

The Prince George's Post



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Prince George's County Deploys "Data Prince George's"

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government Office

County leverages Socrata to encourage Open Government

Largo, MD — Prince George's County, through a partnership with Socrata, recently unveiled a new government transparency portal, branded as Data Prince George's, which can be accessed at data.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

By leveraging Data Prince George's, residents and portal visitors are able to view a wide array of datasets that range from CountyClick 311 statistics to the recipients of Prince George's County Government contracts. The system directly supports County Executive Rushern L. Baker III's focus on providing information and ensuring the transparency of government in a more accessible and efficient manner.

Prince George's County welcomes portal visitors to visualize, explore, and interact with the County's data in a collaborative online environment that currently includes dozens of graphs, reports and maps.

Developers can also programmatically access the datasets or download them in a multitude of formats.

See DATA Page A3



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALDRON.

Ted Dallas, secretary of Maryland's Department of Human Resources, and Anne Sheridan, executive director of the Governor's Office for Children, debuted a new website aimed at providing unaccompanied children with resources during a press conference in Hyattsville Wednesday.

O'Malley Administration Unveils Website to Help Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

By STEPHEN WALDRON
Capital News Service

HYATTSVILLE — In an effort to help the almost 3,000 unaccompanied immigrant children who have arrived in Maryland this year, the state this week launched Buscando, a website designed to connect them and their caretakers with volunteers and resources.

Officials from Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration debuted the website during a press

conference at the Hyattsville Branch Library on Wednesday. Ted Dallas, secretary of Maryland's Department of Human Resources, said Buscando (which means to look for in Spanish) is the newest phase in the state's response to the needs of unaccompanied children in Maryland.

Buscando is designed to serve as a database of resources for the children and their caretakers. For example, users can type in their location and search for clothing, and a map is gen-

erated which shows contact information for nearby organizations that will provide clothes.

Organizations and individual volunteers can also sign up on the website to provide materials, or services like transportation or counseling.

The website was built by volunteer programmers from Code for Progress, Hear Me Code and the Tech Lady Hackathon.

See CHILDREN Page A7

Campaign-Finance Complaints Stack Up as Election Day Nears

By LEJLA SARCEVIC
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland State Board of Elections is carefully reviewing the two complaints Maryland gubernatorial campaigns have filed against each other in the past two weeks.

But theirs are not the only electoral grievances filed with the state.

Anyone can file a campaign finance complaint, and they do: Maryland Board of Elections' records of a dozen complaints this year show everyone from private citizens to disgruntled campaign employees are feeling aggrieved this election season. And the state prosecutor's office has received many more.

In the gubernatorial race, GOP nominee Larry Hogan filed a complaint against Democrat Anthony Brown Sept. 4, charging that the lieutenant governor's campaign coordinated with a super PAC by sharing the same political consultants. Brown filed his complaint on Tuesday, alleging his challenger's campaign was underpaying for the use of a tour bus, which Hogan owns.

The question of coordination between candidates and political-fundraising groups is part of a larger national trend that has emerged since

the rise of political action committees and has left campaign staff and election lawyers grappling with the legal consequences.

"The whole existence of super PACs depends on them being independent of the campaign," said Larry Noble, counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, a non-partisan advocacy group.

Noble said that this has put the focus on what constitutes coordination.

"What we see is candidates appearing at events for their super PACs. We see common vendors between the super PAC and the campaign."

Courts and election boards across the nation are trying to resolve the legality of these overlapping interests.

Jared DeMarinis, director of the Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance at the Maryland State Board of Elections, said that concern about coordination between PACs and candidates is a 50-state issue.

With Election Day less than eight weeks away and a new poll from the New York Times/CBS showing Brown at 51 percent to Hogan's 37, time is running short and pressure is rising for the candidates to scrutinize each other's finances.

See ELECTION DAY Page A3

Rangel Joins Steny Hoyer and others in Launch of "VRA For Today" Coalition

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Charles Rangel

Washington, DC - Congressman Rangel (D-NY) joined Congressman Steny Hoyer, House Minority Whip (D-MD), Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA), Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Congressman Bobby Scott, (D-VA), Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and Congressman G.K. Butterfield, (D-NC) in calling for an immediate vote on an amendment to the Voting Rights Act in response to the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down key protections for voters.

Joining the Congressional Members were representatives from major civil rights groups such as Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Marge Baker, executive vice president for policy and program at People for the American Way (PFAW), Laura Murphy, director of the Washington Legislative office of the ACLU, Hadar Susskind, director of Bend the Arc Jewish Action, and

Hilary O. Shelton, Washington bureau director for the NAACP.

"I'm very pleased to be part of the launch of this very important effort to protect the legacy of the Voting Right Act," said Rangel. Four decades after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, many Americans are once again in danger of being disenfranchised. The Supreme Court decision undermines the voting rights of minorities, immigrants, senior citizens, students, and the disabled."

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* eliminated a crucial element of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Court ruled that state and local governments no longer needed federal preclearance before changing voting laws or practices. This decision has already seen states changing their voting procedures to make it more difficult for certain groups to be represented at the ballot.

"I remember marching from Selma to Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many other civil rights leaders to stand up for everyone's rights to vote and to pursue the Amer-



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF CHARLIE RANGEL

ican Dream," Rangel stated. "Later, as a lawyer and a U.S. Representative, I have fought to ensure the integrity and reliability of the democratic process that we as a country hold so dear — because shrinking the electorate has no place in America."

Currently, 500,000 Americans have signed a petition supporting the Voting Rights Act amendment. Congressional Members attempted to deliver the petition to Speaker John Boehner's office, but found the door locked during business hours. Congressional offices usually close only during threats of terrorism.

Rangel concluded by once again recalling the historic march with Dr. King. "In 1965, what started out as a march turned into a movement that ultimately cemented our fundamental right to vote, which we must continue to invoke in our present day. Voting is the basis of our own national security, and broadening - not restricting - the ability of everyone to vote is the best policy for every single American."

"I am honored to stand with this group, because the people fighting for voting rights are the real patriots in this country," Rangel added.

Cardin Holds Briefing With Civil Rights Leaders on Racial Profiling Bill

By MIKE PERSLEY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — Members of civil rights organizations met in Washington Tuesday morning to discuss a strategy for passing the End Racial Profiling Act, a bill that lays out a national, comprehensive approach to end racial discrimination by the nation's law enforcement.

The meeting was convened by Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, who introduced the bill in May 2013, only to watch it die in a gridlocked Congress. The Democratic senator reintroduced the bill last week in the wake of the controversial death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in August.

"We have a racial problem with policing in the United States, and the way we have been approaching it has not been serious because we don't have a plan. We don't even know what the numbers are," said Phillip A. Goff, president of the Center for

Policing Equity and associate professor of psychology at UCLA, who sat on a panel of guest speakers. "We can't answer basic questions like how often does it happen? Where does it happen? How bad is the problem?"

The End Racial Profiling Act, along with its House counterpart of the same name, he said, is a first step.

Under the bill, it will be illegal for a police officer to profile a person on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity or national origin. It also requires police forces on all levels — state, local, and federal — to receive training on racial profiling and to collect data on routine law enforcement and investigatory activities.

The data collected can then be analyzed to better understand the scope of the problem.

"How many more Michael Browns will we have that are going to lose their life?"

See CIVIL RIGHTS Page A3

INSIDE

Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs Place 3rd and 4th at Towson Invitational

The Bowie State University men's cross country team finished third overall at the Towson University Invitational. Navy ran away from the competition with a score of 15 points while Coppin State finished second with 55 points followed by the Bulldogs (70 points) in the 5-mile run.

Community, Page A3

Helping Children in Hidden Rural Poverty

In a nation where over 16 million children, more than one in five, are poor, the plain truth is that child poverty is pervasive and affects children everywhere although we know it affects urban, suburban, and rural children in some ways differently.

Commentary, Page A4

Cautious Optimism Over Maryland-India Trade

Maryland exports to India have decreased from \$233 million in 2010 to \$202 million in 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. During the same period, imports from India fell from \$465 million to \$416 million, a drop of more than 10 percent.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "The Drop"

Hardy is the standout in this mediocre offering, a posh, London-born actor playing a lowly Brooklyn bartender with the authenticity of a native. It isn't just the accent (though that's harder to get right than a lot of actors make it seem) but the mannerisms, the vocal tics, that make his character.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I thought that putting ethanol in our gas tanks was going help fight climate change, but lately I've heard reports to the contrary. Can you enlighten?

— Bill B. Hershey, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Woodberry Garden Club disbands after 45 years

Back in 1969, one of the first projects of the newly-formed Walter Heights Garden Club was planting 56 street trees in Walter Heights, a neighborhood in Temple Hills. And that was just the beginning.

Thanks to a variety of fund-raisers, they were to plant an ivy-covered bank at Middleton Valley School, provide gardening and ecology books for six area schools, and take on a major landscaping project for nearby Taney Junior High. In 1974, when Cornelia Snidero was president, the Club was renamed the Woodberry Garden Club and became a member of the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Federation of Garden Clubs.

During the 1980s the Club made seven dried-flower arrangements for the Surratt House, according to the style of the 1860s; provided arrangements for Crossland High's Homecoming; planted a Star Magnolia at Taney; and supported Crossland's Horticultural Department by planting bulbs, shrubs and perennials.

