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MD Announces Funding for Fruits and Vegetables

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Oct. 2, 2014) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced the recipients of federal grants that will fund projects designed to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Maryland. Specialty crops are: fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. Funding for the grants came through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

“We are pleased to announce awardees of the Maryland Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The 2014 Farm Bill provided significant grant funding dedicated to specialty crops to become available,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “These funds are a great opportunity to help farmers and value-added producers advance and promote local specialty crops in the marketplace, spark new markets, healthy eating and job creation.”

MDA created a competitive grant process with a review committee to award these federal funds. The following is a snapshot of the funded projects:

Future Harvest – CASA – \$48,222 - Future Harvest's Foodshed Field School will offer on-

See FRUIT Page A5



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY Lejla Sarcevic.

At a press conference in front of West Annapolis Elementary School standing left to right: in a blue skirt and jacket, Maryland State Education Association President Betty Weller; in an orange bow-tie, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker III; and in a red and blue striped tie, Maryland House Speaker Michael E. Busch.

Maryland Democrats Continue to Press Hogan on School Construction Funding

By LEJLA SARCEVIC
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS – Democratic office-holders in Maryland continued to push the Republican gubernatorial candidate on education, with House Speaker Michael E. Busch holding a press conference Thursday, ac-

cusling Larry Hogan of planning to cut \$450 million in state funding for school construction.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown made this assertion during Tuesday's debate. It's a claim that the Hogan camp has since said is the “tallest tale yet.”

In a written statement issued after the press conference, House Minority Leader

Nicholaus Kipke characterized Busch's comments as “outrageous lies.”

“It is incredibly disappointing that Speaker Mike Busch and Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown are exploiting our school children to score political points,” Kipke said.

The figure comes from an April 2013 audit by the state's

Board of Public Works. The auditors were unable to identify final funding and completion for 126 school-construction projects, totaling \$450 million.

However, the same document shows a response from the Interagency Committee on

See FUNDING Page A3

Bowie Police Add Electric Motorcycles to Patrol Fleet

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

The Bowie Police Department is the first law enforcement agency in Maryland and one of the departments on the east coast, to purchase electric motorcycles for its patrol fleet.

On Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 10 a.m., the Bowie Police Department will hold a press conference to talk about the new motorcycles and introduce them to the community. The event will take place at Allen Pond Park near the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater.

The department will be using the two Zero brand electric motorcycles it purchased to patrol Bowie's 13 parks and the more than 50 miles of bike and walking trails in the city of Bowie. The eco-friendly bikes are extremely quiet and can go 10 hours and up to 180 miles on an electric charge. With them, officers can easily cover a lot of ground in out of the way places around the city, without disturbing nature or the many residents who enjoy spending time outdoors.

For more information about the press conference, contact Una Cooper, Communications Coordinator (301-809-3032 or ucooper@cityofbowie.org) or Deputy Police Chief Dwayne Preston (301-575-2015 or dpreston@cityofbowie.org).

Cancer Research Hurt by Slowdown in Government Spending

By YEVGENIY TRAPEZNIKOV
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON – New Hampshire realtor Rocky Lagno knows from cancer.

Twenty years ago, his wife's mother died of breast cancer. He lost his own mother to ovarian and stomach cancer a few years ago. And in 2011, Lagno himself was diagnosed with lung cancer, even though he's not a smoker.

Lagno now takes two pills daily in order to stay alive.

That is why he and his wife Geralynn Lagno recently joined more than 300 researchers, clinicians, patients and survivors to lobby Congress for more cancer research funding.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), made up of 27 institutes and centers, is where the bulk of fundamental medical science takes place, providing for a variety of breakthroughs in cancer research. NIH is overwhelmingly funded by the federal government, but Washington's budget cuts in recent years are starting to take

their toll, researchers and others say, slowing the growth of NIH's budget and curtailing important cancer research.

Less funding translates into fewer investigators taking risks doing innovative research. And less research means fewer lives saved in the long run.

In a recent speech in front of members of Congress, NIH Director Francis Collins drew attention to the latest reports by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for Cancer Research. The reports told a worrisome story of the country's ability to keep up with cutting-edge research.

“When young scientists approach (NIH) with their bright ideas, traditionally it has been one chance in three that their application will be supported. That has been the case in the last half a century,” said Collins. “Since 2003, as we progressively lost more than 20 percent of our purchasing power, the success rate has fallen to 16 percent. Effectively, it means we are leaving



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY YEVGENIY TRAPEZNIKOV

WASHINGTON - National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins speaks at the Pediatric Cancer Summit earlier this year in Washington. A protester holds a poster in the foreground decrying the percentage of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) budget that goes to pediatric cancer research. NCI is part of the NIH framework.

half the great science on the table because we can't figure out the way to pay for it in the current circumstance.”

On average, for the past several decades, NIH's budget consistently grew at about 3.7 percent a year, including

adjustments for inflation. The trajectory was even better when Congress doubled appropriations starting in 1998 – creating

See CANCER Page A7

Prince George's County Minimum Wage Increase

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

Prince George's County Council Bill 94-2013, legislation increasing the minimum wage in Prince George's County, went into effect on October 1, 2014. Under the legislation, the County's minimum wage will incrementally increase from \$7.25 per hour to \$8.40 per hour on October 1, 2014, to \$9.55 per hour on October 1, 2015, \$10.75 per hour on October 1, 2016, and \$11.50 per hour on October 1, 2017.

Part of an unprecedented collaboration with Montgomery County and the District of Columbia to establish a “regional minimum wage,” Council Bill 94-2013 was successfully adopted by the Council on Tuesday, November 26, 2013.

Council Chairman Mel Franklin (D) – District 9, says today marks the beginning of a minimum wage increase that brings disadvantaged workers one step closer to improving the quality of their lives.

“The Prince George's County Council is committed to improving the quality of life

of every resident and today marks a significant step in that direction. The previous minimum wage of \$7.25 had not been raised since 2009 and something needed to be done to secure a living wage for our residents. I want to thank my Council colleague and former Chair Andrea Harrison for leading the charge on this important issue, and working diligently with our counterparts in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia to establish a “regional minimum wage” that places Prince George's County on a level playing field with our neighboring jurisdictions. We are bringing the world to Prince George's County and through this effort we are improving the quality of life for our residents and building a better local economy.”

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison (D) – District 5, sponsor of the legislation, says Prince George's County is now on its way to a fair and equitable minimum wage.

See WAGE Page A5

INSIDE

Gov. O'Malley Asks Hispanic Lawyers For Help With State's Refugee Children

“We are Americans, and we do not return refugee kids who find themselves on our doorstep back into war-torn or famine-racked places where they will face certain death, I think we have to act like Americans.”

Community, Page A3

What About the Girls?

Though national focus is often on the racially biased ways boys of color are treated, girls of color face many of the same risks from the cradle through adulthood which impact their life chances for success. Like boys, girls of color who enter the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and other systems often arrive traumatized.

Commentary, Page A4

Supreme Court to Hear Case on Right of States to Tax Out-of-State Income

Maryland has an out-of-state income tax credit that can be used to offset state income taxes. But there is no equivalent credit that can be used to offset county income taxes, so counties can tax the out-of-state income.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: “Kill the Messenger”

Jeremy Renner leads an all-star cast in a dramatic thriller based on the remarkable true story of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gary Webb. Webb stumbles onto a story which leads to the shady origins of the men who started the crack epidemic on the nation's streets.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest on efforts to ban plastic bags? How many U.S. locales have instituted some kind of ban, and have these initiatives made a dent in the amount of plastic litter?

— Melinda Clarke, New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Early voting is underway— and it's really convenient!

A strange thing happened with redistricting this year— Skyline and Morningside ended up in two different Councilmanic districts. Morningside is in District 7, now headed by Councilwoman Karen Toles. Skyline is in District 8, with Councilman Obie Patterson. However, I think we all still vote at Skyline School.

And now it's time to vote again, in the Gubernatorial General Election. We will be electing a governor, and a host of other very important Maryland and County officials. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters may vote early. I did last time and was in and out in about ten minutes. I recommend it.

The eight early-voting centers in Prince George's County will be open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Thursday, Oct. 23, through Thurs., Oct. 30, including Sunday. Early voting centers nearest Morningside and Skyline are the Suitland Community Park School Center, 5600 Regency Lane, and the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, in Fort Washington.

More information is at www.elections.Maryland.gov/voting/early.html.

Neighbors

John Jackson and Kenia Spivey, of Skyline, have my vote as this month's Good Neighbors. They have taken upon themselves the regular cleanup of Elmendorf Drive to the 7-Eleven on Suitland Road.

Tali Ward, daughter of Alice Ward of Skyline, and Will Long were married Sept. 19 in Greensboro, N.C.

Tori Meoli, granddaughter of longtime Auth Village residents Ange and Marlyn Meoli, is a freshman in the culinary program at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester.

Reginald "Reggie" Harrod, of Suitland, was presented with the first Community Empowerment Pioneer Award by Suitlandfest president Willie Wim-bush on Nov. 4.

