects life sciences companies, academic and federal researchers with each other and with potential capital sources, partners, clients, and other resources. Center staff provide information regarding funding and other resources, business plan feedback, access to market research, advocacy, and other industry support. The BioMaryland Center also promotes the state’s life sciences industry domestically and abroad. For more information regarding the Center and the Biotechnology Development awards program, visit www.Bio.Maryland.gov.

ABOUT DBED

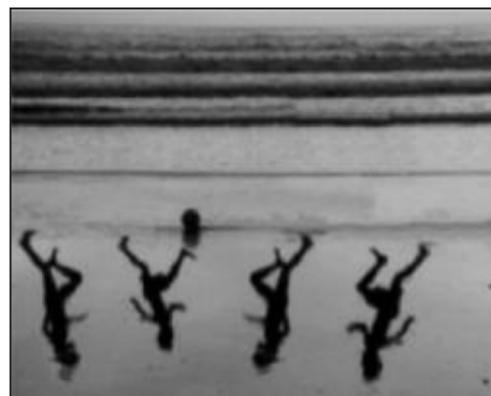
The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State’s many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. For more information, visit www.ChooseMaryland.org

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Four Little Boys and the Price of Play in Gaza

When the Palestinian national soccer team secured entry into the 2015 Asia Cup, winning the right to play in an international tournament for the first time in its eighty-six-year history, crowds gathered by the hundreds to dance, play music and watch the triumph of their national team on large movie-sized television screens on the beaches on Gaza. The oceanfront represents the illusion of freedom for a land otherwise encircled by walls and checkpoints. People often gather on the beach to celebrate because it is a refuge from densely populated squalor that defines so much of an area that they have been compelled to call home. This is especially the case for children.



That brings us to the four Bakr boys. There was Mohamed Ramez Bakr, eleven years old, Ahed Atef Bakr and Zakaria Ahed Bakr, both ten, and Ismael Mohamed Bakr, nine. They were all killed by an Israeli Defense Forces military strike while playing on the beach in surroundings as familiar to them as a corner playground.

The first shell sent them running. The second took their lives. Existing in a land where you are always underfoot, the beach is one of the precious few places a child can freely roam. In Gaza City, which sewage and pollution could make unlivable by 2020, according to a United Nations study, this is one of the only places where the air feels clean in your lungs. In a land where soccer fields are constantly under bombardment—Israel says that parks and stadiums are popular places for Hamas to launch rocket attacks—the beach is where you go to play.

The Bakr boys were killed in an area they believed to be safe. Mohamed’s mother, grieving at the hospital, was quoted by CNN as saying, “Why did he go to the beach and play—for them to take him away from me?” Several reporters on hand were shocked at what happened. Ayman Mohyeldin of NBC, tweeted: “4 Palestinian kids killed in a single Israeli airstrike. Minutes before they were killed by our hotel, I was kicking a ball with them #gaza.” After this, Mohyeldin was taken off the air, and was only allowed to return following an online campaign launched to defend him. The reasons behind NBC’s decision to pull him and then return Mohyeldin to Gaza are still very much in debate. Whatever the cause, Mohyeldin was doing the kind of journalism that forced people to see Palestinians as actual human beings.

When people write, tweet, and message me with their unquestioned belief that Hamas is using the children of Gaza as human shields, I often wonder whether they make these assertions out of unknowing ignorance or out of a deeper kind of “let them eat cake” cruelty.

Maybe they don’t know that these same “human shield” accusations, made in 2008 and 2009 during Israel’s Operation Cast Lead bombing of Gaza, were found to be without evidence by Amnesty International.

Maybe they don’t know that to even speak of “human shields” in Gaza is absurd, because the Strip is fenced-in and residents have little right to come and go as they please. Maybe they don’t know that Gaza City is one of the most densely populated areas on the planet, with most of Gaza’s 1.8 million people living in the urban heart of Strip.

People in the United States may be ignorant about these overcrowded conditions, but the Israeli military commanders are certainly not. Marie Antoinette’s apocryphal quote that if the poor were starving and without bread, we should “let them eat cake,” has become Netanyahu’s “let them find shelter.” He says, “Let them evacuate” when the only truly safe place is on the other side of a checkpoint. Someone fleeing one missile strike may be heading directly into another.