Over the years club members have been hostesses at the Botanical Gardens Christmas Green Show, participated in judging flower shows, decorated the Fischer House at Joint Base Andrews, and supported such civic projects as Care World Gardening, Chesapeake Bay Clean-up and Cancer Research.

After 45 years of beautifying our schools, roadways and other places, Woodberry Garden Club has had to shut down, for lack of members. At their peak there were about 30, all from the neighborhood. Some were military wives and moved when their husbands were transferred. Others had ill health, or other problems. We thank them for those 45 so-productive years. We'll miss them.

Redskins salute Joint Base Andrews

The Washington Redskins practiced and signed autographs Aug. 22 at Andrews. The event was part of a military appreciation initiative, Redskins Salute.

The team ran a 45-minute practice at the turf field. The au-

dience was service members, their families and the 11th Force Support Squadron Summer Day Camp. Then the team signed autographs and handed out banners and posters.

Neighbors

The Morningside Police Department conducted a modified checkpoint detail at Suitland and Beauford Road on July 25. It yielded 51 State Traffic Citations, two arrests (one, drug related, and one, Warrant hit), and they impounded two vehicles.

Jennifer Parker, formerly of Skyline and now of San Francisco, received her master's degree, as a reading specialist, in January. She is the daughter of Corben and Bobbie Thompson who were my neighbors for many years.

Mary (Mudd) Robey, formerly of Oxon Hill, and her husband Charles have a new grandson, George Xavier, son of Christian and Amanda Robey of Fairfax, born Aug. 21.

Cindi Wallace is prefect of St. Philip's Sodality for 2014-2015. Other officers are Ligia Rojas, vice prefect; Anne Harrell, secretary; Theresa Roberson, treasurer; and Father Edward Hegnauer, moderator.

My son Brian McHale had surgery at Johns Hopkins on Sept. 10 for a brain tumor. I had hundreds of people praying for him, and those prayers surely worked, as surgery went very well. Brian recovered quickly and feels "great" and is back playing the guitar. After the staples (from his right ear to above his left eye) are removed next week, he and his wife Carol will return to their home in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, where he is an engineer with Boeing. He asked me to thank all of the many I had praying for him.

Coming up

The Surratt House Museum in Clinton presents "On the Home Front: A Personal Expression" on Sunday, Oct. 5. While the men were off fighting the Civil War, what was happening back home? Through personal letters, historic images and poignant music, Judy Cook, international folksinger, recounts the experiences of the families left behind. The program is free but seated is limited. Doors

open at 3 p.m. For more information, call 301-868-1121.

Darnall's Chance House Museum invites you to The War of 1812—the British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus & Boat Tour on Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. War of 1812 scholar Dr. Ralph Eshelman will be the ride-along guide as they travel via bus and boat (weather permitting) along the routes and waterways the British traveled through the County in August of 1814. Bus departs from and returns to Darnall's Chance, in Upper Marlboro. The fee is \$75 per person. Reservations and payment required in advance. Call 301-952-8010.

Dot Burgess, longtime Skyline resident, dies

Audrey Louise "Dot" Burgess, 77, died August 24 at her home in Ocean Pines. She was a native of West Virginia, the daughter of Ruth and Clovis Crabtree.

The Burgess family were longtime residents of Lucente Avenue in Skyline. Dot worked at the Census Bureau and later as a substitute teacher at Skyline School. She was a member of the Morningside Homemakers where she met her dear friend, my neighbor Bobbie Thompson. Dot's survivors include her husband of 61 years, Robert; children, Blair, Brian, Brent and Melissa; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and her brother, Tracey Crabtree.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Lee Burkhart, Sept. 20; Betty Nagro, Sept. 21; Karen Rooker and Teresa Kessler, Sept. 22; Elizabeth Long, Mary Kilbride and Raymond Short, Sept. 23; Dottie Arehringer, Amy Schlor and Peg Richardson, Sept. 24; Alice Lucke and Judy Hansel Waby, Sept. 27; Tim Ward, Sept. 28; my brother Tom Mudd and Janice Diggs, Morningside Town clerk, Sept. 29; Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30.

Happy anniversary to Bruno and Nena Parco, their 61st on Sept. 19; my son Brian and Carol McHale, their 24th on Sept. 22; Ken and Janet Kaye, their 60th on Sept. 25; André and Cynthia Jordan, their 51st on Sept. 28; and Marvin and Lee Burkhart, their 69th (!) on Sept. 29.

stance Smith. There were members from New Hope Fellowship Congregation, family, and friends and guests who attended the Service.

Invited guests who participated in the Service of Welcome were Rev. Debby Brewin Wilson from St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Upper Marlboro, Pastor Isaiah Reed from Infinite Grace Fellowship, Baltimore, Maryland, Rev. Dr. Evan Young District Superintendent of Annapolis District. Rebecca Iannicelli, District Superintendent Washington East District and Rev. Victor Johnson, Retired Elder Baltimore Washington Conference. Rev. Robert Slade, Grace UMC Fort Washington, Maryland preached a very powerful Sermon "Hold Her Up".

Ministry of Dance performed by New Hope Fellowship Dance Ministry. Choir Selections were rendered by New Hope Fellowship Choir. A reception prepared by New Hope Hospitality Committee was held in the Family Life Center immediately following the Service of Welcome.

WORLD VIEW

World View Clubhouse after school sports and academics

with over 19 years of history, before and after-school program for the year of 2014/2015 will include a lot of activities such as daily homework assistance, basketball and karate. Other activities will include gymnastics, bowling, dance, field trips. There are safe and secure facilities and video surveillance in all classes. Care will be provided when school is closed.

There is free transportation to and from most area schools. Locations are in Clinton, Brandywine, Temple Hills and Waldorf. Call 301-372-0053 or visit www.worldviewchristiancenter.com for more information.

HOMECOMING

Come celebrate Homecoming 2014 at Christ United Methodist Church, New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Sunday, September 28, 2014 at 11:00 AM. Theme is "Coming Home to Feed our Souls." Rev. Constance Smith is Pastor of New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish. Guest Speaker: Rev. Antoine C. Love, Director Vibrant Communities, Baltimore —Washington Conference. Church address is 22919 Christ Church Road Aquasco, Maryland.

Neighborhood Events

Riversdale Chamber Music Society Presents: Riversdale Woodwind Trio

Riverdale Park, MD - The Fall Concert Series begins on Sunday, September 28, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and will feature the Riversdale Woodwind Trio with special guest Carmen Balthrop, a voice faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Music.

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society is the University of Maryland's newest classical chamber music organization. The society celebrates the connection between the University of Maryland and the Riversdale House Museum, where the University's founder, Charles Benedict Calvert, was born in 1808.

Its mission is to provide a diverse chamber music experience by featuring University of Maryland, School of Music students and faculty, as well as collaborations with musicians from military and local ensembles in the region.

Concerts are FREE. Make it an afternoon at Riversdale (4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737) with a tour of the historic home prior to performances. Tour admission is \$3adults/\$2 seniors/\$1students/FREE for children 4 and under and tours begin at the Visitor Center at 12:15, 12:45, and 1:15 p.m.

For information on classes and activities offered by the Department of Parks and Recreation, see www.pg-parks.com and stay connected on facebook.com/pgparks and twitter.com/pgparks.

Christmas in April Deadline

Christmas in April * Prince George's County reminds all interested homeowners of the deadline to apply for the 2015 program to be held Saturday, April 25, 2015. The deadline for applications to be turned in to our office is November 1, 2014.

Christmas in April organizes this one-day event, renovating and repairing the houses of low-income elderly and handicapped homeowners. All work is done at no cost to the homeowner.

Eligibility criteria include the requirements that the person live in Prince George's County, own their own home (no rentals), is elderly or disabled, and is unable to do the work themselves.

For information or to request an application, please call Mary Kucharski, Executive Director, at 301-868-0937, email us at cinapg@aol.com. Visit our website at www.christmasinapril.org, or write to; Christmas in April * Prince George's County, 7915 Malcolm Road, Suite 102, Clinton, MD 20735.

Fair Goers Find \$2.52M in Unclaimed Property at State and County Fairs and Festivals

Comptroller's Office Working to Link Taxpayers to Their Money-

Annapolis, Md. — Comptroller Peter Franchot announced that nearly 2,000 people discovered more than \$2.5 million in un-

claimed funds after visiting his agency's booth at fairs and festivals across the state this Summer. One visitor to the Maryland State Fair discovered an unexpected windfall of \$71,516. Throughout the summer, Comptroller Franchot's staff worked the unclaimed property booths at the African American Heritage Festival in Baltimore City, the Allegany County Fair, the Montgomery County Fair and the Prince George's County Fair as part of a state-wide initiative to help reunite Marylanders with money they are owed. In Montgomery County, one person discovered unclaimed property totaling \$24,840.

"In these challenging economic times, it is our duty and pleasure to return unclaimed funds to their rightful owners," Comptroller Franchot said. "Each day, we vigorously work to find the owners of the unclaimed property and to make sure they get what they are owed. This is our ongoing effort to serve the people of Maryland."

Financial institutions, utilities, insurance companies and other corporations are required to report to the Comptroller any bank accounts, security deposits, wages, insurance benefits and contents of safe deposit boxes that have been unclaimed after three years.

In addition to his booth at fairs and festivals, the Comptroller searches for owners of unclaimed funds by advertising in local newspapers and matching files with state income tax information, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles.