Morningside Fire Chief Michael White announced at the Skyline meeting on Sept. 17 that the Department had made 4,195 service calls since January.

I did it again: I had wished Jane Wright a happy birthday on Oct. 23. However, she died last January at the age of 94. I know she celebrated the occasion in Heaven.

Changing landscape

New speed cameras have been okayed on route 5 at Billingsley Road near Thomas Stone High School. Slow down!

Offut Drive and Ladd Road, in Skyline, have finally been resurfaced.

M & D Dollar Store, at the corner of Suitland and Silver Hill roads, is closed. When I moved here in 1958 there was a Safeway at that location. It was the first Safeway I'd ever seen.

The new minimum wage in Prince George's County took effect on Oct. 1. It went from \$7.25 to \$8.40 an hour and will increase to \$9.55 in 2015, \$10.75 in 2016, and \$11.50 in 2017.

Morningside Memories, 60 years ago

From the Morningside-Skyline Bulletin & Advertiser, Dec. 15, 1954:

Helen Ditmars is president of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's Auxiliary. Other officers are Edythe Neale, vice president; Jean Glaubitz, recording secretary; Alma Broderick, corresponding secretary; Henrietta Zdobysz, treasurer; and Louise Wells, membership chairman.

Louise Wells will be Chairman of the Dance, coming up at the I-C-E Club on Nov. 26.

Miss Sobolewski, Principal, has announced that the new Morningside Elementary School will open for classes on January 3rd.

May they rest in peace

I just received word that Rita Gray, longtime resident of Skyline and very active at St. Philip's Church, has died in an auto accident. I'll write about her next week. Remember the Gray family in your prayers.

Lawrence Phillip Majors, 85, longtime resident of Skyline, died a year ago, Sept. 9, 2013, at his home in Berlin, Md. I had a note from his wife Helen with this sad news. He had been very sick for about five years, and she was his caretaker. Lawrence was born in Washington, served with the Metropolitan Police Dept. for 25 years, and then was in the trucking industry. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Elks, Knights of Columbus and the Fraternal Order of Police. Survivors include his wife Thelma "Helen" Majors, son William of Forestville, five stepchildren; many grand- and great-grandchildren, and his sister Betty Dean.

Dorothy Jo "Dottie" Carlson, 86, of Brandywine, former head librarian of the children's department at the Surratts-Clinton Library, died Sept. 30 in Washington. A native of Chicago, she met her husband, Quick Carlson, at the University of Michigan. They moved to Washington and both went to work for Naval Oceanographic. Often with a crew of grandchildren, she and Quick attended the Great International Steamboat Flotilla with their 23-foot steam launch, The Wind in the Willows, and she published the Steamboat Club newsletter. She was in two book clubs, in knitting and embroidery clubs, and was a member of the Mattawoman Watershed Society. Survivors include her husband, five children, 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren who fondly called her GangGang.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; my granddaughter Kathryn Shearer and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25; Orva Heisenbuttel, Juanita Starke and Christopher Flaherty, Oct. 27; Diane Cvitko, Oct. 28; my grandson Isaac Gallegos, Oct. 29; Denise Williams, Kim Miller and my daughter Kathleen Shearer, Oct. 30; and Don Eisenberg, Oct. 31.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BRANDYWINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Please join Brandywine Fire Department for an all you can eat Bull and Oyster Roast Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM. Ticket price is \$45.00. Call 301-782-7258 for ticket information.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting starts October 23, 2014 through October 30, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Voting is convenient and accessible and on your schedule at two centers in your area.

The Centers in our area are Baden Community Center located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613, Upper Marlboro Community Center 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Absentee Ballot Application Deadline is Tuesday, October 28, 2014 8:00 PM (mail) or 11:59 PM (fax/e-mail). For more information, contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at (301) 341-7300.

EDWARD M. FELEGY HONORS CONCERT

The Edward M. Felegy Honors Concert will be Thursday November 20, 2014 from 7:00 PM- 10:00 PM at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, Maryland. Call 301-333-0961 if you need additional information.

De SOUL CAFÉ

The best kept secret Soul Food Café is no longer a secret. Come out on Friday nights and enjoy Soul Jazz Music performed by Tony Woods from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Hours of operation are Tuesday thru Thursday 11:00 AM- 9:00 PM, Friday-Saturday 11:00 AM-10:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM. Join us for Sunday Brunch 11:00 Noon-3:00 PM. DeSoul Café is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

DeSoul Café has something to satisfy your palate from seafood to soul food. Call ahead 301-782-9752 for carry out orders. We also provide catering services. Come out and enjoy dinner with family or friends.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

New Hope Fellowship Men will be celebrating their Men's Day Anniversary Sunday October 26, 2014 at 10:00 AM. The service will be at their North Campus (Nottingham Myers). Their Pastor is Rev. Constance Smith. The church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Walter Skinner, Jr. of Carolina Missionary Baptist Church. Call the church office at 301-888-2171 if you need additional information.

ST. PHILIP'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Come and join us for Line Dance Social Nights Friday, October 31, 2014, Friday, November 14, 2014 and Friday November 28, 2014 at St. Philips Church, Baden Parish Fellowship Hall. The address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road Baden, Maryland. Admission is \$2.00.

Points of contacts are Ruby E. Hinnant (301) 627-1235 (301) 943-2816 (Cell), Shirley A. Cleaves (301) 888-1475, (302) 690-4260 (Cell) and Michele K. Chase (301) 888-2510, (240) 882-3369 Cell).

Neighborhood Events

Beltsville Branch Library 'warm, welcoming, high tech' after renovations

BELTSVILLE, Md.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System reopened the Beltsville Branch after a \$2-million renovation. The renovated building features an improved storybook-themed children's area, bookstore café, 43 public computers and six study rooms as well as a new customer service desk, meeting rooms and wireless laptop areas.

The Beltsville Branch held the grand reopening event on Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the renovated building at 4319 Sellman Road in Beltsville, Md.

"Families are now enjoying a creative, colorful, educational children's area. Students are studying in quiet, dedicated study rooms with Wi-Fi throughout the building. Our customers are walking into a warm, welcoming, high-tech library like never before," said Kathleen Teaze, CEO of Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

The County Library Capital Grant Program, Maryland Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services, and Prince George's County funded the renovations, which took 10 months to complete.

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

Maryland Zoo Mourning Loss of Giraffe Angel

BALTIMORE -- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is saddened to announce the death of Angel, the Zoo's 17-year-old reticulated giraffe. Angel was humanely euthanized yesterday after struggling with age-related medical issues over time.

"Angel had been showing signs of leg and back pain in the past few months to years, but both worsened recently," said Dr. Ellen Bronson, chief veterinarian at the Zoo. "Because of the great work the keepers did training Angel to enter the giraffe chute voluntarily, we were able to devise many creative therapies for safely treating her up-close, including ultrasounds and hoof trims, and extending her time with us."

"However, recently keepers had seen Angel laying down in the mornings, which was unusual for her," continued Bronson. "While we were able to provide her with pain medicine which made her more comfortable, we realized that her quality of life was declining and the difficult decision was made to euthanize her."

"Angel was the last giraffe to be born here," said Mike McClure, general curator. "She was hand-raised by staff and was the center of our herd for so many years. It has been wonderful to have her help the three new female giraffe acclimate to their home at the Zoo. She was

also a favorite with guests who were able to feed her at the Giraffe Feeding Station and we will all miss her greatly."

Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) are one of 9 recognized subspecies of giraffe. Easily the tallest species on the planet, the giraffe can browse on leaves that Africa's other grazing herbivores can't reach. Giraffe travel in loose, informal herds and can be found in eastern, central and southern Africa. They range across savannah, grasslands, and open woods in search of trees — especially their favorite, acacias — to feed upon. Reticulated giraffe are not currently threatened or endangered. They are protected from hunting in most places where they now live, but are still vulnerable to poaching and habitat loss.

The Zoo is home four other giraffe, including three females, 4-year-old Kesi, 2-year-olds Anuli and Juma, as well as 7-year-old male Caesar.

Governing for Results Series Recognizes Nearly 500 Maryland Schools Meeting School Participation Goal

BALTIMORE, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore to share breakfast with students and emphasize gains Maryland schools have made in providing school breakfast to students. The visit is the latest event in the 'Governing For Results' series, a statewide initiative to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals, with today's event highlighting progress towards ending childhood hunger in Maryland.

Since the 2008 launch of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has worked with non-profits, advocates, business leaders, and others to connect more children to federal nutrition programs, including school breakfast. Through private funding, technical assistance, outreach, and increased State investment in the Maryland Meals for Achievement program (MMFA), hundreds of additional schools have connected nearly 70,000 additional children to a school breakfast.

"Increasing access to a school breakfast is one of the most effective actions we can take to prepare our students to learn and achieve every single day," said Governor O'Malley. "In Maryland, we came together to overcome barriers to participation because we believe that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander and that every child deserves a healthy start to their day."