Perhaps these four little boys are examples of the “telegenically dead Palestinians” that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told us we should disregard. Or perhaps what Netanyahu fears is people who see nothing “telegenic” about dead children. Perhaps he knows that there are people who cannot imagine anything more human than a group of children playing on the beach, and cannot imagine anything more inhumane than taking their lives from the sky.

Calendar of Events

September 11 — September 17, 2014

Dick Morgan Reunion Band

Date and Time: Friday, September 12, 2014 8 pm
Description: Dick Morgan has always been at Montpelier, delighting fans of all ages with his virtuosity on the piano. Since Dick's passing, his group has remained together to continue his legacy by continuing to play the music Dick was known for. For this special performance, they are joined by Japanese pianist Tadataka Unno.
Cost: \$25; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road Laurel, 20708
Contact: 304-377-7800; TTY 301-490-2329

Suitland Bog Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, September 13, 2014 10 am-12 noon
Description: Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the Suitland Bog! Discover the uniqueness of this rare hillside magnolia bog in Prince George's County!
Cost: FREE
Ages: 2 & up
Location: Suitland Bog
6000 Cloutier Road, Suitland 20747
Contact: Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544

Out of the Attic Appraisal Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, September 13, 2014 10 am
Description: Bring up to 4 items for evaluation by Weschler's appraisers and auctioneers of Washington, DC. You may substitute photos for large items. (Please no antiques, books, foreign coins, stamps, or toys.) This program benefits the Riversdale Historical Society and Registration is required by September 18.
Cost: Society members: \$10/item; Non-members \$15/item
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

CONCERT : Blue Magic

Date and Time: Saturday September 13, 2014 8 pm
Description: Join us for a concert featuring Blue Magic, a classic R&B Soul Group! One of the most popular groups to come out of Philadelphia, they hit the Top 40 charts with their first three singles, and experienced the coveted crossover success with their mega hit, "Side Show." Today, the group consists of founder, Richard Pratt, Ivory Bell, Jimmy Lee and Don Nottingham. Blue Magic is known for their sweet mellow sounds, classic love songs and smooth choreography.
Cost: \$35/General Admission; \$30/students & seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center
10701 Livingston Rd Ft. Washington, 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Outdoor Adventurers

Date and Time: Saturday, September 13, 2014 8 am-5 pm
Description: Test your skills with outdoor adventures! From hiking, museums, art, carnivals, and historic sites, we will help you challenge yourself in a safe environment. Fees may vary, depending upon trip requirements.
Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$6
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

Tucker Road - Your Health and Wellness Destination!

Date and Time: Saturday, September 13, 2014 10 am-12 noon
Description: Join us for activities that emphasize healthy living at the Your Health and Wellness Destination! Participate in activities such as a hockey clinic, broomball, a golf clinic or yoga. Activities are free unless otherwise noted and will take place rain or shine.
Cost: Free
Ages: 5 & up
Location: Tucker Road Athletic Complex
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington 20744
Southern Technical Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6000; TTY 301-203-6030

NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competition

Date & Time: Sunday, September 14, 2014 10 am-3 pm
Description: The NFL Punt, Pass & Kick (PPK) program is a national skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 6-15. Established in 1961, the PPK program is the oldest NFL Youth Football program. Girls and boys compete in five separate age divisions (6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, and 14-15) in a variety of fundamental football activities. This event is held at Field #2. Walk-ups are welcome.
Cost: Free
Ages: 6-15
Location: Tucker Road Athletic Complex
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-265-1525; TTY 301-446-6802

Home-School Day: The Iron Industry in Laurel Before and After Emancipation

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 16, 1-4 pm
Description: Home-schooled students of all ages will learn about the iron industry that employed generations of African American in Laurel, both during and after emancipation. They'll do science experiments, to learn about the properties of iron, examine primary documents to learn about the work and the workers, and learn about the communities that formed around the industry. Blast-in-the-Past, the hands-on history playground, will also be open!
Cost: Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7
For Blast-in-the-Past only: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3
Ages: All ages
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Dealing with Mounting "E-Waste"

Dear EarthTalk:

We must really be swimming in electronic waste, what with all the iPhones and other devices that are so common. How is this all being dealt with?