So far this summer, more than 12,000 people at the fairs and festivals mentioned made inquiries at the unclaimed property booths. The Comptroller's staff will also participate in the following events now through the Fall:

50+ Expo

October 17
5460 Trumpeter Road
Wilde Lake High School
Columbia, MD

Senior Expo/Baby Boomer Expo

October 22 and 23
Maryland State Fairgrounds
2200 York Road,
Timonium, MD

The Comptroller encourages everyone to log onto his Website, www.maryland-taxes.com, to search the agency's complete record of unclaimed funds or at www.missingmoney.com. Additionally, people can call the office at 410-767-1700 in Central Maryland or toll-free at 1-800-782-7383 from elsewhere.

Farm Harvest Underway, Please Watch for Slow Farm Vehicles

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 11, 2014) — Fall harvest has started throughout most Maryland farms. That means motorists traveling Maryland highways and rural roads may find themselves

sharing the road with the large, slow-moving farm equipment from one of Maryland's 12,300 farms.

"Farmers are legally allowed to operate farm equipment on public roadways and there are times when farm vehicles must operate on highways to move between farm and field," said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. "I encourage all motorists to be patient when traveling on roads near Maryland farms and drive with caution to ensure the safety of motorists and farmers."

A farmer understands that your trip is being delayed, so he or she will pull off of the road at the first available safe location to allow you to pass. Do not assume that the farmer can immediately move aside to let you pass. Road shoulders may be soft, wet or steep, and this can cause a farm vehicle to tip, or the shoulder may be unable to support a heavy farm vehicle.

"Farmers continue to learn more about highway safety. Over 400 farmers attended five Farm Bureau trucking forums early this year held in partnership with the State Highway Administration and the Maryland State Police," said Maryland Farm Bureau President Chuck Fry. "However, even with precautionary measures from farmers, drivers may be in too much of a hurry to recognize farm equipment moving to and from operations."

The following tips will help ensure the safety of motorists, passengers, and operators of slow-moving equipment:

- If a farmer has pulled off the road to allow you to pass, or if he or she cannot pull off the road and you feel you must pass, do so with caution.
- Be watchful of vehicles behind you that may also try to pass.
- If you must enter the oncoming lane of traffic, do not pass unless you can see clearly ahead of both you and the vehicle you will pass.
- If there are any curves or hills ahead that may block your view or the view of oncoming vehicles, do not pass.
- Do not pass if you are in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure, or tunnel.
- Do not assume that a farm vehicle that pulls to the right side of the road is going to turn right or is letting you pass. Due to the size of some farm implements, the farmer must execute wide left-hand turns. If you are unsure, check the operator's hand signals and check the left side of the road for gates, driveways or any place a farm vehicle may turn.

For more information about agriculture in Maryland, visit: www.mda.maryland.gov or the Maryland Farm Bureau at www.mdfarmbureau.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CELEBRATE BADEN DAY

Come and join us on Saturday September 27 from 12 Noon- 5:00 PM to celebrate Baden Community Day. This Family Fun Community Day features a moon bounce, train rides, face painting, mechanical rides, artists, carnival like games and vendors. All ages are welcome and the cost is free.

The location is Baden Community Center at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Contact number is 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030.

WALK-A-THON

The Mental/Health Awareness Committee is sponsoring a Walk-a-Thon at Clinton United Methodist Church in support of persons with disabilities, Saturday, October 25, 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon. There will be free blood pressure screening, face painting and refreshments.

The address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland. Rev. Strom is the Pastor. Office telephone number is 301-868-1281.

SERVICE OF WELCOME

A service of Welcome was held at New Hope Fellowship for their new Pastor Rev. Con-

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Don't Be Surprised by Retiree Healthcare Costs

Retirement isn't cheap. Even though you're no longer drawing a paycheck, you still must pay for housing, food, utilities, transportation and healthcare, to name just a few expenses. As prices continue to escalate, it's not surprising that the ages at which people expect to retire — and when they actually do — have crept up in recent years.



Speaking of healthcare costs, here's a number that'll stop you in your tracks: According to an annual Fidelity Investments study of retirement costs, the average couple retiring in 2014 at age 65 is expected to need \$220,000 (in today's dollars) to cover their medical expenses in retirement. Those planning to retire at 62 can expect another \$17,000 in additional annual expenses.

Fidelity's estimate includes Medicare premiums, deductibles, copayments and other out-of-pocket costs, but notably does not include most dental or vision services, over-the-counter medications or, most importantly, long-term care.

When Fidelity polled pre-retirees aged 55 to 64, 48 percent believed they'd only need \$50,000 to cover their healthcare costs in retirement. That's quite a reality gap.

If you're planning to retire in the next few years and are concerned you haven't saved enough money to cover your healthcare expenses, here's a sampling of what you can expect to pay:

Medicare Part A helps cover inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility and hospice services, as well as home health care. Most people pay no monthly premium for Part A. However, in 2014 there's a \$1,216 deductible for each time you're admitted as an inpatient, plus a \$306 daily coinsurance after 60 days (\$608/day after 90 days).

Medicare Part B pays toward medically necessary doctor's services, outpatient care, durable medical equipment and many preventive services. It's optional and has a \$104.90 monthly premium (although higher-income people pay more). There's a \$147 yearly deductible, after which you're responsible for 20 percent of Medicare-approved service amounts, provided the doctor/provider accepts Medicare. Note: There's no annual limit for out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare Part C (Advantage) plans are offered by private insurers as alternatives to Parts A and B. They're usually structured like HMO or PPO plans. Most cover prescription drugs (so Part D is unnecessary) and some also provide dental and vision coverage. You must use the plan's doctor, hospital and pharmacy provider networks, which are more restrictive than under Parts A and B.

Advantage plan costs vary considerably, based on factors such as annual out-of-pocket maximums, monthly premiums, copayments and covered medications. Some Advantage plans cost no more than Part B, while others have a higher premium (to account for drug and other additional coverage).

Medicare Part D helps cover the cost of prescription drugs. It's optional and carries a monthly premium. These privately run plans vary widely in terms of cost, copayments and deductibles and medications covered. The 2014 national average monthly premium is about \$32, although plans can cost up to \$175 a month. Plus, higher-income people pay an additional surcharge. You may not find a plan that covers all your medications, but aim for one that at least covers the most expensive drugs.

Use the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov to compare Part D and Advantage plans in your area. To learn more about how Medicare works and what it does and doesn't cover, read "Medicare & You 2014" at the same website.

Bottom line: Even though Medicare does pay a significant portion of retiree medical care, make sure that when you're budgeting for retirement you take into account the many out-of-pocket expenses you're likely to encounter.

Data from A1

One of the most immediate governmental uses for Data Prince George's will be alignment with the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) to identify trends in distressed neighborhoods and aiding decisions about what programs and initiatives are needed in those neighborhoods.

"Data Prince George's will make it much easier for County Government to share information with residents and to apply valuable resources more wisely," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.

The general public is invited to come and experience

Data Prince George's first hand on October 4th 2014 at 8:00am at the inaugural Prince George's County Hackathon hosted at Bowie State University. This event is a chance for civically minded technologists, developers, and open data enthusiasts to build applications based on the Data Prince George's Application Programming Interface (API).

"With the new Data Prince George's site, we invite developers to leverage the available datasets to build apps and to develop use cases that beneficially impact the everyday lives of our county citizens," said Chief Information Officer Vennard Wright.

Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs Place 3rd and 4th at Towson Invitational

By GREGORY GOINGS
Bowie State University

Bowie State Men's Cross Country Places Third at Towson Invitational

TOWSON, Md. — The Bowie State University men's cross country team finished third overall at the Towson University Invitation on Friday afternoon. Navy ran away from the competition with a score of 15 points while Coppin State finished second with 55 points followed by the Bulldogs (70 points) in the 5-mile run.

Navy's Josh Hanna took the top spot for the men, placing first overall with a time of 26:36.55. In fact, all seven

Navy runners were the first to cross the finish line.

Freshman Ryan Washington (Silver Spring, Md.) was the first Bowie State runner to finish the course, crossing the finish line with a time of 29:42.82. Fellow freshman Michael Aregaye (Lanham, Md.) clocked in at 31:00.05 to finish 10th among the individual scorers.

BSU sophomore Troy Jones (Waldorf, Md.) was on the heels of Aregaye, crossing the finish line with a time of 31:02.55.

Senior Sonny Hicks (Temple Hills, Md.) and redshirt junior J.D. Tharpe, III (District Heights, Md.) rounded out the Bowie State scorers, finishing

with times of 31:36.98 and 33:37.29 respectively.

Bowie State's next date of competition will be Saturday, October 4th as the Bulldogs travel to Cary, N.C. for the HBCU Challenge.

Bowie State Women's Cross Country Places 4th at Towson Invitational

TOWSON, Md. — Junior Samantha Ferguson (Newark, Del.) led the Bowie State women's cross country team for the third meet in a row, this time in the Towson Invitational on Friday evening. Ferguson completed the 5K course with a time of 23:58.55.

Shawnee State claimed the team title (34 points) followed

by Delaware (39 points), host Towson was third (52 points) and Bowie State finished fourth overall (110 points).

