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Prince George's County Prepares for Emergency Weather Conditions

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Gov.

LARGO, MD — Prince George's County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) conducted its Annual Snow and Ice Dry Run exercise on Friday, October 24, 2014.

"Last year, DPW&T staff worked 27 snow and ice events," said DPW&T Director Darrell Mobley. "This winter weather season, we will continue to work to ensure that our roadways are cleared and safe

for the motorists in Prince George's County, and we will also take a proactive approach to enhance communications with the residents."

Media is invited to participate in a ride-along with drivers, interview the staff, and/or join command staff at DPW&T's state-of-the-art Traffic Response and Information Partnership (TRIP) Center located at 8414 D'Arcy Road in Forestville.

See WEATHER Page A5

AT&T to Pay Millions for Illegally Charging Consumers

By MIKE PERSLEY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - AT&T Mobility has agreed to pay a \$105 million settlement for charging customers for third party services they had not agreed to pay for, quietly slipping additional fees into their monthly telephone bills, a process known as mobile "cramming."

The mobile service provider is said to have made millions by charging a \$9.99 per month fee to customers for services such as subscriptions for ringtones, text messages containing love tips, horoscopes and "fun facts," all the while strength-

ening their refund policy to prevent customers from receiving their money back when they complained.

The settlement was announced Wednesday by officials from the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler and Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell.

"This isn't Phil's Phone Shack we're talking about," Gansler said of AT&T, the United States' second largest mobile phone service provider. "We're talking about millions of

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PHOTO COUTESY THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

O'Malley Announces Policy for Active Monitoring of All Returning Travelers from Countries Affected by Ebola Outbreak

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

BALTIMORE, MD — Governor O'Malley announced Monday, October 27, Maryland will directly monitor the health of all returning travelers from the countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, which are battling a serious Ebola outbreak. This

effort will build on extensive outreach and monitoring already underway by the state and local health departments of the state.

"We are taking aggressive action to keep Marylanders safe," said Governor O'Malley. "We are monitoring comprehensively, and if someone does fall ill with Ebola, we have a plan in place to identify the condition, isolate the patient, pro-

vide care safely, and contain the spread of infection."

Under the plan, screeners at the airports of entry will provide the names and contact information for all travelers from the affected countries with destinations in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will make contact through a new outbound call center and provide specific guidance, in-

formation, and 24-hour numbers for assistance.

The state will coordinate daily contact with the travelers during the 21 days following the last possible exposure when illness might develop. The state will work with local health departments to conduct direct outreach as needed.

See EBOLA Page A3

Maryland Food Drive Falls Short of Goal in Time of Rising Need

By MADELEINE LIST
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE — Sometimes, more than 16 tons is not enough.

On October 1, the final day of Hunger Action Month, the Maryland Food Bank, a non-profit hunger organization, weighed a total of 33,405 pounds in donations of food and other goods from its most recent food drive. Even with the help of a "virtual food drive," this fell shy of its goal to beat the September 2013 collection of 35,000 pounds.

The drop in donations comes at a time of rising food insecurity in a state where people are still feeling the effects of an economic recession and cuts to federal food assistance programs.

The drive included contributions from all over Maryland and food purchased with monetary donations to the food bank's virtual food drive. The new, Internet-based donation system was launched in September to increase efficiency and reduce costs of

picking up donations from collection sites, said John Shaia, vice president of programs and network relations with the Maryland Food Bank.

The virtual food drive mimics an online shopping experience and allows users to choose the items and quantities they would like to donate, and give money for them online, Shaia said. The food bank then uses the funds to buy the products, which they can often find at cheaper prices than the average shopper through bulk buying, he said.

"We're always looking to enhance and streamline methods of sourcing food," Shaia said. "This has the benefit of a traditional food drive, but more efficient."

The virtual food drive received an estimated \$3,000 in donations in September, said Joanna Warner, communications director at the Maryland Food Bank.