Maryland is now serving more than 170,000 free or reduced-price school breakfasts on an average school day, a 65 percent increase since November 2008, and continues to see breakfast participation grow at one of the fastest rates in the country. Franklin Square Elementary/Middle, a participant in MMFA, is one of 475 schools in Maryland that has achieved the Governor's participation goal of 70 percent.

"Programs like the one here at Franklin Square show how successful breakfast in the classroom can be when a school community makes it a priority," said Baltimore City

Schools CEO Dr. Gregory E. Thornton. "I am proud of our 62 schools that have met the Governor's participation goal, and Baltimore City Public Schools remains committed to providing our students with the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom."

To promote breakfast and incentivize community involvement, late last month, the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland launched the Maryland Breakfast Challenge, a competition open to all Maryland public schools that will reward those that show the largest increases in breakfast participation. The challenge, spearheaded by non-profit Share Our Strength and the Maryland State Department of Education, launched on September 19th with events in 19 of Maryland's 24 counties.

"We are thrilled at the response we have received to the Maryland Breakfast Challenge," said Dr. Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools. "Hundreds of our schools, including those that have already met the Governor's goal, have signed up and demonstrated their continued commitment to ensuring each child starts a school day ready to learn."

Principals and administrators can sign up or find out more about the Maryland Breakfast Challenge at marylandbreakfastchallenge.org. Schools have until November 1 to enroll, and winners will be announced in March 2015.

Thompson Creek Windows 2014 Maryland Gazette Readers Choice Award

October 1, 2013, Lanham MD- Thompson Creek Window Company, the mid-Atlantic's leading home improvement replacement products company, today announced it has been honored with the "Best Windows and Doors", "Best Home Improvement" and "Best Gutter Services" awards from Maryland Gazette's fifth Annual Readers Choice Awards.

The Maryland Gazette's Readers Choice Awards poll the publication's readers to give them the opportunity to vote for local businesses in a variety of categories. Winners and finalists were announced in the publication's September 27th issue.

Awards granted to us from the community are always a special honor for Thompson Creek Window Company. The company has grown from its beginning in Annapolis, MD to become the one of the nation's largest home improvement contractors (based upon the latest survey from Remodeling magazine) while remaining a local, community-based company.

Thompson Creek Window Company's president, Rick Wuest, said, "We are proud to be the recipient of this local community- and reader-based award. We always say that we are not just a home improvement company; we are our clients' neighbors, family and friends. Our mission is and has always been 100% customer satisfaction. Winning this award is validation that we are succeeding with this mission. We look forward to continuing to provide everyone with the best windows and doors and the best service in the area."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Do You Need ID Theft Insurance or Credit Monitoring?

You'd have to be living under a rock not to be concerned about identity theft. It seems like every other month there's a new report about another massive data breach somewhere in the world.

Not surprisingly, a thriving industry has sprung up around helping to protect consumers from identity theft. Most of these services are pretty expensive and many consumer organizations argue that they merely take actions you could easily carry out yourself for free. But if you don't have the time or wherewithal, you may want to enlist a professional to help unravel the mess.

Following are some of the identity theft prevention services being marketed, as well as questions to ask when considering them:

ID theft insurance is commonly offered as a rider to homeowners or renters insurance and typically costs \$25 and \$60 a year. Note: it doesn't protect you from being victimized in the first place nor does it cover direct monetary losses resulting from identity theft. Rather, it reimburses costs associated with reclaiming your financial identity (e.g., phone calls, making copies, mailing documents, wages lost when pursuing resolution and hiring an attorney).



Questions you should ask:

- What are the policy's limits?
- Is there a deductible?
- If lost wages are covered, what limits apply and what triggers this coverage?
- If legal fees are covered, what limits apply and must the insurer preapprove the work?
- How much personalized assistance will you get — will they assign a case manager to execute on your behalf or merely give you a checklist to follow?

Credit monitoring services track your credit reports and contact you whenever key changes occur — things like new accounts opened in your name, address changes, credit inquiries and increased credit limits. They usually cost from \$10 to \$30 a month and services provided are all over the map. For example:

- Some monitor and provide credit reports from all three major credit bureaus; but some only track one.
- More expensive plans provide additional services including monitoring public records, black market website surveillance, and computer protection programs like antivirus and keystroke encryption software.
- Some provide one or more free (or low-cost) credit scores. Keep in mind when considering whether to buy credit monitoring:
- Many creditors report information to all three credit bureaus, but some only report to one, so your three credit reports may contain different information.
- Because many lenders only report activity to credit bureaus monthly, it could take weeks before your monitoring service spots fraudulent behavior.
- Ask how you'll be notified of flagged changes (email, text and/or mail) and how frequently (daily, weekly, monthly).
- You can order one free copy of each credit report from www.annualcreditreport.com per year, so by staggering them, you could get a different report every four months.

If you know — or fear — that an account has been compromised but don't want to fully block access to your credit reports through a credit freeze, you can place a free, 90-day initial fraud alert with the three credit bureaus. This means businesses must verify your identity with you before opening new accounts.

You can renew the alert after 90 days. If you don't want to be bothered remembering, some monitoring services will file your renewals for a fee.

For more tips, see the Federal Trade Commission's "Privacy and Identity" page at www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/privacy-identity.

Bottom line: Do you want to monitor your own credit (which is free but time-consuming) or hand off the task to a third party and pay hundreds of dollars? Either way, make sure it gets done.

Gov. O'Malley Asks Hispanic Lawyers For Help With State's Refugee Children

By Mike Persley
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, in his keynote address to the Hispanic National Bar Association's annual conference Thursday morning, called on the association's members to help in his state's efforts to provide pro bono representation for the large numbers of unaccompanied minors who've crossed the U.S. border this year to escape violence in Central America.

"When unaccompanied children fleeing violence in Central America arrive at our doorstep, it is not only for their good, but for our good and the good of the nation that our children will share with them that our nation should act hospitably and revere the human dignity and the courage that those children have possessed," he told a crowded

ballroom at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington.

O'Malley, who is considering a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, came under fire earlier this year when he openly criticized President Barack Obama's plan to deport many of the children back to the countries from which they fled.

"We are Americans, and we do not return refugee kids who find themselves on our doorstep back into war-torn or famine-racked places where they will face certain death," O'Malley told reporters in mid-July. "I think we have to act like Americans."

Since then, Maryland has accepted 2,804 children, according to the latest figures from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the largest number of refugees per capita of any state in the country. Each is currently living with family or friends while awaiting deportation hearings.

"I'm calling on you. I'm calling on the members of the Hispanic Bar Association to be a part of this effort," he said.

The governor went on to tout his state's efforts to help immigrants in other areas. He cited the 2011 passage of the Maryland Dream Act, which, he says, has given the state's 36,000 undocumented minors an opportunity to go to college. He also cited his efforts to expand access to driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants to help them find and keep work.

"We have not waited for the federal government to act in order for us to act as the compassionate and generous Americans that we are," he said. "We believe in Maryland that our diversity is our greatest strength and that we all do better when we're all doing better."

The event began on a more somber tone, however, as the



PHOTO COURTESY CNS
Governor Martin O'Malley

thirteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks hung over the audience. Before introducing O'Malley, Miguel Alexander Pozo, the association's national president, asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the attack. He also called for a round of applause for the troops fighting in Afghanistan, one of whom was his brother, who died in the war.

Greenbelt's Pumpkin Walk Festival - Putting our Community into the Community Forest

By Melissa Ehrenreich and Susan Barnett
CHEARS

The Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival returns to Greenbelt on Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25. Local Greenbelter Melissa Ehrenreich is leading the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival, with the Maryland Milestones & Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc. (ATHA) and the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) as event co-sponsors. The community is invited to a Community Carve-Off event at Roosevelt Center at 5pm on Friday, October 24. The Pumpkin Walk will be held from 5:30-9pm on Saturday, October 25 on Northway Road extension. The first hour of the walk is reserved for the youngest children and their families. Later in the evening, the magical creatures of the woods, including the infamous Goat Man, may become a little mischievous. Come have fun, and visit the woods that were saved for the community and future generations of children and their families in Greenbelt.

Carving utensils and pumpkins are provided, although monetary donations are much appreciated. Donations support the purchase of pumpkins, materials, and the bands that will be present at the carving party.



PHOTO COURTESY CHEARS
Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival is open Friday October 24th and Saturday the 25th.

History behind the Significance of the Pumpkin Walk

The Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk was started 26 years ago as a grassroots strategy to get folks into the woods and, in doing so, to protect the last remaining 225 acres of the original Green Belt. The mission was to save the land threatened by development. Today, the walk continues not as a protest, but as a celebration of a people-powered movement that helped save the woods.

Throughout its history, local citizens banded together to protest the continued threat of development of the woods they lovingly named "The Great North Woods". The land between Research Road and close to Southway Road was at the center of several development

proposals, and the land was divided between different owners over time. Parcel 1 stretched between Northway Road to Research Road, and Parcel 2 stretched from Northway to almost Southway Road. Portions of each were acquired by Prince George's County and became known as the 72 acres (which lay between Northway Road and Hamilton Place). The remaining Parcel 1 and 2 became the property of a developer.