Other Bowie State competitors include freshman Treyniqua Dickey (Washington, D.C.) (26:12.74), seniors Kayla Watson (Bel Air, Md.) (27:08.52) and Rayshawn Penn (Richmond, Va.) (28:40.37) and junior Crishonda Coffey (Richmond, Va.) (31:05.16).

Delaware's Katrina Steenkamer finished in first place (18:01.16) to earn the women's individual title.

The Lady Bulldogs cross country team will be idle until October 4th, when they return to competition at the HBCU Classic in Cary, N.C.

Election Day from A1

Hogan's complaint accuses the Democratic candidate of illegally coordinating with a super PAC called One State, One Future by sharing the same political consulting firm, Martin-Lauer Associates.

The Baltimore-based firm has worked with other high-profile Democrats in the state, including Gov. Martin O'Malley and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Martin-Lauer Associates did not respond to a request for comment.

Brown's complaint accuses Hogan of campaign finance violations including deceptive reporting and underreporting the cost of Hogan's campaign bus.

The campaign pays Hogan, who owns the bus, \$683.77 per month for its use as an office — which they say is the same amount he pays to finance the vehicle — according to the expenditure filings from Hogan-Rutherford.

Although Hogan's campaign has not revealed what he paid for the bus, the Maryland Democratic Party alleges in its complaint that "online sales information indicates that similar models retail for between \$97,000 and \$225,000."

And, the Maryland Democratic Party says, according to vendors, the \$683.77 reflects what it would cost to operate such a vehicle per day, not per month.

The state's campaign finance law states that the bus must be rented at a fair market value and the Democratic Party is accusing Hogan-Rutherford of underreporting Hogan's in-kind contributions.

"Each of these cases, they are fact-based," Noble said.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BROWN/ULMAN CAMPAIGN
Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown speaks with constituents. The Prince George's County Democrat is running for governor.

"The motive for the complaint becomes irrelevant if it is a fact-based complaint."

But Todd Eberly, assistant professor in the political science department at St. Mary's College, said that there are political advantages to filing campaign finance complaints.

Hogan's campaign is restricted by his decision to accept public financing, which means there are limitations on total spending and further rules on how the \$2.6 million of public money is used.

In the case of the bus, if the elections board decides that Hogan's campaign should be paying more, it would mean re-directing more of Hogan's

limited funds there instead of toward other expenses.

DeMarinis, with the electoral board, said that complaints at the gubernatorial level are not common, and are more often filed in other races across the state.

The State Board of Elections receives campaign finance complaints for state, county and Baltimore elections. Local election complaints are received by that municipality, said Alisha Alexander, elections administrator with the Prince George's County Board of Elections.

Complaints of violations that appear criminal in nature are forwarded to the state

prosecutor's office, because the board of elections does not have the authority to conduct criminal investigations, said Nicolle Norris, senior assistant state prosecutor.

Her office has received about 150 complaints since the beginning of the year. They range from failures to file campaign finance reports on time to more serious violations that require deeper investigations, Norris said. Norris said that legal restrictions prohibited her from disclosing any complaints sent to her office.

Here's a sample of complaints filed thus far this year with the Maryland State Board of Elections:

- A complaint alleges one candidate's campaign committee donated \$6,000, the maximum allowed, to another candidate, and later also paid for the second candidate's direct mail, thereby exceeding the donation limit.

- A campaign staffer for a candidate for delegate disputed reimbursements for lodging. He also charged the candidate forged the campaign treasurer's signature, among other complaints.

- In one case, the complaint stated that a candidate was added to the ballot without a valid campaign committee.

- One candidate in a Democratic primary filed a wide-ranging 20-page complaint requesting nullification of the election due to corruption among the media, non-profits, and the state board of elections.

For information about non-municipal campaign-finance complaints, visit the Maryland State Board of Elections online, at www.elections.state.md.us.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOGAN/RUTHERFORD CAMPAIGN
Larry Hogan, in a white shirt (center) standing in front of his campaign bus surrounded by supporters.

Civil Rights from A1

How many Trayvon Martins?" said Cardin as he began the meeting.

There are 17 states with racial profiling bans, according to Amnesty International USA. Six other states have bans that only apply to motorists, and exclude pedestrians.

In Maryland, police have been required since 2001 to provide information on traffic stops, including the demographics of the driver, the reason for the stop, the reason for the search if one was conducted, and the type of search.

"We need to pass legislation that once and for all says

racial profiling is wrong," said Cardin.

The legislation will likely be blocked by the Republican-led House, and faces an uncertain outcome in the Senate. Several groups are arguing that new rules against racial profiling aren't necessary.

Roger Clegg, president and general counsel for the conservative Center for Equal Opportunity, said the law's lowering of the standards required to sue will only result in a glut of litigation.

"It creates incentives to address the problem through litigation," he said. "But litigation is expensive. It's unpre-

dictable. Juries are sometimes unpredictable. It's not a great way to address a problem."

Clegg also said the extent of racial profiling throughout the country is exaggerated, and much of the disproportionality in police efforts is because they're focused in high-crime areas, which he said tend to be more black or Latino.

The Fraternal Order of Police, which represents 325,000 police officers nationwide, has also come out against the legislation.

But Tony Rother, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, who has been active in helping the Brown family obtain infor-

mation from the Ferguson police, said the unrest there shows the lack of trust between people of color and their police, and highlights why legislation is needed.

"There's nothing special about the city of Ferguson. There's nothing special about the Ferguson police department," he said, speaking to a crowded room. "If I were making a list of the dozens of police departments within St. Louis County where 'Ferguson' would have happened, Ferguson would not have been in my top 10. There's likely a million other places where it's waiting to happen."

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COMMENTARY

By Sylvia Mathews Burwell,
*Secretary, Health and Human Services
of the United States*



HHS awards more than \$295 million in Affordable Care Act funds to increase access to primary care at health centers

Funding creates an estimated 4,750 new jobs; Helps newly insured access care

1,195 health centers in every U.S. State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin to expand primary care services.

Today's awards enable health centers to increase access to comprehensive primary health care services by hiring an estimated 4,750 new staff including new health care providers, staying open for longer hours, and expanding the care they provide to include new services such as oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision services. These investments will help health centers reach an estimated 1.5 million new patients nationwide, including over 137,000 oral health patients and more than 38,000 mental and substance abuse patients.

"Health centers are a key part of how the Affordable Care Act is working to improve access to care for millions of Americans," said Secretary Burwell. "These funds will enable health centers to provide high-quality primary health

care to more people including the newly insured, many of whom may be accessing primary care for the first time."

Health centers are helping to implement the Affordable Care Act, not only as providers of care but also by linking individuals to coverage through outreach and enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace. Recent statistics show that health centers provided enrollment assistance to more than 6 million people over the last year. "Health centers provide comprehensive primary and preventive services in their communities" said HRSA Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N. "Today's awards will be used to expand access to care, to the people that need it most." Today, nearly 1,300 health centers operate more than 9,200 service delivery sites that provide care to over 21.7 million patients. Since the start of this Administration, health centers have increased the number of patients served by health centers by more than 4.5 million people.

To see a list of award winners, visit

www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2014tables/expandedservices/.

To learn more about the Affordable Care Act and Community Health Centers, visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/healthcenterfactsheet.pdf>.

To learn more about HRSA's Community Health Center Program, visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/index.html>.

To find a health center in your area, visit <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>.

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



The Lessons of Ferguson, Part Three: The Power of the Vote Essential to Change

"We are facing an important moment in our democracy. While America has twice elected an African American president, there remain far too many places in this country that have never elected an African American judge, commissioner, or board of education member."

— Sherrilyn Ifill, Esq., writing in the National Urban League's 2014 State of Black America

Less than a year from now, on August 6, 2015, the nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, considered by many to be the most significant American civil rights legislation ever signed into law. During the past half-century we have seen major increases in the number of Black elected officials across the country, including Barack Obama's election and re-election as America's first Black President. This year, the National Urban League's State of Black America found that with a Civic Participation Equality Index of 104.7%, African Americans are engaged in their communities and voting at higher rates than whites. But pockets of voter apathy and political complacency coupled with both overt and covert voter suppression efforts continue to negatively impact voter turnout in some parts of the country, including places like Ferguson, Missouri.

The August 9 shooting death of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old unarmed African American at the hands of Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson police officer, has led many of us to wonder whether things might have been different if the city's leadership was more representative of the racial makeup of the population. In a city that is 67% Black, the police force is 94% white. The mayor is also white, as are five of the six city council members. In 2013, Art McCoy, Ferguson's first African American school superintendent, resigned under duress after only three years on the job. Further, only one African American currently serves on the seven-member school board.

It is generally true that when local elections are held off-cycle — meaning, when no state or national offices are on the ballot — voter turnout across the board is significantly lower and white voter partici-

pation is notably higher than Black voter participation. For example, like many municipalities across the nation, Ferguson holds its elections in the spring of odd-numbered years, and the most recent comparisons between its 2012 and 2013 election turnouts tell a revealing story.

In the 2012 presidential election, white turnout was 55% and Black turnout was 54%. In the 2013 city council elections, white turnout fell to 17%, while Black turnout plunged to 6%. While a case can be made that election timing is one culprit in decreased voter turnout — as the farther off-cycle elections are held from presidential ones, the less media coverage, attention and awareness are generated around them, especially in low-income communities — the reality remains that we must all, as a community and as individuals, exercise our right to vote in every election. We simply do not have the option to not vote.