— Mary Shufelt,
New Bern, NC

With electronic equipment and gadgets the fastest growing waste stream in many countries, how to deal with so-called "e-waste" may in fact be one of the most pressing environmental problems of the 21st century. According to BCC Research, consumers around the world purchased 238.5 million TVs, 444.4 million computers and tablets and a whopping 1.75 billion mobile phones in 2012 alone. Most of us discard such items within three years of purchase, and this is driving the global growth in e-waste by some eight percent a year. Meanwhile, a recent study conducted by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on behalf of the United Nations found that the growth in demand for and manufacturing of new electronics will result in a 33 percent increase in e-waste globally between 2012 and 2017.

But why is e-waste any more of a problem than old fashioned garbage? "Some of the materials in personal electronics, such as lead, mercury and cadmium, are hazardous and can release dangerous toxins into our air and water when burned or de-

posited in landfills improperly," reports the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). "And throwing away metal components, like the copper, gold, silver and palladium in cell phones and other electronics, leads to needless mining for new metals."

Today some 80 percent of unwanted electronics are disposed of improperly. "E-waste is either discarded or exported to emerging nations, where open-air burning and acid baths are used to reclaim precious metals and other elements," reports Maureen O'Donnell in EHS Journal. The lack of proper controls in such countries, she says, has led to elevated lead levels in children and heavy metals pollution of soil and water. As a result, she adds, "we now stand at the forefront of a growing environmental catastrophe."

The good news is that many nations have enacted new laws to hold manufacturers responsible for the future e-waste created by their products. The European Union has led the way with its Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, which calls on electronics makers to "take back" their products for recycling when consumers upgrade to something new, and restricts European countries from exporting or importing e-waste. Japan and China are among other countries that have passed similar laws.

The U.S. government has yet to follow suit, but the Electronics Takeback Coalition (ETC) reports that 21 U.S. states have



CREDIT: MATTHIJS ROUW, COURTESY FLICKR

According to BCC Research, in 2012 alone consumers around the world purchased 238.5 million televisions, 444.4 million computers and tablets and a whopping 1.75 billion mobile phones. Most of us discard such items within three years of purchase.

implemented their own "take back" laws, and several other states are considering similar legislation. Meanwhile, environmentalists continue to pressure Congress to consider similar legislation at the national level, given especially that Americans' are the world leaders in generating e-waste.

Additionally, many manufacturers are adopting voluntary e-waste recycling certification standards. One is the e-Stewards program, which helps those looking to dispose of obsolete electronics identify recycling options that adhere to high standards of environmental responsibility and worker protection. Another program, R2 Certification, run by the non-profit SERI, is supported by several large manufacturers, including

DirecTV and Microsoft. Consumers can do their parts by choosing manufacturers that embrace so-called "producer pays" electronics recycling through participation in one of these programs.

CONTACTS: ETC, www.electronicstakeback.com; e-Stewards, www.e-stewards.org; SERI, www.sustainableelectronics.org; WEEE, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/legis_en.htm;

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(www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Education from A1

"We need to be doing everything in our power to make education more affordable. The Federal government should not be making a profit off student loans. By allowing students to drown in debt, we risk their future and we are shortchanging the future of our national and regional economies by pricing certain Americans out of the college market," said Senator Cardin. "All Americans deserve a fair shot at success—particularly our students, who are simply trying to create a better future for themselves. We need a new Higher Education Act that more accurately takes into account the cost to attend college and give students information they need to get the best value."

"I'm worried about what skyrocketing student debt means for young people and the future of our country," said Senator Mikulski, a member of the Senate Community College Caucus. "We must reduce interest rates and increase graduation rates. That's why I'm fighting to pass the Bank on Students Act, which was blocked earlier this year by just two votes and would allow student borrowers to refinance their loans at today's low rates. And it's why I have to work to extend college tuition tax breaks for middle class families three times over the past five years. I will continue to fight so Maryland families have a fair shot at higher education with a government on their side."