Starting in the 1960s, the Board of Education planned to build a three-school complex on the 72 acres. The local citizens group Save Our Community Committee (SOCC) defeated that plan. In 1987, the developer had submitted plans to clear cut their land and build a large subdivision of single-family homes, townhomes, etc. Soon after, the county began preparations to build a large sports center with multiple sports fields, a 300-space parking lot, and facilities on the 72 acres. The community was alerted about the plans and a meeting held at the home of Leonie Penney led to the formation of the Committee to Save the Green Belt, and the battle to save the forest began once again.

Over time, many other plans were proposed for the land and each was met with the community's committee to "Keep it Wooded". Eventually, the City of Greenbelt became the sole owner of the land, but it took 16 years before the land was placed under the protective cloak of the forest preserve ordinance by Greenbelt's City Council on October 27, 2003.

The Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk began in 1988 in the midst of this battle as a way to raise awareness of the beautiful resource we have in the woods, and to help the community understand the reason they had to fight to save it. The Walk has become an annual local tradition. The tradition has had many variations over time, but the basics have remained: collecting pumpkins, inviting the community to carve them, placing the jack-o'-lanterns in the forest along the trail path, and having the community members walk through the candlelit woods to see the pumpkins and woods at night. It is a beautiful, magical evening... and we hope you and your family can join us.

For more information on the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, please go to www.greenbelt-forestpreserve.org. For more information on the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival, please visit their Facebook page online or visit their table on Sunday, October 12 at the Greenbelt Farmers Market.

Funding from A1

School Construction stating that the status of the projects had been determined prior to the release of the audit.

The amount was part of a total of \$1.7 billion that the Republican's camp identified as fraud, waste and abuse, which he would work to eliminate if elected, Hogan has said.

Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker III and Maryland State Education Association President Betty Weller, joined Busch in front of West Annapolis Elementary School.

The school's students are at Annapolis Middle School while West Annapolis undergoes renovations.

Busch said that it's these types of projects that would be in danger should Hogan be elected.

"This is the first, I guess sign, that in a Hogan administration that there won't be the amount in school construction money that we need in the state of Maryland," Busch said.

"For Michael Busch and Anthony Brown to take Hogan's call for reform and to twist it as a call for eliminating all new school construction, is just untrue and they know it," Kipke said in a written statement.

Citing a \$1.7 billion backlog in school construction in Anne Arundel County Busch said that the county was in need of construction funding because no new high school has been built since 1981 and 50 out of 89 elementary schools have portable classrooms.

"I appreciate that Governor Brown [sic] has stepped up to the plate and said that he is go-

ing to put more money into school construction than even what we had in the O'Malley administration," Busch added.

Hogan's spokeswoman, Hannah Marr, said that it's not the amount of money that's the problem, but how it is spent.

"The Ehrlich administration doubled education spending and O'Malley added to that and there's still a huge disparity," Marr said. "All we're saying is that this money needs to be spent more efficiently and that every dollar that's being wasted is a dollar not going to students that need it."

Baker said that Prince George's County is facing similar problems with the majority of schools being over 50 years old.

Areas inside the Beltway have seen a particular need as a growth in population in

Prince George's County has resulted in overcrowding of public schools, Baker said.

"Tonight I'm going to do a town hall meeting at Oxon (Hill) High School, one of the newest high schools in Prince George's County — a jewel," Baker said. "And residents from around the county are going to come and see that high school and they're going to want that in their neighborhood."

Baker said that the county asked the state for \$50 million to \$60 million in construction funding, which the county would match two to one.

Brown is "going to be the education governor, he's going to carry on the policies of the O'Malley-Brown administration that has helped Prince George's County move up in the area," he said.

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer

House Democratic Minority Whip



Congressman Hoyer Hosts “My Brother’s Keeper Event” with Senator Ben Cardin

BOWIE, MD —Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) and Senator Ben Cardin (MD), in conjunction with President Mickey Burnim of Bowie State University, the BSU Male Initiative, and the Maryland Center, hosted an event today at Bowie State University on President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative to help put boys and young men of color on a pathway to success by connecting them with mentoring, support networks, and skills training.

“It was an honor to host today’s ‘My Brother’s Keeper’ program with my friend, Senator Cardin who understands, as I do, the importance of empowering young people to pursue opportunities and to pursue their dreams,” said Congressman Hoyer. “The ‘My Brother’s Keeper’ initiative that President Obama launched in February is founded on the idea — that if we direct our energy and resources toward helping boys and young men of color today, we can enable them to avoid the all-too-common pathways into poverty

and despair. This initiative aims to help them get onto pathways to college and careers — pathways toward achieving the American dream that should be within reach of all of our citizens.”

“America is the land of opportunity, but for far too many, skin color dictates which opportunities are available. I believe deeply in President Obama’s ‘My Brother’s Keeper’ initiative. It will not only benefit young men of color, it will benefit all Americans by engaging the success of community leaders to greater improve our county,” Senator Cardin said.

Guest speakers at the event included Roy Austin, White House Domestic Policy Council, Director of Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity; Michael Smith, Corporation for National and Community Service, Director of Social Innovation; Daryl Graham, J.P. Morgan Chase Office of Corporate Responsibility and Global Philanthropy, Vice President; and Brandee Mchale, Citi, Foundation COO.



The Patuxent Rural Life Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

THE PATUXENT RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

The Patuxent Rural Life Museums, located within the 7,000-acre Patuxent River Park, are a collection of museums and farm buildings dedicated to preserving the heritage of southern Prince George’s County. There are several buildings including the Duvall Tool Museum, a 1920’s Sears Catalog House, a Blacksmith Shop, a Farrier and Tack Shop, a Tobacco Farming Museum, and the 1880 Duckett Log Cabin with its privy, chicken coop, and meat house. To learn more about the facilities, including days and hours of operation, or to schedule a tour, call 301-627-6074.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



National Urban League and One Solution Team Up to Urge the Nation to “Put Our Children 1st”

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”

— George Washington Carver

In recent weeks, the latest major steps towards realizing the Brown v. Board of Education guarantee that education “is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms” have been taken. First, on September 22, the National Urban League launched the second phase of our Put Our Children 1st campaign, which includes a series of television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) airing on TV One and Comcast, as well as on Radio One and Reach Media, including Tom Joyner, Rickey Smiley, Yolanda Adams and Russ Parr. These PSAs stress the importance of the equitable implementation of Common Core State Standards in helping to ensure that all children — no matter their race, where they live or their parents’ income — receive a high-quality education. Then last week, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights released updated guidelines to ensure that students have equal access to educational resources, such as academic and extracurricular programs, effective teaching, high quality technology and instructional materials and safe school facilities, “regardless of race, color, national origin or zip code.”

Despite its call for equity in education 60 years ago, full compliance with the letter and the law of the Brown decision remains a promise unkept. To fulfill that promise, more must be done to ensure that all districts are held to high standards, that those standards are consistent across the country, and that schools, teachers and students in all schools and neighborhoods have the necessary resources to succeed. That is a primary goal of Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Common Core establishes clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English from kindergarten through the 12th grade. It does not dictate curriculum — or how to teach. School districts and teachers still have complete authority to create their own curricula. CCSS also empowers students by placing a greater emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving and expository writing that focus more on a child’s understanding of a subject rather than memorization or repetition.

The National Urban League firmly believes that with equitable implementation, Common Core State Standards offer an unprecedented opportunity to help meet our national goal of

preparing America’s children for the 21st Century. By raising standards for everyone, Common Core can help bridge the education achievement gap and create a new reality in which all students are adequately prepared to excel. But equitable implementation — high-quality resources, teacher training and support in every school — is essential for its success.

That is why we have launched this second phase of our Put Our Children 1st campaign with a national media, digital and thought leadership effort in partnership with One Solution, the creative and branded entertainment arm of Radio One, Inc., touching more than 80% of African Americans through Radio One, TV One, Interactive One and Reach Media. All four PSAs included in the campaign demonstrate how young people can reach their goals and fulfill their potential when we put our children first with equal access to a high-quality education and resources.

Launched in April of this year, Put Our Children 1st: Common Core for Common Goals is a multi-state parent education campaign developed by the National Urban League and implemented locally through the Urban League affiliate network. The purpose of the campaign is to ensure that parents are fully aware of and understand the Common Core State Standards and what they mean for their children. Parent Circles have been convened by Urban League affiliates in Cleveland, Los Angeles, Nashville and Pittsburgh, and Citywide Parent Summits have been held by the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, with upcoming events in Pittsburgh (October 17) and Los Angeles (November 1).

Achieving true equity and excellence in education involves all aspects of a child’s education, from resources and teachers as called for by the Department of Education in its racial disparity guidance, to consistent educational standards as provided by the Common Core State Standards, which have currently been adopted by 43 states. The mission of Put Our Children 1st is to responsibly inform and educate parents about these standards and the potential they have to better prepare our children for college and jobs. No large-scale change is ever easy, but missteps and underinvestment in implementation cannot be used to attack the merits of the standards and what they are meant to accomplish.