One year ago, the Supreme Court dealt a crushing blow to voting rights by removing important protections for voters who had suffered — and still suffer — historic disenfranchisement. The National Urban League has been a lead supporter of the Voting Rights Amendment Act now before Congress that would restore many of those protections. But the right to vote, regardless of when elections are held during the year, is a sacred obligation and our most powerful instrument of change.

I've often heard people express dissatisfaction with the pool of candidates on a ballot and use that as a reason to "sit out" certain election cycles. However, voting is not like buying popsicles — when, if we don't see a flavor we like, we leave the store. The ongoing social, racial and economic justice that we work toward everyday mandate that we be civically engaged and actively participate in electing leaders who will not only represent us, but who will fight for our interests and rights. Ferguson is yet another example that when we say no to voting, we turn our backs on our communities. Voter suppression has no place in our democracy, and neither does voter apathy. Ferguson should be the latest wake-up call that we cannot afford to let anything keep us from exercising the extraordinary power of our individual vote.



Montpelier Arts Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK MONALDO

MONTPELIER ARTS CENTER

The Arts Center which opened in 1979 houses three galleries, artist's studios, and classrooms. Exhibitions include cutting edge work as well as more traditional approaches and feature both emerging and established regional, national and international artists. The Main Gallery is also the site for the performances of the Jazz, Folk/Blues and Classical music series. The gallery is also available on a limited basis for rental by community groups. Artist studios are open to the public, and offer insight into the process of creating artwork.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Helping Children in Hidden Rural Poverty

When many people hear child poverty in America the first stereotype is an inner city child and discussions about solutions to poverty often focus on concentrated poverty in urban areas. But in a nation where over 16 million children, more than one in five, are poor, the plain truth is that child poverty is pervasive and affects children everywhere although we know it affects urban, suburban, and rural children in some ways differently. The Children's Defense Fund-Ohio (CDF-Ohio)'s new report "Health Disparities Are Leaving Ohio's Rural Children Behind" shares findings often true for poor rural American children. As they say about Ohio's 190,000 poor rural children: "These children go to bed hungry. Many of them live miles from the closest pediatrician, children's hospital, and other services. They need help — and it is a different kind of help than what may be needed for children in Ohio's cities."

CDF-Ohio's report notes that a few years ago, NBC News reported on pervasive hunger in Appalachian Ohio "and the impact on families 'who've had it all vanish — jobs, homes, and dreams — [and have to] choose between paying [their] bills and feeding [their] kids.' In an area defined by valuing self-sufficiency, families are trying everything before turning to emergency food banks. Anita Hayes, mother of a 14-year-old daughter, Lydia, and 9-year-old son, Lyle, describes this struggle, saying, 'The first few times I had to swallow my pride. But I wasn't doing it for myself. I have to feed my children. They come first.' Anita, her husband, and her two children live in a camper without running water and borrow a neighboring trailer's electricity. She describes feeling guilty that she can't meet her children's needs and that sometimes a bowl of cereal is 'dinner in a household where the children are growing up fast.' Too many children are growing up too fast, without adequate nutrition, in rural and Appalachian counties

hard-hit by the recession where, despite being surrounded by farmland, food is often in scarce supply."

Many rural children live in "food deserts" without close access to grocery stores selling affordable, nutritious food. Ohio areas like Vinton County have no full-service grocery store at all; a local school administrator said in a 2012 news story, "You know that it's an issue when a little kid is going through the lunch line, and they're already asking what's going to be for breakfast the next morning, because they're concentrating on the fact that perhaps this might be their last meal before they come back to school the next morning." Food in rural communities often costs more because supermarkets are so limited and there's less price competition. In part due to food insecurity, children in rural Ohio are at greater risk of obesity. Other factors including reliance on driving and a lack of community resources like public parks, playgrounds, and exercise facilities probably play a role too in putting children at greater risk for obesity-related physical, emotional, and psycholog-

ical health problems that may diminish their quality of life from youth into adulthood.

Poor access to health care is a second piece of the rural health disparities puzzle. Put simply, poor children in rural Ohio have more trouble than children in other parts of the state finding doctors to care for them. CDF-Ohio found this is part of a national trend: regions with a low supply of pediatricians are disproportionately rural and tend to be poorer than high-supply regions. Nearly one million rural children live in areas with no local pediatrician. This shortage of general pediatricians and family doctors serving children in rural areas is compounded by a lack of access to pediatric subspecialists. In the United States, there are approximately 28,000 pediatric medical subspecialists and surgical specialists to care for over 80 million children. Most practice in academic settings, often a long drive from rural areas. About one in three children must travel 40 miles or more to receive care from a pediatrician certified in adolescent medicine, developmental behavior

See WATCH, Page A12

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Take Advantage Of All Your School Counselor Has To Offer

With every new school year comes new opportunities and challenges as kids head back into the classroom. It may be a new teacher to face, new friends to make, new tough subjects or a whole range of other issues that can leave a student at any age feeling anxious and worried.

And while most of those issues seem to work themselves out in the first few days or weeks of classes, there can be challenges for your child, both academically and socially, that might present real problems for the coming school year.

While the classroom teacher may be where most parents first turn for help for their child, an important resource that shouldn't be overlooked is the school counselor. That's especially true for students in middle school and higher when students may be spending only one period each day with a particular teacher. That classroom teacher may have a limited view of your child, while the school counselor is often able to gain a more encompassing picture of what may be happening.

Unfortunately, many parents do not realize how important a resource the school counselor can be. School counselors are probably among the best educated and trained professionals in your child's school. Every state requires school counselors to be certified by the State Department of Education. Most states require school counselors to have an undergraduate degree in elementary or secondary education and to meet the requirements to be certified as a teacher. Several states even require a number of years of classroom experience. Many school counselors are not only experienced classroom teachers, but hold a Masters degree in counseling or a related field.

As well-trained professional counselors, school counselors understand both the educational process and the developmental stages that children go through. They understand the significant self-concept developmental issues that can occur through puberty and early adolescence, and know how to help students facing difficulties at such times.

While a school counselor's primary job is to help the student, they can also provide valuable assistance to parents facing problems with their children, especially problems such as a child unhappy with school and reluctant to attend.

It's a good idea to make an appointment with your child's school counselor early in the school year. Find out what he or she, as a professional counselor, has to offer and how that expertise and experience can help benefit both your child and 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

Cautious Optimism Over Maryland-India Trade

By IDREES ALI
Capital News Service

Despite exports from Maryland to India decreasing by almost 15 percent in recent years, Maryland businesses are optimistic about growth in trade between the two ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington.

Modi, who was elected earlier this year, will make his inaugural trip to Washington Sept. 29-30. It comes amid a downward trend in Maryland and India trade following a period of stalled diplomatic relations between the U.S. and India.

However, Maryland businesses are hopeful, based on Modi's priorities and a recent trade delegation from the state, that they can benefit from trade with one of the largest economies in the world.

Economic Ties

Maryland exports to India have decreased from \$233 million in 2010 to \$202 million in 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. During the same period, imports from India fell from \$465 million to \$416 million, a drop of more than 10 percent.

But Maryland is looking to change that.

One sign is an upcoming Montgomery County delegation to India, said Dr. Vinod Jain, president and CEO at the Maryland-based India-US World Affairs Institute.

The delegation, which will be led by County Executive Isiah Leggett and leaves for India in November, is focusing on culture, education and business, Jain said.

Currently, trade between the two varies wildly from information technology to coffee. For example, the U.S. subsidiary of the Indian IT company Infosys has its headquarters in Rockville, while Eight O'Clock Coffee, which has a production plant in Landover, was bought by the Indian company Tata Coffee in 2005.

Jain said the upcoming delegation would focus on improving trade and investment specifically in the biotechnology, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries.

The trip is looking to build on another Maryland trade delegation in 2011, when Gov. Martin O'Malley led more than 100 business leaders, educators and

government officials to India.

It was the largest delegation to India ever sent from Maryland, and the first ever by a sitting Maryland governor. Jain believes it was among the largest sent by any U.S. state to India.

The trade delegation resulted in business deals worth almost \$60 million being signed, a press release from the governor's office said.

The hope among analysts is that trade delegations can overcome some of the hurdles in improving economic ties between the two.

Despite being the third largest economy in the world based on a metric known as the purchasing power parity (PPP), India ranks only 18 out of Maryland's top 25 international trading partners in terms of exports from the state. That is well below exports from Maryland to smaller economies like Saudi Arabia and Belgium, according to data from the Census Bureau.

This can primarily be explained by the internal situation in India under the previous government led by Manmohan Singh, said Elisha Pulivarti, executive director at the Maryland India Business Roundtable.

"There were a lot of problems in India," said Pulivarti, mentioning low investor confidence because of the perception of high corruption and bureaucratic red tape.

Based on 2013 data, India ranked 186 out of 189 countries when it came to enforcing contracts, according to the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking. Only Timor-Leste (East Timor), Myanmar and Angola ranked lower, all countries that have suffered major internal conflicts in the past decade.

However, there is optimism that the issues can be overcome and Modi's trip can foster better trade relations between India and Maryland.

"Economic ties are No. 1 on the list," said Milan Vaishnav, an associate at the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank.

One Maryland business that made the 2011 trip to India was Shah and Kishore, a Rockville-based immigration law firm.