"Senators Mikulski and Cardin's commitment to addressing the growing concern

about student loan debt was very evident in today's discussion," said BSU President Burnim. "It's a problem that directly affects our students, even as we work to remain an affordable option to earn a high quality college education."

Seven out of ten college seniors who graduated in 2012 graduated with an average of \$29,400 in student loan debt, and more than 40 million Americans today owe almost \$1.2 trillion in student loans—more than is owed on credit cards. In Maryland, more than half of graduating students are borrowing to pay for their education.

Senators Cardin and Mikulski have joined forces to ensure all students get a fair shot at a quality higher education that does not leave them or their family overburdened in debt.

Both senators are cosponsors of the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act (S. 2292), which would allow those who currently hold student loan debt to refinance it at lower interest rates.

Senators Cardin and Mikulski also have supported legislation to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the financial information available to students before utilizing student loans. The ultimate goal is to help students and their families to make informed financial decisions. In 2012, they announced a \$3 million grant for Bowie State University to help close the achievement gap for first-generation college students, increase enrollment, and begin implementation of a strategic plan to enhance educational offerings.

More than 5,500 buildings to compete in EPA's Fifth-Annual Energy Star Battle of the Buildings

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. EPA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched the 2014 Energy Star Battle of the Buildings: Team Challenge. More than 5,500 buildings nationwide are going head-to-head to reduce their energy use. In support of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, which calls for businesses to cut in half the amount of energy they waste over the next 20 years, the competition specifically targets wasted energy in commercial buildings, and will motivate businesses to improve energy efficiency, reduce harmful carbon pollution, and save money.

"The competitive spirit is alive and well among the building teams working to improve their energy efficiency in this year's Battle of the Buildings," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "After four successful years, we're excited to see the innovative ideas that will emerge from the competitors as they find new ways to save energy and money while reducing green-

house gas emissions and protecting the environment."

In the only coast-to-coast competition of its kind, dozens of different types of commercial buildings are facing off in this year's Energy Star Battle of the Buildings. This year's theme, "Team Challenge," features teams of five or more buildings who will work together to reduce their collective energy use as much as possible over the course of a year. For example, "Team Staples" includes 17 Staples stores, while 15 Whole Foods stores will support each other as part of "Team Whole Foods Market." In New Castle County, Del., 13 elementary schools will compete as part of a team, and they're going up against their county's five middle schools and six high schools. In Hillsborough County, Fla., fire stations will team up to compete against libraries.

This year marks the fifth year that EPA has hosted the Battle of the Buildings. The competition—and positive environmental impacts—have grown exponentially since that time. Altogether, last year's competitors saved an estimated \$20 mil-

lion on utility bills. Nearly 50 buildings in the competition demonstrated energy use reductions of 20 percent or greater.

Commercial buildings in the United States cost more than \$100 billion in annual utility bills and are responsible for approximately 20 percent of both the nation's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. By improving the energy efficiency of the places they work, play, and learn, the competitors will save energy and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Competitors will measure and track their buildings' monthly energy consumption using EPA's online energy measurement and tracking tool, Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Building teams will work to optimize or upgrade equipment, retrofit lighting, and change occupants' behaviors—all with help from Energy Star. The team that reduces its buildings' average energy use the most, on a percentage basis over a 12-month performance period, will be declared the winner. In addition to the team competition, 700 individual buildings are also competing in

a special water reduction category, and will work with EPA's WaterSense program to apply best practices for commercial building water management.

EPA will maintain a website devoted to the competition, featuring a list of the competitors and their starting, midpoint, and final standings, a live Twitter feed where competitors will post updates on their progress and an interactive map of the competitor's locations. Midpoint results will be posted in October, with the winner announced in April 2015.

Products, homes and buildings that earn the Energy Star label prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency requirements set by the U.S. EPA. From the first Energy Star qualified computer in 1992, the label can now be found on products in more than 70 different categories, with more than 4.8 billion sold. Over 1.5 million new homes and 23,000 buildings have earned the Energy Star label.

For more information and to identify competing buildings in your area, visit: <http://www.energystar.gov/BattleOfTheBuildings>.