It’s time to put down the politics and Put Our Children 1st.

For more information visit, www.PutOurChildren1st.org

What About the Girls?

During the most critical period of Jessica’s childhood, adults who could have intervened to protect her from abuse let her down over and over. As a child she was sexually abused in her home and ended up living with her grandmother for a time. At age 11 she became a victim to child sex trafficking when she fell into the clutches of a local pimp. She was never treated as a victim or a sexual assault survivor, even by the police. At school she was stalked and sexually harassed by a school administrator known to pay for sex. Jessica was sold for sex by her pimp for the next several years until she finally found a way out through The Mary Magdalene Project, a local social service agency. She often called herself a “prostitute,” but through her healing and advocacy work Jessica now knows how important language is and understands she was sexually exploited.

When Tanisha was in junior high she got into a fight at school. Instead of the argument being mediated or the discipline handled by the school, she was funneled into Los Angeles County’s juvenile justice system and given probation for getting into the fight. While on probation Tanisha, who had to rely on public transportation, was occasionally late for school which led to truancy tickets which were considered a probation violation. As a result Tanisha was arrested and detained at a juvenile detention center. When she arrived she was scared and depressed, but rather than providing her help from mental health professionals, she says detention officers placed her in “the box,” or solitary confinement, for days. Cold, hungry, and extremely frightened, it took her a very long time to heal.

Today Tanisha is a 20-year-old student and advocate for other young people in the juvenile justice system through the Youth Justice Coalition, and Jessica is a 29-year-old Los Angeles County probation consultant with the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Unit. Jessica is now a mother and is featured in a powerful mural on Los Angeles’ Skid Row as a survivor of sex trafficking. Both survivors spoke at a Los Angeles town hall co-organized by the Children’s De-

fense Fund-California, Public Counsel, Youth Justice Coalition, and UCLA Law School and focused on five critical areas where girls of color face disproportionate risks: school push-out, foster care and dependency, criminalization and incarceration, sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and gender-specific burdens.

Though national focus is often on the racially biased ways boys of color are treated, girls of color face many of the same risks from the cradle through adulthood which impact their life chances for success. Like boys, girls of color who enter the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and other systems often arrive traumatized and experience more trauma from the way they are treated inside systems.

A recent report by the NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. and the National Women’s Law Center, *Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls: A Call to Action for Educational Equity*, details the barriers to educational success for these girls: stereotyping and perception; under-resourced schools; unequal access to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities; overly punitive

school discipline practices; the challenges of early pregnancy and parenting; and discrimination from school personnel. It also highlights sexual harassment, violence, and trauma and their harmful impact.

The level of gender-based violence girls experience and the way supposed “child-serving” systems treat girls of color compounds the harms they face. Systems often fail to see them as trauma survivors—treating them instead as complicit in their victimhood, threatening, or unable to be rehabilitated. The story of mass incarceration and racial inequality is incomplete without understanding and acknowledging gender-based violence and the gender-specific burdens girls of color face as they attempt to survive these systems and succeed.

When Boko Haram kidnapped 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria earlier this year, it sparked international outrage and calls for United States military intervention. But girls are at risk right here at home too, begging the question—where is the outrage for them? In 2010 the homicide rate among Black girls and women ages 10-24 was higher than for any other group of females and higher than that

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Handling Those Teen Demands For More Responsibility

One of the most common areas of conflict as children enter the teenage years is the complaint that they're not babies anymore, that they can make their own decisions, that they deserve more freedom and responsibility.

It can be hard for many parents to deal with these complaints. After years of making most of your child's decisions and putting your child's needs first, you find yourself confronting a young adult who wants the freedom to face more of the world on his or her own.

Of course, we all recognize that our teenagers need increasing amounts of freedom and responsibility. It's a natural part of the developmental process.

We also realize there are very real reasons to go slow in allowing our teens more freedoms. Constant news reports of teen substance abuse, pregnancies, violence and much more naturally make us worry about the world our teen is facing.

But when we constantly say "no" to our teens' requests, trying to protect them just a little longer, the result is often family conflict, with our teenager pulling away and no longer confiding in us, or going behind our backs seeking the desired freedom.

To minimize such conflict, a simple solution is to improve communications.

Sit down with your teen and try to explain your fears and anxieties related to granting increased freedoms. While hearing about your worries may not win your teen's full acceptance or understanding, it can open up meaningful dialogues that can lead to acceptable compromises.

The next step is to allow increasing amounts of freedom and responsibilities — opportunities for your teenager to prove he or she really is ready to be more independent.

How much can you trust? How much responsibility should you grant? There are no absolute answers, just judgment calls you have to make based on your teen's personality and past performance.

Yes, mistakes will be made, but also note that most of the time things will turn out just fine. Try to understand that this is also a difficult and often confusing process for your teen.

Your decisions are still going to worry you, and may upset your teen at times, but when you make a conscious effort to allow increased levels of freedom and responsibility, while also fairly measuring how well your teen handles the changes, you should find that the struggles with your teenager should begin to diminish.

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

Free Home Buyers Workshop

*How First-Time Homebuyers Can
Access Up to \$60,000 in Down
Payment and Closing Costs*

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Government

Largo, MD --- On Saturday, November 1, 2014, the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) will hold a free community workshop to provide details on how potential homebuyers can utilize the "My HOME" program to purchase their first home. This informative workshop will be held at the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783 at 11:00 am. The workshop will be presented in English and in Spanish to ensure all participants gain a full understanding of the "My HOME" program.

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County has over \$5 million dollars available for first-time homebuyers to use to purchase a home in Prince George's County. This Homebuyers Assistance Workshop will provide information on eligibility, how to get started, the home inspection process and participating lenders. There will also be a presentation from a participating lender to discuss the lending process, credit issues and the closing process. In small private break-out sessions, the RDA will be able to conduct "soft" credit pulls to let potential buyers know if their credit rating will qualify them for a mortgage and eligibility for the program. In addition, a list of "My HOME" realtor partners will be available as well as a showcase of RDA newly-renovated, single-family homes available for purchase throughout the County.

"These opportunities don't happen often," says Howard Ways, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County. "We encourage first-time homebuyers and those who have not owned a home in three (3) years, to take full advantage of the 'My HOME' program to buy a home utilizing these funds. Jump-start your status from being a renter to a homeowner and receive all the advantages that come with homeownership."

For more information, call (301) 883-5456 for assistance in English and (301) 328-3292 for assistance in Spanish.

Supreme Court to Hear Case on Right of States to Tax Out-of-State Income

By Ashley S. Westerman
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear a case involving a Maryland couple who believe their out-of-state income should not be taxed by their state of residence.

Brian and Karen Wynne of Howard County argue the income they earn in several other states through Maxim Healthcare Services Inc., a company Mr. Wynne partially owns, should not be taxed by Maryland if they pay the income taxes in those other states.

Maryland has an out-of-state income tax credit that can be used to offset state income taxes. But there is no equivalent credit that can be used to offset county income taxes, so counties can tax the out-of-state income.

According to court documents, Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland v. Wynne (No. 13-485) asks the question: "Does the United States Constitution prohibit a state from taxing all income of its residents -- wherever earned -- by mandating a credit for taxes paid on income in other states?"

The Wynnes argued in Maryland Tax Court that the partial credit violates the dormant Commerce Clause.

University of Maryland Carey School of Law Professor Mark Graber said the dormant

Commerce Clause says "there are some state regulations of interstate commerce that are unconstitutional even when Congress does not act."

"So there is no federal law that prohibits or requires states to give tax credits for taxes paid in other states," Graber said. "But the claim the Wynnes are making is that, in fact, Maryland's failure to do so sufficiently burdens interstate commerce."

When the Maryland Tax Court sided with the comptroller, the Wynnes appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, which sided with them.

Dominic Perella, the Wynne's counsel, said his client believes he "shouldn't have to pay double taxes" and that the way Maryland structures its taxes punishes him for growing a successful business.

But Maryland has argued in court documents that, among other points, it has the right as a sovereign state to tax the entirety of its residents' income, regardless of where the income was generated or if taxes on that income were paid in other states. The Maryland Attorney General's office said it does not comment on pending litigation.

A brief filed by organizations representing local governments also contends that counties would suffer if they offered cred-



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIPEDIA; PINE

SCOTUS building as seen from the west side of 1st St NE.

its against county income tax for income earned out-of-state.

"There would be significant financial implications for counties," said Andrea Mansfield, legislative director of the Maryland Association of Counties.

According to the brief, if the Supreme Court sides with the Wynnes, estimates from the comptroller's office are that it could cost local governments \$120 million in retroactive refunds, and could reduce local income tax revenues by about \$50 million annually going forward.

The Bureau of Revenue Estimates says the initial cost to local governments could actually be

higher - \$190 million plus interest in protected claims and retroactive refunds.

Grabers said if that happens, the Maryland tax bill for all residents who earn out-of-state income will go down.

"Conversely, the revenue obtained by Maryland will also go down," Graber said.