Calling the delegation a success and saying the results from the trip would take longer than three years to have an impact on



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY IDREES ALI

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi across the street from the Indian embassy in Washington.

Maryland, Devang Shah, the firm's managing partner, said the future for Maryland-India trade is likely to improve.

Much of the optimism is based on Modi's reputation as a business-friendly leader willing to create investor-friendly policies, said Shah.

Diplomatic Tensions

But bilateral ties must overcome recent diplomatic tensions at the national level, said Michael Kugelman, senior program associate for South and Southeast Asia at the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Washington-based think tank.

"In recent months relations have suffered from some of their greatest tensions in years, and certainly since the early 1990s, when decades of turbulent bilateral ties yielded to a new era of cooperation," said Kugelman, in an email.

Diplomatic relations stalled last year when an Indian diplomat, Devyani Khobragade, was arrested on charges of visa fraud and underpaying her nanny.

While Khobragade was eventually released to India, Indians were furious over what they perceived as high-handed tactics used by U.S. authorities, including her being strip-searched.

The Indian government responded to the arrest by, at one point, removing security barricades in front of the U.S. embassy in New Delhi and refusing to meet a visiting U.S. congressional delegation.

The meeting between President Barack Obama and Modi is likely to also, at least initially, focus on publicly making the Indian prime minister feel welcome

in the U.S., said Jain from the India-US World Affairs Institute.

In 2005, Modi, at that time the chief minister of the Indian state of Gujarat, was the first person denied a U.S. visa under the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act. The primary reason were the riots in Gujarat in 2002 between Muslims and Hindus, which led to almost 1,000 people being killed.

While there was no evidence that Modi, from a Hindu nationalist party, was responsible for the killing of hundred of Muslims, "he was responsible for the performance of state institutions at that time," said David Mulford, U.S. ambassador to India from 2004-2009, in a statement soon after the visa rejection.

There is an expectation that Modi's trip will focus more on "ceremony than substance" in order to overcome that incident, said Vaishnav, from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Optimism Moving Forward

As the Indian economy grows under Modi, it is imperative Maryland position itself to be the "gateway into the U.S.," said Shah, from the law firm.

India's economy is expected to become a "global economic giant" by 2050, with a GDP of \$34 trillion – which would be more than three times that of Brazil – according to the "World in 2050," a report by the accounting firm Price Waterhouse.

Economic ties between the two are "becoming more and more important," he said, with the hope being that Maryland can benefit from India's expected growth.

Lt. Governor Brown Addresses Horse Industry Leaders at Maryland Horse Forum

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – More than 400 leaders of Maryland's equine industry and nationally recognized experts gathered on August 7, 2014 for the 3rd Maryland Horse Forum at The Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, a site important to Maryland's equine history. The industry leaders charted future plans that will strengthen all elements of this agricultural sector. In his remarks, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown recognized the value of the horse industry to the State's history and its future, outlined the progress that has been made since the last forum five years ago, and pledged support for the group's continued hard work to bring all parts

of the industry together toward a stronger future.

"The continued success of Maryland's horse industry is an important part of growing our economy and creating jobs for more Marylanders," said Lt. Governor Brown. "We're committed to working with our local partners and today's awardees to preserve the heritage of our horse industry while strengthening it for the future and supporting the professionals who help it thrive."

This year's forum, "Celebrating Our Successes, Planning for the Future," included facilitated breakout sessions in which participants discussed four key areas: marketing and promoting the industry; business and regulatory issues; land, greenways and going green; and managing the Maryland horse population. The outcomes of

the forum will be compiled into a comprehensive report, which will serve as a framework to move the industry forward. The forum, which is held once every five years, was co-hosted by the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) – a program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture – and the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) – a nonprofit organization. The forum was sponsored by 28 equine organizations.

"We are extremely pleased that such a wide variety of organizations and sponsors from all over the state helped us sponsor the event," said MHIB Chair Jim Steele. "We could not put on an event of this magnitude without their support."

"The Maryland Horse Forum is a once-every-five-year opportunity for members of all aspects of Maryland's di-

verse equestrian community to come together and explore mutual interests, concerns and ideas for the future," said MHC President Jane Seigler. "Past forums have resulted in numerous successful business, policy and legislative initiatives, and we anticipate a similar outcome this year. We are delighted that over 400 people have taken time out of their busy schedules to join us today. This gathering is vivid testimony to the size, strength and vibrancy of Maryland's horse industry."

Lt. Governor Brown joined Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance, Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting, MHIB Chair Jim Steele, and MHC President Jane Seigler to present the following awards at the event:



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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "The Drop"

The Drop
Grade: B-
Rated R, abundant harsh
profanity, some strong violence
and grisly images
1 hr., 46 min

If you're a fan of adorable things happening in grim settings, you should know that Tom Hardy adopts a puppy in *The Drop*, an average crime drama that is otherwise serious and not at all puppy-like. Although he does find the puppy in a garbage can, which is more in line with the rest of the movie's gloominess.

Hardy is the standout in this mediocre offering, a posh, London-born actor playing a lowly Brooklyn bartender with the authenticity of a native. It isn't just the accent (though that's harder to get right than a lot of actors make it seem) but the mannerisms, the vocal tics, that make his character — named Bob Saginowski, of course — come to life.

Bob works at a dive called Cousin Marv's Bar, owned by a typical blue-collar striver named Marv (James Gandolfini) who actually does happen to be Bob's cousin. Like many Brooklyn bars (or so we are led to understand), Cousin Marv's has in recent years come under the control of Chechen mobsters, who use it as a money-laundering operation. A frustrated Marv has little choice but to go along with it, while Bob tries to keep his head down and his nose clean. Bob don't want no trouble.

Two unrelated things happen that bring trouble to Bob anyway. One is that Cousin Marv's is robbed by masked gunmen ("Do you know whose money you're jackin' here?" Marv asks in disbelief), which brings the unwelcome attention of a nosy police detective (John Ortiz). The other thing is that Bob finds a pit bull puppy,



THE DROP is a new crime drama from Michaël R. Roskam, the Academy Award nominated director of *Bullhead*. Based on a screenplay from Dennis Lehane (*Mystic River*, *Gone Baby Gone*), **THE DROP** follows lonely bartender Bob Saginowski (Tom Hardy) through a covert scheme of funneling cash to local gangsters - "money drops" in the underworld of Brooklyn bars. Under the heavy hand of his employer and cousin Marv (James Gandolfini), Bob finds himself at the center of a robbery gone awry and entwined in an investigation that digs deep into the neighborhood's past. Also featuring Noomi Rapace, Matthias Schoenaerts, Ann Dowd and John Ortiz. (C) Fox Searchlight

abused and whimpering, in a garbage can outside the home of a young woman named Nadia (Noomi Rapace), who most certainly did not put the poor li'l fella there and is as appalled about it as Bob is. Bob and Nadia become tentative friends, and we wait to see how this cute development figures in to the larger story (don't worry, it does).

A seemingly humble man of few words and little education, Bob has a Rocky Balboa vibe about him (which is enhanced by his chaste courtship of the bookish Nadia), plus a little of Brando's Terry Malloy from *On the Waterfront*. And like the pit bull puppy he rescued, Bob is subject to prejudicial assumptions about his character when in fact violent tendencies are a

matter of nurture, not nature. The nosy detective is savvy enough to know that Cousin Marv's is connected to the Chechens, and subsequent grisly developments turn up the heat on everyone professing innocence or ignorance. The question is whether Bob is smart enough to stay out of the whole mess.

It comes from a short-story-turned-screenplay by Dennis Lehane, a crime novelist whose work has been turned into movies before (*Mystic River*, *Gone Baby Gone*) but who has not adapted his own work until now. As you might expect from a screenplay based on a short story — adapted by a first-time screenwriter, no less — *The Drop* is formulaic and simple, uninterested in breaking new ground, or even in treading the

old ground in a new way. The director, Belgium's Michael R. Roskam (whose stellar *Bullhead* was Oscar-nominated a few years ago), tells the story capably but without distinction.

No, it's Tom Hardy who makes *The Drop* worth seeing (or at least not worth actively avoiding), aided by the late James Gandolfini in a Tony Soprano-ish role that should evoke fond smiles from all who remember him. Gandolfini is in his element, of course; the chameleonic Hardy is far out of his, yet delivers an impressively heartfelt and natural performance. The power to turn a so-so script into a half-decent movie with nothing but one's own acting prowess and personal magnetism is a mighty power indeed.

Horse Forum from A5

- MHB Distinguished Service Award — John W. Lee, Jr., DVM, Rising Sun, for his 10 years of professional service on the Maryland Horse Industry Board and chairing the Board's Health Advisory Committee.

- MHB Distinguished Service Award — Joanne Richart-Young, Earleville, for her 13 years of instrumental service as an advocate for the equine industry. She is the first agricultural coordinator hired by the Cecil County Office of Economic Development.

- MHB August "Touch of Class Award" — Hope Birsh, Cockeysville, for her involvement in the equine community since 1985 and leadership for the industry as current President-Elect of the American Equine Trade Association.

- MHC Legislative Leadership Award — Sen. Joan Carter Conway, Baltimore City, for her instrumental assistance with the Maryland Horse Council's work on several issues including anti-Sunday hunting legislation.

- MHC Legislative Leadership Award — Sen. Roy P. Dyson, St. Mary's County, for his support of the Maryland Horse Council's work and the state's equine industry.

- MHB Distinguished Service Award — MDA Stable Inspector Pegeen Morgan, Upper Marlboro, for her more than 30 years of dedicated service to Maryland's equine industry.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made real and steady progress toward fulfilling the recommendations of the 2009 Forum. The accomplishments include:

- When Maryland racing was in jeopardy in 2011, Governor Martin O'Malley stepped in and mediated a short-term agreement which kept racing viable until the industry could take the actions necessary to return the sport to its past preeminence.

- These actions led to the development of a 10-year agreement between all stakeholders in the industry, which has become the cornerstone for racing both now and in the future, and provides the economic stability for stakeholders, including the tracks, the horsemen and the breeders to plan and invest in the future.

- The 10-year plan revitalized the rich tradition of the State's horse breeding industry, which was severely threatened. Maryland had lost nearly 80 percent of its stallions, mares and foals. The breeding initiative that was developed and put in

place resulted in a remarkable resurgence of breeding investment and activity and has already resulted in increased farms and jobs since its inception. This trend is expected to continue exponentially in the future.

- Maryland is leading the way with its medication policies and reforms to keep the industry and its horses healthy and safe. Maryland was the first state to adopt a comprehensive standard policy and medication plan that is to be instituted nationwide.

- The Administration has consistently supported Maryland Horse Industry Board efforts to develop marketing strategies and initiatives to increase participation of spectators and riders in horse events and activities. These projects include: Horse Pals, social media development, a statewide network of 35 Horse Experience Centers, and historic horse trails.

"The O'Malley/Brown Administration has strongly supported all aspects of the horse industry and has demonstrated a significant commitment to strengthening it," said Agriculture Secretary Hance. "We've been able to make important strides with the partnerships we've made and the hard work of horse owners,

farm operators, the farmers that grow and sell the feed and hay that horses need, pony clubbers, veterinarians and so many others involved in the day to day success of the industry. There is a great deal more to do and the work that goes on at this forum will guide the way."

According to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture's Equine Survey, there are more than 79,100 horses in Maryland worth \$714 million at 16,040 locations where horses are kept. Sixty percent of the horses in Maryland are used for recreation while 40 percent are for racing. There are five racetracks, not including training facilities like Bowie and Fair Hill; 700 licensed stables offer boarding and/or lessons to the public; and there are eight steeplechase race courses. In 2005, the American Horse Council calculated that the Maryland horse industry has an annual economic impact of \$1.6 billion.

The agenda and more details are available online at: <http://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/MD-Horse-Forum-2014.aspx>. For more information, contact MHB Executive Director Ross Peddicord at 410-841-5798 or ross.peddicord@maryland.gov.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Updated: Michael Sam: Out of the Closet, Out of the NFL?

Six hours after I published the below piece on Michael Sam, the Dallas Cowboys announced that they would in fact sign the co-SEC defensive player of the year to their practice squad. This was a relief to everyone who believed that Michael Sam—on merit—had earned a place in the National Football League with his stellar pre-season performance for the St. Louis Rams.



It was also a relief given what I wrote in the below article: that the hobgoblins of homophobia seemed to be preventing Sam from getting an opportunity. Under the code word of "distraction"—the distraction being his sexuality—Sam was being denied a place on an NFL roster. Given the endless actual "distractions" belched into the culture from the pro football—from brain damage to racist mascots to domestic violence—one didn't know whether the "distraction" fears of general managers was an outrage or a farce.

While it is a relief that Sam will get his chance, it is also a thrill that he is landing with the Dallas Cowboys for a series of reasons. Unlike the St. Louis Rams, the Cowboys are decimated on defense so Sam will actually get something that would have been difficult to find in St. Louis: the opportunity to play. In addition, Dallas' defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli is respected as someone who knows how to get the most out of players with Sam's ability to get downfield and pressure the quarterback. Then there is the city of Dallas itself. Contrary to stereotypes people may have about Texas, Dallas is home to a significant community of LGBT individuals and allies. The city's elected Sheriff is a gay Latina, Lupe Valdez. Sam could play anywhere, but it is good to know that his new city would be place where he could find support. That gets to the last reason why Dallas is such a quality landing spot for Sam: he is from Texas. Michael Sam has come home. In a sport practically defined by bad news this offseason, Michael Sam actually gives many people a sense of hope. If the people in Roger Goodell's office did not realize this before, they certainly do now.

The tweet sent by one of my favorite football writers, Mike Freeman speaks volumes: "GM tells me: 'Teams want to sign Michael Sam but fear the media attention.' To me, that's cowardice. But that's just me." It is not just you, Mike. This is cowardice writ large: risk-averse corporate executives unwilling to improve their team because they fear that the "distraction" of openly gay linebacker Michael Sam is not worth the effort.

For those unaware of the latest news, Michael Sam was among the last cuts of the St. Louis Rams. Despite a stellar preseason where he was among the team leaders in sacks, tackles and snaps. Sam found himself on the outside when the final roster was announced. This in and of itself was not surprising. In a league where pass-rushers are a premium, St. Louis has perhaps the deepest crew of quarterback sackers and run stoppers in the NFL. This made their original drafting of Sam somewhat curious, and it was always unclear how he would in fact make the team. Given Sam's terrific preseason, though, football scribes took to Twitter and assured the public that Sam would be signed by another team, or at the very least, assigned to the Rams ten-person practice squad. Implicit in these tweets, whether the writers intended this or not, is the NFL's most treasured public relations point: this is a league that cares about winning above all else, and Michael Sam, who more than proved himself this preseason, would find himself a home.

Now we know that, as of today, Sam was not signed to the Rams practice squad and furthermore has drawn no interest from the dozen or so teams desperate for edge rushers that also run defensive schemes suited to his skills. The 2014 co-SEC defensive player of the year, who just rocked the preseason, is officially on the outside looking in.

Peter King, the senior football writer for *Sports Illustrated* echoed Mike Freeman's point about why this was the case, albeit without Freeman's direct moral judgment. King wrote, "I talked to three [NFL] team architects over the weekend. They're concerned about the circus coming to town with the first openly gay player trying to make an NFL roster."

Just look at the language employed by King, because it's language that meshes together to form a bucket to carry public relations water for the league. NFL executives, you see, are "architects" conjuring for the mind, as George Costanza could tell you, a respectable individual sitting behind a desk, coolly calculating what is in the best interests of his organization. An architect is solemn, constructing something built to last that is of value to a community. Irrationalities like "prejudice" and "gay panic" never enter the thought process, not when you are building the football equivalent of the new wing at the Guggenheim. Michael Sam, meanwhile, and the media who care about his journey constitute a "circus." What could possibly be less serious and more frivolous than a circus? For that matter what could possibly be less "manly" than a

Calendar of Events

September 25 — October 1, 2014

Nature Hike for Homeschoolers

Date & Time: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1-3:30 pm
Description: Join a Park Naturalist and enjoy a fun, fitness hike. We'll start out with stretches, then hike throughout the park, learning about nature and animals as we go. Please bring a refillable water bottle, binoculars, a small backpack, and dress for the weather.

Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$5

Ages: 8-12

Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772

Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-218-6768

Fall Hand Dance

Date and Time: Friday, September 26, 2014 8 pm-12 Midnight
Description: Are you ready to get down? Well, grab a partner and your dancing feet to groove at the Annual Fall Hand Dance.

Cost: Residents: \$15; Non-Residents: \$20

Ages: 21 & up

Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744

Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030

Fairmont Heights High School Pep Rally

Date and Time: Friday, September 26, 2014 6-10 pm
Description: Come support Fairmont Heights HS at their Homecoming Weekend. Enjoy a pep rally with music, food and more.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 10-17

Location: Cedar Heights Community Center
1200 Glen Willow Drive, Seat Pleasant 20743

Contact: 301-773-8881; TTY 301-218-6768

Port Towns Day

Date and Time: Saturday, September 27, 2014, 12 noon-9 pm
(Rain Date: Saturday, October 11, 2014, 12 noon-9 pm)

Description: Enjoy music, prizes, food, crafts, vendor and other activities. Co-sponsored by M-NCPPC and the Towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Edmonston, and Cottage City.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710

Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!

Date and Time: Saturday, September 27, 2014
Description: Doors will be open FREE of charge to Smithsonian magazine readers and Smithsonian.com visitors at museums and cultural institutions nationwide. Any visitor plus one guest who present a Museum Day Admission Card will receive FREE admission to the museum this day.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All Ages

Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park, 20740

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

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, September 27, 2014 1-6 pm
Description: Experience Latino culture at the Hispanic Heritage Festival! Listen to live music and traditional dance performances, and enjoy activities for the entire family from a health fair to food and arts and crafts.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712

Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

Celebrate Baden Day

Date & Time: Saturday, September 27, 2014 12 noon-5 pm
Description: Join us to celebrate Baden Community Day! This Family Fun Community Day features mechanical rides, carnival like games, face painting, artists, a moon bounce, train rides and vendors.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Baden Community Center
13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine 20613

Contact: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030

Operation 007: Blokes in Black

Date & Time: Saturday, September 27, 2014 3-7 pm
Description: Iron out your suit, adjust your tie, and stroll in for our 1st Annual Super Spy event. Participants will enjoy music, crafts, dancing and etiquette. All participants must be in semi-formal attire to attend.

Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$6

Ages: 5-13

Location: Patuxent Community Center
4410 Bishopmill Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772

Contact: 301-780-7577; TTY 301-203-6030

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society Concert Series

Date and Time: Sunday, September 28, 2014 2:30 pm
Description: Make your Sunday afternoon lively. Enjoy chamber music as performed by University of Maryland faculty and students and area military musicians.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737

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

Seasonal Selections: Harvesting the Fall Bounty

Date and Time: Sunday, September 28, 2014 12 noon-3:30 pm
Description: Come watch this free demonstration with The Kitchen Guild using its fresh harvest from the garden. This week they'll prepare an array of dishes using 18th and 19th century recipes.

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737

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

EARTH TALK ... Ethanol's Unrealized Promise

Dear EarthTalk:

I thought that putting ethanol in our gas tanks was going help fight climate change, but lately I've heard reports to the contrary. Can you enlighten?

— Bill B.
Hershey, PA

Ethanol and similar "biofuels" made from corn and other crops seem like a good idea given their potential for reducing our carbon outputs as well as our reliance on fossil fuels. But recent research has shown that the federal government's push to up production of corn-derived ethanol as a gasoline additive since 2007 has actually expanded our national carbon footprint and contributed to a range of other problems.

U.S. corn producers started ramping up ethanol production in 2007 as a result of President George W. Bush's Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), which mandated an increase in the volume of renewable fuel to be blended into transportation fuel from nine billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion by 2022. Ethanol now makes up 10 percent of the gasoline available at filling stations.

But environmentalists now say that the promise of ethanol has turned out to be too good to be true. For one, there is the issue of net energy produced. According to Cornell University ecologist David Pimentel, growing and processing corn into a

gallon of ethanol requires 131,000 BTUs of energy, but the resulting ethanol contains only 77,000 BTUs. And since fossil-fuel-powered equipment is used to plant, harvest, process and distribute ethanol, the numbers only get worse.

The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) warns that continued production of corn ethanol is not only "worse for the climate than gasoline" but also bad for farmers, the land and consumers: "It is now clear that the federal corn ethanol mandate has driven up food prices, strained agricultural markets, increased competition for arable land and promoted conversion of uncultivated land to grow crops."

Additionally, the group reports that previous estimates "dramatically underestimated corn ethanol's greenhouse gas emissions by failing to account for changes in land use," citing a 2012 study documenting the conversion of eight million acres of Midwestern grassland and wetlands to corn fields for ethanol between 2008 and 2011. "These land use changes resulted in annual emissions of 85 million to 236 million metric tons of greenhouse gases," says EWG. "In light of these emissions, many scientists now question the environmental benefit of so-called biofuels produced by converting food crops."

Given the potential negative impacts of so-much corn-based ethanol, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reportedly weighing a proposal to cut the



CREDIT: MICHAEL COTE

The federal government's push to increase production of corn-derived ethanol as a gasoline additive since 2007 has actually expanded our national carbon footprint and contributed to a range of other problems.

amount currently required by law to be blended into gasoline by 1.39 billion gallons. If the federal government decides to do this, it could lower U.S. carbon emissions by some three million tons—equivalent to taking 580,000 cars off the roads for a year.

Meanwhile, researchers are trying to develop greener forms of ethanol, but none are ready for market yet. "The lifecycle

emissions of ethanol 'from seed to tailpipe' depend on how the ethanol is made and what it is made from," reports the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The best ethanol, they say, can produce as much as 90 percent fewer lifecycle emissions than gasoline, but the worst can produce much more. So there still may be room for ethanol in our energy future, but not if we keep doing it the way we are now.

CONTACTS: Renewable Fuel Standard, www.epa.gov/otaq/fuels/renewablefuels; David Pimentel, vivo.cornell.edu/display/individual/5774; EWG, www.ewg.org; UCS, www.ucsusa.org.

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Children from A1

Aliya Rahman, of Code for Progress, said the project was a chance for programmers to use their skills to make a difference in the community.

"The best technology is built for and by people affected by the issues," Rahman said.

Roughly 2,800 unaccompanied children have arrived in Maryland in 2014, the fifth largest number in the country. The children have come pri-

marily from Central America, fleeing violence in countries like El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Anne Sheridan, executive director of the Governor's Office for Children, described the project as a "labor of love."

The first challenge, according to Sheridan, has been determining what kinds of resources are useful to children and their caretakers.

"We have to figure out what they need," Sheridan said. "Then, it's all about mechanics."

Officials also highlighted other resources for unaccompanied children, including a printed resource guide for people who do not have access to the website. The United Way of Central Maryland also operates a 24-hour 2-1-1 phone hotline, which aims to provide immediate assistance and guide callers through the Buscando website.*

The goal for Buscando is to efficiently deliver information and resources to the people who need them. Sheridan also said

she wants children and their caretakers to know that the government is in it for the long haul.

"We're a welcoming place, and we want them to know that help is available," Sheridan said.

* *An earlier version of the story mistakenly said that Maryland's state government operates a 2-1-1 phone hotline for unaccompanied children and their caretakers. The 2-1-1 phone hotline is operated by the United Way of Central Maryland.*

Michael Sam from A6

circus? A drag show, perhaps? (To Peter King's credit, he did write two lines about why Sam is not the "circus" that GM's believe him to be, as if that is a rational debate.)

The very language that Michael Sam is a "distraction"—which Freeman is one of the few to have the courage to call out—is a way to project and justify one's own bigotry. Michael Sam is not a distraction. A "distraction" is when a team invites HBO's *Hard Knocks* into its locker room. A "distraction" is when an owner proudly and

loudly defends a racial slur on national television. A "distraction" is when a player commits a crime like spousal abuse and is then aggressively defended by his organization like all he did was chew gum in class. To equate being open about one's sexuality and then just playing football (no Oprah reality shows, no special interviews) with being this kind of "distraction" is to traffic in rank prejudice. Once again, to say otherwise, is to practice public relations.

Some argue that teams are not homophobic but it is the media that is in fact to blame because they have created the

"Michael Sam circus." Yes, it is certainly true that there hasn't been a late-round draft pick to garner this kind of attention, but the interest in Sam is not a media creation. It's a popular upsurge. Michael Sam has the sixth top selling jersey of 2014 (and you better believe, the NFL is not returning that money). Among draftees, his jersey sales are second only to the phenom that is Johnny Manziel. For people who recognize the ways in which sports has been used to sanctify homophobia, his emergence was a revelation: the hope that the "last closet" could finally be

breached. Maybe all of the old tropes like "gays in the shower", the bricks and mortar that keeps gay athletes in the closet, could finally become a memory. Perhaps Michael Sam would destroy stereotypes and make some history. The hope is that he still can. Maybe Sam plays in Canada next year. Maybe a team does step up and say that on merit, he deserves a chance. However the Michael Sam saga ends, let us please stop acting like the NFL is a hermetically sealed homophobia-free zone. Selling that lie is, frankly, not just bad journalism. It's a distraction.

State/Federal Agencies Partner to Track and Protect Marine Mammals in Offshore Wind Area

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Energy Admin.

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 10, 2014) — With funding from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Offshore Wind Development Fund, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has secured a \$1.1M commitment from the U.S. Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to gather scientific information about the bionetwork of the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Area. This effort is intended to protect the ecosystem while providing opportunities for deployment of advanced renewable energy technology within the state.

"The partnership between BOEM and Maryland is a great example of government agencies working together efficiently and effectively for a common purpose," said Maureen Bornholdt, program manager for BOEM's

Offshore Renewable Energy Programs. "Data obtained from this partnership will assist both the federal government and the state in making sound decisions for responsible offshore renewable energy development."

The interagency agreement establishes a jointly-funded project to study marine mammal populations off the coast of Maryland to help those agencies and the public better understand the geographic distribution, abundance, and densities of large whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

"The Atlantic Ocean supports a wide variety of marine mammals, some of which are endangered," said DNR Secretary Joe Gill. "This Agreement will help us better understand migratory pathways to protect these critical species as Maryland pursues the development of offshore renewable energy."

MEA and DNR have partnered on several survey efforts,

using marine and aerial surveys, to assess the geographic distribution of marine mammals, as well as birds, sea turtles and other ecological resources. Additional efforts are underway to study potential impacts on bats, fish and benthic habitat. Information gathered by this effort will ensure that offshore wind energy projects in this area are better able to anticipate effects to better protect these species, including the endangered North Atlantic right whale. MEA Director Abigail Hopper commented on the agreement, noting that "in all of our offshore wind planning, we are working carefully to ensure that we understand, and can mitigate, any potential project development impacts in the marine environment."

This research project, led by a University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science team, complements previous survey ef-

forts utilizing longer-term deployment of Marine Autonomous Recording Units. These units were designed by Cornell University Bioacoustics Research Program and feature underwater microphones are attached to bottom-moored buoys which will allow them to continuously record ocean sounds produced by large whales and other marine mammals.

"Determining patterns of marine mammal occurrence is a critical first step in determining any potential effects that offshore wind energy development might have on the behavior and ecology of resident or migratory species," said the study's lead scientist Dr. Helen Bailey. The study will collect two-years of baseline data that can be used for informing siting, mitigation measures, assessing environmental impacts for future wind energy developments, and to facilitate ocean planning in the area.