He said if the high court sides with Maryland, life will probably go on as usual as the Supreme Court has in the past left states alone to tax the income of their residents as they see fit.

The Supreme Court begins its next session Monday. This case is set to be argued Nov. 12.

Fruit from A1

farmers with markets through seasonal promotions of Maryland specialty crops via mass media, www.marylandsbest.net, direct partnerships with Maryland specialty crop associations such as the Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Maryland Apple Promotion Board, and other strategic promotional avenues;

• Continue to mitigate specialty crop food safety risks by reducing barriers to implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) programs through specialty crop producer technical assistance, training programs, one-on-one assistance on developing GAP programs, and USDA GAP and USDA Harmonized GAP audit certification cost

share assistance;

• Statewide middle and high school cooking competition designed to offer youth the opportunity to learn skills in recipe development, food preparation, marketing, public presentation, demonstrations, organization, teamwork, community involvement and food safety of fruits and vegetables;

• Perform pre-award and post-award activities to administer Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding and ensure that the State Agency and sub-awardees abide by Federal and State requirements and regulations.

Maryland State Horticultural Association - \$18,247.58 - In-

crease consumer awareness of Maryland-grown peaches and their nutrient and dietary value through promotion/display materials, newsletters and the media.

University of Maryland - \$16,247 - Test an innovative strategy for local lettuce production using heat tolerant romaine lettuce cultivars grown with a series of locally produced vermicomposts, composts produced using earthworms.

USDA announced a total of \$118 million in specialty crops grants that will support 838 initiatives across the country and four territories to strengthen markets and expand economic opportunities for local and regional producers.

County law, and minimum wage rate structure.

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) will enforce the County's minimum wage law. For more information, or to file a complaint alleging a violation of the County minimum wage, contact DLLR at 410.767.2357 or at ess@dllr.state.md.us.

employee who is exempt from the minimum wage requirements of the Maryland Wage and Hour Law or the Fair Labor Standards Act, or individuals under the age of 19 years employed no more than twenty hours in a week. The computation of tipped wages for the minimum wage required under this Section shall be the same

as the manner of computation of tipped wages in Section 3-419, Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (the Maryland Wage and Hour Law).

The Maryland General Assembly also raised the State minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2018. However, employers in the County must follow the new

Free Halloween Cab Rides Offered in Prince George's County to Thwart Drunk Driving

Nearly Half of All Halloween Traffic Deaths in U.S. Caused by Drunk Drivers

Washington, DC, October 15 – As a means of making the Washington-metropolitan area's roadways a little less frightening this Halloween, free cab rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County, Maryland on the evening of Thursday, October 31st.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation at 10:00 pm on Thursday, October 31st and operate until 4:00 am on Friday, November 1st, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide® phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service.

Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older

who otherwise may attempt to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide® is offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

"The scary fact is that nearly half (48%*) of all U.S. traffic deaths occurring during Halloween are caused by drunk drivers," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween SoberRide® offering include: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Miller-Coors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia

Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Last Halloween's (2013) SoberRide® program provided 304 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 60,724 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (www.wrap.org) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.soberdrive.com.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Kill the Messenger”

Kill the Messenger
Grade: B
Rated R, abundant harsh
profanity
1 hr., 52 min

Kill the Messenger begins with footage of Richard Nixon calling drugs “public enemy No. 1,” followed by clips of subsequent presidents reaffirming their commitment to eradicating the foe. This is all a prelude to the film’s soberingly ironic subject matter: the C.I.A.’s complicity in selling crack cocaine in the 1980s (funneling the money to anti-communist efforts in Nicaragua), followed by the U.S. government’s predictable efforts to discredit a journalist who exposed the scheme.

Under different circumstances, the story, which first came to light in 1996, might have been another Watergate. Instead, it became a mostly forgotten scandal with some tragic footnotes. And so Kill the Messenger isn’t All the President’s Men, where our knowledge of history assures us that the film will end with truth and justice winning out (more or less). With Kill the Messenger, you think, Hmm. If this story had a happy ending, I probably would have heard more about it....

Our Woodward and/or Bernstein is Gary Webb (played by an unflatteringly facial-haired Jeremy Renner), an investigative reporter for the San Jose Mercury News working out of the paper’s Sacramento bureau. In the course of covering federal trials related to the disastrously wasteful War on Drugs, Gary comes into possession of a grand jury transcript that sends him down a rabbit hole of C.I.A. shenanigans, obfuscation, and chicanery. Basically, when crack was hitting the streets in the ‘80s, the C.I.A. at least turned a blind eye from, but probably actually helped, the Nicaraguan drug traffickers who brought it, because the money was going to the Contras.

Gary’s editors (played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Oliver Platt), like all good newspaper editors, are skeptical, dead-set against getting a story wrong. All of Gary’s sources are drug traffickers and other criminals who claim to have made deals with the C.I.A. (which of course won’t comment). The Mercury News, a



Jeremy Renner leads an all-star cast in a dramatic thriller based on the remarkable true story of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gary Webb. Webb stumbles onto a story which leads to the shady origins of the men who started the crack epidemic on the nation’s streets...and further alleges that the CIA was aware of major dealers who were smuggling cocaine into the U.S., and using the profits to arm rebels fighting in Nicaragua. Despite warnings from drug kingpins and CIA operatives to stop his investigation, Webb keeps digging to uncover a conspiracy with explosive implications. His journey takes him from the prisons of California to the villages of Nicaragua to the highest corridors of power in Washington, D.C. - and draws the kind of attention that threatens not just his career, but his family and his life. (c) Focus

medium-size daily, doesn’t have much experience in breaking major national stories. And two papers that do, the L.A. Times and the Washington Post, are quick to scrutinize the story as it unfolds on the pages of the Mercury News (and online—this, in August 1996, was one of the first instances of a newspaper using its website to spread a story beyond its usual reach). The Times arrogantly assumes that if the story were legit, one of its own reporters would have broken it, while the Washington Post is too sympathetic to the C.I.A. to be objective. And the C.I.A. is more than happy publicize anything it can find on Gary Webb that might make him seem unreliable.

At home, Gary’s wife, Sue (Rosemarie DeWitt), is thrilled for the professional success he’s having, but worried about the repercussions that pursuing such a deep story may have on her and their three kids. (I don’t remember if anyone in the film actually says the line, “You have no idea what you’re getting into,” but it’s definitely implied.) There are references to something that

happened “in Ohio,” before the family moved to California. The wives and children of men unraveling mysteries that go straight to the top often don’t have much to do in these movies, and that’s generally true here. But Dewitt has a fierce presence that makes her hard to forget, and Lucas Hedges has one particularly well-calibrated emotional scene as Webb’s teenage son.

The film unfolds carefully, like a journalistic mystery thriller, with Gary chasing the story to Nicaragua and back as deeply concealed sources reveal crucial details. A parade of recognizable actors—including Andy Garcia, Ray Liotta, Barry Pepper, Michael Sheen, and Michael K. Williams—appear for one or two juicy scenes each and then vanish as the narrative moves past their characters’ usefulness. (No sentimentality here.) It was directed with tense skill by Michael Cuesta, who’s executive-produced TV shows like Homeland and Dexter, and written by Peter Landesman, a real-life journalist whose other

screenplays, Trade and Parkland, are about human trafficking and the JFK assassination, respectively. Kill the Messenger is serious-minded (though not dour; there are humorous moments), demonstrating a passion for the true story without being strident.

As sometimes happens with true stories, however, this one is anticlimactic. The events that might have served as climax in another telling of the tale (one that was more biopic than journalism) are here relegated to end-of-movie title cards. These are accompanied by more news clips of government officials admitting a few things but denying most of them, including the now-famous statement from former C.I.A. officer Duane Clarridge: “There has never been a conspiracy in this country!” (This was several years after Clarridge himself was indicted for his role in the Iran-Contra affair, which, um, apparently was not a conspiracy.) Gary Webb and his career were mere collateral damage in an apolitically tragic drama about a David whose Goliath might be too big to defeat.

MDA Obtains Grant to Study a Way to Remove Phosphorous from Dairy Manure

Conservation Innovation Grant from USDA to continue ongoing research project

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 07, 2014) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture, working with several partners, has received a \$75,000 USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to continue studying an agricultural management practice that removes phosphorous from agricultural systems. If successful, the process would allow dairy producers to spread manure on their fields after the phosphorous has been removed. The grant is being supported by the Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, a major partner in the project.

“Dairy farmers already work with variable price cycles,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy

Hance. “Providing them with mechanisms to effectively improve nutrient management on their operations will allow them to remain economically viable. This project is critical to providing dairy farmers with high phosphorous soils the ability to continue to operate without impacting local waterways.”

This research project, which will be conducted on a working dairy operation on the Eastern Shore, is particularly important to those dairy producers whose land already has a high phosphorous content and who may not be allowed to apply any manure to their crops after the Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) is implemented. (The PMT will limit how much phosphorous can be applied to cropland, de-

pending on the current nutrient composition of the soil. If soil has too much phosphorus, it can run off into local waterways and contribute to nutrient overload in the Bay.) There are currently 417 dairy producers in the state who could be impacted.

“The Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy is excited to be a partner in this project,” said MRC’s Drew J. Koslow. “We are determined to bring innovative new technologies to Maryland to help farmers maintain profitability while also reducing nutrient pollution leaving their farms.”

The project being studied involves installing treatment beds on the farm where phosphorous in manure will bind to a filter material, called a Phosphorous

Sorbing Material (PSM). The techniques have been under study for three years so far, but the process takes out only 60 percent of the phosphorous – not enough for dairy farms where minimal or no phosphorous applications will be permitted. This project intends to refine the design parameters to reduce phosphorous by 85 to 100 percent.

The technique will have to be studied for two years before MDA or the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) would consider it a best management project, eligible for cost-share funding. Other partners include: the University of Maryland, Oklahoma State University, the Caroline Soil Conservation District, and the Maryland NRCS office.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Assassinating of Native American Voices by the Cowards Palin, Ditka and Snyder

Every person who wants the Washington football team to change its name got an unexpected gift in the form of a Sarah Palin word salad. Palin decided for reasons that are best left unexplored, that her wisdom was required on this issue. Not to surprise anyone, but the former half-term governor stands resolutely with team owner Dan Snyder and vociferous Redskin defender ESPN commentator Mike Ditka, and against anyone who does not think a racial slur should be an NFL brand.

She said, among other things, “Nothing should surprise us lately; but when the Politically Correct Police bust Ditka, they hope the silent majority will cower under leftist control. My goodness, Ditka merely spoke his mind. This accomplished and esteemed coach knows there are big issues to be addressed in America today; there’s no intent to offend by referring to a team by the name they’ve proudly worn since day one and chose with pride in our native ancestry and obviously had absolutely no intent to insult; and the liberal media’s made-up controversies divide our country.”

Then, as part of her effort to not “divide our country” she made a joke that while “Redskins” is a term of honor, “Washington” is the real name that should be changed. (That painfully stale riposte has more dust on it than Ms. Palin’s career in electoral politics.)

The “esteemed” Mike Ditka, another figure who would never dream of trying to “divide” this country, said in his typically healing fashion that the controversy is the result of “politically correct idiots”, “liberals who complain about everything” and the entire debate is “silly” and “asinine.” He then said, “I hope that owner keeps fighting for it and never changes it, because the Redskins are part of American football history and they should never be anything but the Washington Redskins.”

All of this is code, of course, for the line coming from team owner Dan Snyder and the public relations headquarters in Ashburn, Virginia. The name represents “honor” and “respect”, (let’s forget that they were named by an avowed white supremacist whose own granddaughter thinks the name should change) and the entire issue is the creation of white, politically correct sports-writers. It mirrors the words of sports radio host Steve Czaban whose show airs on the Dan Snyder-owned ESPN 980 in DC. Czaban earned his check earlier this summer when he said that this is all about “guilt-ridden white liberal sportswriters.”

What Snyder, Palin and Ditka don’t realize is that they are creating even more motivation amongst a new generation of Native American activists who are sick and tired of being treated as invisible actors. Here is the list of the tribal councils and Native American organizations that have come out against the team name: they represent real people who have said it is a slur that harms their community. But Dan Snyder and his apparatchiks refuse in cowardly fashion to sit down across a table with any of them. For people like Snyder, Palin and Ditka, these are people who simply do not exist.

I spoke to Navajo/Yankton Dakota Sioux organizer Jackie Keeler who is one of the founders of the organization Eradicating Offensive Native Mascotry about the Snyder forces’ obsession with imposing whiteness on their opponents and invisibility on Native American activists. I am posting the entirety of her comments in the hopes that people who support the name reckon with her words and think carefully about whether the Palins, Ditkas and Snyders of the world are the ones with whom you actually want to stand.

“I always find it amazing considering the fight against Native mascotry is something I’ve been aware of my entire life,” she said. “My parents protested against it in college in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. When I was a student at Dartmouth College in the 1990s we Native students were forced to confront this issue. It was at Dartmouth that I first met Suzan Harjo, long-time Native activist who has led the fight against Native people being used as mascots. And of course, National Congress of American Indians, the largest representative body of tribes (two of my dad’s family members were former executive directors) first began an initiative to get rid of Native mascots in 1968.

“This idea that the fight against the mascotting of Native people is something new and led by white folks is an oddly insular and navel-gazing way to understand the issue—and yet another way of cutting Native people out of the American discourse about things that matter to us. By reframing the issue this way, the Washington NFL team continues to make real, modern Native people to disappear, much as their mascot does. It’s a continuation of the extinguishment of the Native voice and the appropriation of our identity and lands. This constant denial of our existence that leads Native youth to feel disconnected from American society and exacerbates the burdens of poverty; Native youth have three times the suicide rate of their American peers of any ethnicity. It also leads to bad policy decisions by non-Native politicians and poor funding for the very real needs of our communities.”

What the right-wing commentators either don’t understand—or understand too well—is that opposition to this team name is not just about a name and does not exist in a vacuum. There is an upsurge of Native American youth activism the likes of which we have not seen in years. Whether we are talking about the Idle No More movement, the push for climate justice or their vocal opposition to police brutality on reservations and pueblos in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown, there is a demand that their humanity be recognized. Not even Mike Ditka will be able to bully them into silence.

As for Dan Snyder, he is going to lose this debate for the simple reason that he is not having this debate. He keeps arguing with ghosts: these imaginary white liberal politically correct sportswriting phantasms who in his mind are out to get him and his beloved brand. Meanwhile, he refuses to sit down across the table from the very Native Americans who are objecting to this name. In the toughest of sports, Dan Snyder is running scared.

Calendar of Events

October 23 — October 29, 2014

Nature Hike for Homeschoolers

Date & Time: Thursday, October 23, 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

Xtreme Teens: Having a Ball, Fall Carnival Day

Date and Time: Thursday, October 23, 2014 4-5:30 pm
Description: Have a blast with us during our "Having a Ball, Fall Carnival Day." Participants will spend time playing various carnival games in the gym and outside, and make a fun treat afterward. Our hope is that these activities will foster self-esteem, personal power, teamwork and positive peer influence.

Cost: Free
Ages: 10-17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Naturally Fun Campfires

Date and Time: Friday, October 24, 2014 7-8:30 pm
Description: Bring the whole family for an evening of fun! Share stories, both funny or scary, learn about nature, and roast marshmallows by the campfire. Marshmallows provided.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
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

Xtreme Teens: Haunted House

Date and Time: Friday, October 24, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Are you ready to be spooked and still have lots of fun? Well, come out to our Xtreme Teen Haunted House. It will be a night full of darkness and scary creatures. All participants must have their permission slips signed by a parent/guardian to participate

Cost: Resident: \$1; Non-Resident: \$2
Ages: 10-17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville 20783
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-445-4512

Research Cafe: Getting Started with Genealogy

Date & Time: Saturday, October 25, 11 am-1 pm
Description: Bring your laptop and get expert advice on beginning your genealogy research. Mike Boivin, president of the Genealogy Club at the Laurel Historical Society, will lead this beginners' genealogy workshop. Mike will introduce you to a myriad of free web resources, including www.familysearch.org, and many other great research tools. When you need a break, stroll over to our elegant East Wing for coffee and a tasty treat, or take a self-guided tour of the house or grounds. Reservations recommended; space is limited. Coffee and other refreshments sold separately.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$5
Ages: 13 & up
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historical Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

The Great Jack O' Lantern Campfire

Date and Time: Saturday, October 25, 2014 7-8:30 pm
Description: Come see a dazzling display of hand-carved illuminated jack o' lanterns at Darnall's Chance House Museum! Bask in the warmth of a fall campfire, roast marshmallows, and listen to haunted Halloween tales. Kids can win a prize on a hunt for glowing jack o' lanterns, and everyone can enjoy popcorn, marshmallows and hot cider. Scheduled rain date is Sunday, October 26 at 6 pm. No reservations required.

Cost: \$4/person; Children 4 and under free.
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society Concert Series

Date and Time: Sunday, October 26, 2014 2:30 pm
Description: Make this Sunday 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: Pumpkins and Candles

Date and Time: Sunday, October 26, 2014 12 noon-3:30 pm
Description: 'Tis the season of pumpkins and candles. Kitchen Guild will demonstrate pumpkin recipes and candle making, while telling a few stories about the history of the jack o' lantern during this FREE demonstration.

Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Fundamentals of Estate Planning and Wealth Transfer

Date and Time: Monday, October 27, 2014 7-9 pm
Description: In this seminar, learn the fundamentals of estate planning and wealth transfer. Long term care insurance issues will be covered and the changes in tax laws relating to Estate Planning as well.

Cost: Residents \$5; Non-Residents \$6
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030

EARTH TALK ... Plastic Bag Bans

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest on efforts to ban plastic bags? How many U.S. locales have instituted some kind of ban, and have these initiatives made a dent in the amount of plastic litter?

— Melinda Clarke,
New York, NY

California made big news recently when it announced the first statewide ban on plastic shopping bags set to kick in during the middle of 2015. Beginning in July, large grocery stores, pharmacies and other food retailers in the Golden State will no longer be able to send shoppers home with plastic bags, while convenience markets, liquor stores and other small food retailers will join the ranks a year later.

Back in 2007, San Francisco became the first U.S. municipality to ban plastic shopping bags. In intervening years upwards of 132 other cities and counties in 18 states and the District of Columbia instituted similar measures. Of course, Americans are late to the party when it comes to banning plastic bags: The European Union, China, India and dozens of other nations already have plastic bag bans or taxes in place.

But the trend here toward banning plastic shopping bags comes in the wake of new findings regarding the extent and harm of plastic in our environment. Since plastic isn't

biodegradable, it ends up either in landfills or as litter on the landscape and in waterways and the ocean. Plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose and releases toxins into the soil and water in the process.

Littered plastic is also a huge problem for the health of wildlife, as many animals ingest it thinking it is food and can have problems thereafter breathing and digesting. The non-profit Worldwatch Institute reports that at least 267 species of marine wildlife are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris, most of which is composed of plastic; tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals and turtles die every year from contact with ocean-borne plastic bags. A recent European Commission study on the impact of litter on North Sea wildlife found that some 90 percent of the birds examined had plastic in their stomachs.

Another reason for banning plastic bags is their fossil fuel burden. Plastic is not only made from petroleum—producing it typically requires a lot of fossil-fuel-derived energy. The fact that Americans throw away some 100 billion plastic grocery bags each year means we are drilling for and importing millions of barrels worth of oil and natural gas for a convenient way to carry home a few groceries.

It's hard to measure the impact of pre-existing plastic bag



CREDIT: ABER ANDREW BAIN, COURTESY FLICKR

Beginning in July 2015, large grocery stores, pharmacies and other food retailers in California will no longer be able to send shoppers home with plastic bags; convenience markets, liquor stores and other small food retailers will join the ranks a year later. Pictured: a collection of not-yet-reused plastic grocery bags.

bans, but some initial findings look promising. A plastic bag tax levied in Ireland in 2002 has reportedly led to a 95 percent reduction in plastic bag litter there. And a study by San Jose, California found that a 2011 ban instituted there has led to plastic litter reduction of "approximately 89 percent in the storm drain system, 60 percent in the creeks and rivers, and 59 percent in City streets and neighborhoods."

Environmental groups continue to push for more plastic bag bans. "As U.S. natural gas production has surged and prices have fallen, the plastics industry is looking to ramp up domestic production," reports the Earth Policy Institute. "Yet

using this fossil fuel endowment to make something so short-lived, which can blow away at the slightest breeze and pollutes indefinitely, is illogical—particularly when there is a ready alternative: the reusable bag."

CONTACTS: Worldwatch Institute, www.worldwatch.org; Earth Policy Institute, www.earth-policy.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Star-Spangled 200, Inc. Announces Increased Awareness of our National Anthem's History

By Ashley S. Westerman
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE (October 15, 2014) – Following September's Star-Spangled Spectacular celebrations in Baltimore, Md. research has shown that 39% of the American population correctly associated "The Star-Spangled Banner" with Baltimore or the region. This is a significant increase from 2013's data, which showed just 31%, and 2009's 25%.

"The finding that nearly four in ten Americans across the U.S. now know of Baltimore's role in the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner is impressive. But even more impressive is the significant eight percentage-point gain in awareness in just one year. An increase of such magnitude is rarely seen and pays tribute to the reach and effectiveness of Star-Spangled 200, Inc.'s efforts," commented Dr. Suzanne D. Cook, principal researcher.

September's events in celebration of our national anthem's 200th anniversary included the Star-Spangled Banner Living Flag, featuring 6,600 Maryland students and their chaperones as they created the largest ever 15-star, 15-

strip flag at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, a recreation of an event held in 1914 that saw 6,500 participants; the 200th March of the Defenders, a reenactment of the march of Maryland Militia in 1814 led in present-day by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley; and By Dawn's Early Light, the raising of the 15-star, 15-stripe, full-size replica flag created at the Maryland Historical Society at the moment Francis Scott Key would have seen the flag raised 200 years prior, with guests former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Gov. O'Malley. The week-long festivities were highlighted by the largest fireworks display the Chesapeake has ever seen, coupled with simultaneous concerts at Pier Six Pavilion in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, and at Fort McHenry, where Vice President Joe Biden joined Gov. O'Malley for the celebration.

"The Star-Spangled 200 communications campaign to support Star-Spangled Spectacular propelled the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the many historic sites throughout both, onto a national stage. We feel this aided in the boost of awareness we're seeing across the country," said

Ann Beegle, executive director, Star-Spangled 200, Inc.

Star-Spangled 200 and its events began in earnest in 2012, and culminated with this September's Star-Spangled Spectacular in Baltimore. Media coverage ranged from CNN and Reuters to Jimmy Fallon and Stephen Colbert; USA Today and the Associated Press to CBS This Morning, Fox Sports, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal.

Star-Spangled Spectacular presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the American public to experience a celebration the likes of which won't be repeated for another 100 years. The events brought history to life in Baltimore, and throughout the State of Maryland through the Chesapeake Campaign events that followed all the major battle sites of the war up and down the Chesapeake Bay.

An economic impact study of September's events in Baltimore is being conducted, and is expected to be released later this fall.

About Star-Spangled 200

Star-Spangled 200 is a multi-year commemoration that celebrates the 200th anniversary of our national anthem. Star-Span-

gled Sailabration in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay launched the events in June 2012. Sailabration included a maritime festival with 45 vessels from a dozen nations and an airshow featuring the Blue Angels, and drew more than 1.5 million visitors. Star-Spangled 200 continued Spring 2013 through Summer 2014 with the Chesapeake Campaign, a series of more than a dozen festivals in waterfront communities around the Bay. Two conferences were held at the U.S. Naval Academy in 2013 - Cross Tech, June 10-11 and From Enemies to Allies, June 12-15 - bringing together leaders in cyber security and scholars from the U.K., Canada and the U.S. Events culminated with Star-Spangled Spectacular, September 10-16, 2014, which celebrated the 200th anniversary of the National Anthem.

Star-Spangled 200 is supported by its Presenting Sponsor AT&T with Founding Partner support from Constellation and Papa John's. For more information, please visit www.StarSpangled200.com or www.StarSpangled200.org.

NIH has made in understanding, diagnosing, and treating cancer," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Kensington, and a co-chairman of the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus. "We must do everything we can to ensure that we robustly fund NIH and stop the indiscriminate sequester, which has had a real and negative impact on progress fighting cancer."

It remains to be seen how Congress and the White House will eventually respond to the arguments for more funding. In the meantime, Lagno said that after meeting with two senators and two representatives in September, he was surprised how receptive they were to the idea of increasing the NIH budget.

"They sounded optimistic about bringing funding to the level that would account for the inflation over the course of several consecutive years and even adding adequate cost of living adjustments," Lagno said.

Cancer from A1

double-digit growth for five consecutive years.

The growth began to slow after 2003. The agency saw its first budget decline in 2006. And in FY 2013 - when sequestration became a reality - the agency's budget was reduced by about \$1.5 billion, 5 percent below FY 2012.

The downward trend has led to a greater than 20 percent loss of the agency's purchasing power. A 7.5 percent budget increase last year has helped, but not significantly made up for the previous losses, especially when inflation is taken into account.

For patients like Lagno, the situation could mean a lack of life-saving drugs.

"Recently FDA approved five new targeted cancer drugs. The reason why we had not done more was because funding was limited. There are a number of ideas and drugs but we had to be selective due to the reduction

in funding," said Carlos Arteaga, president of the American Association for Cancer Research, during an interview at the cancer rally on Capitol Hill.

As science has come a long way to develop effective treatments, the cancer mortality rate has been significantly declining. But time does and will remain a serious determinant in the cancer game. With research and development costs running as high as \$1 billion for certain investigations, it can take up to 10-15 years to develop a drug that targets a specific type of cancer with a relatively small market.

Even so, the resulting treatment can be so individualized that one drug may work on one person and fail on another. Lagno is taking a second-generation drug (a previous one approved by the FDA a year ago did not help) named ceritinib, approved in April and on which researchers worked for a number of years, including clinical trials.

Speaking at the 5th Annual Pediatric Cancer Summit hosted by the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus, Collins said the issue was not about doubling the budget, but the need for a stable and predictable trajectory of funding.

"Staying on that trajectory would provide much needed stability and we would be \$10 billion above from where we are right now. Stable funding is needed to encourage investigators to undertake risks associated with new research. That would re-energize the community," said Collins.

Sustainable funding for the years of investigation and clinical trials is also important because private pharmaceutical companies - such as Novartis, which funded the studies and developed Lagno's ceritinib - cannot always afford investing hundreds of millions of stakeholders' money in an activity that is not connected with the final product.

"Cures start with research, and I'm proud of the advances