Visit the virtual food drive here: <https://www.mdfoodbank.org/donate/virtual-food-drive/>.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MADELEINE LIST

Janet Addo, 25, a first-time volunteer with the Maryland Food Bank, sorts food items for distribution in Baltimore, Maryland. Sept. 30.

Need for food aid in Maryland has risen significantly partially due to last year's funding cuts to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, or food stamps. The program provides food aid to families who fall below the national poverty line, which is defined by an average annual salary of \$23,834 for a family of four, according to

U.S. Census Bureau. A combination of cuts to this safety net and rising costs of food is leaving many people hungry, even if they're working, Shaia said.

The Rev. Andre Samuel, director of food distribution at the Faith Tabernacle Church in Baltimore, one of the food pantries

See FOOD BANK Page A7

Neglected Glenarden Apartments Demolished

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Gov.

Upper Marlboro, MD - After years of poor management and under investment by the private owners, and years of deplorable conditions, code violations, and crime, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III gave the signal on Wednesday, October 22nd at 12:00 noon to tear down the buildings known as the Glenarden Apartments. The complex sits on 27 acres in the City of Glenarden and includes 49 buildings, with 578 apartment units.

"The wait is finally over for the citizens of Glenarden and the surrounding communities!" exclaimed County Executive Baker. "We realize this was once a development of prideful residents however, through the years erosion of the apartments' upkeep, a transient population and crime overshadowed this area with blight. We are now moving forward and paving the way for new growth, new opportunities and new economic investment in this established neighborhood."

The demolition event will take place at the site of the Glenarden Apartments, 8405 Hamlin Street, Glenarden, MD 20706. County Executive Baker will be joined by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials, the state delegation from the 24th Legislative District, County Councilmember Andrea Harrison, Glenarden Mayor Dennis Smith and others, to mark the occasion of this anticipated demolition.

At the event, County Executive Baker will share the vision and concepts for the new development planned for the site and discuss how it ties into overall redevelopment in Prince George's County.

For more information, contact Scott Peterson, Deputy Manager for Communications and Press Secretary for Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III on (240) 619-9400 or Alexis Revis Yeoman, Public Information Officer for the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development on (301) 883-2760.

INSIDE

Community of Coders Use Technology to Confront Social Issues

Hear Me Code and Code for Progress are two of the organizations that recently collaborated to build Buscando (which means searching), an online database designed to help unaccompanied immigrant children in Maryland find help and resources.

Community, Page A3

Closer to the Finish Line

This is some of the unfinished business of the Civil Rights movement and a giant step forward for poor children, often children of color, currently taught at higher rates by inexperienced, unqualified, or out of field teachers and provided far fewer resources than their wealthier peers.

Commentary, Page A4

Sour U.S. - Russia Relations Hit Maryland, State Closes Trade Office

Since 2010, economic relations between Maryland and Russia have grown rapidly. Between 2010 and 2013, exports from Maryland to Russia increased from less than \$100 million to nearly \$500 million. In fact, the first half of 2014 saw an increase of more than 5 percent over the same time period in 2013.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Fury

As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a battle-hardened army sergeant named Wardaddy commands a Sherman tank and her five-man crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Outnumbered and outgunned, and with a rookie soldier thrust into their platoon, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I recently heard that Sweden is the greenest country in the world. Is this true and, if so, by what standards? And where does the U.S. rank?

— Raul Swain,
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

He was still bagging at the Commissary on his 98th birthday

Robert Dwight Jenkins, a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer who'd been bagging at Andrews' Commissary for the last 30 years, died Oct. 7. He drove to his job every Tuesday through Friday, worked 9 to 11 a.m., and never missed a day. He was still working when he turned 98 last March 13.

A native of South Carolina, he was adopted by his aunt, graduated from high school and in 1942 was drafted into the Navy as a steward and cook. Later, he served as one of the Navy's first African American recruiters, took classes in public speaking and studied journalism at Harvard University.

He is featured in a recently-published book, "The Messman Chronicles: African-Americans in the U.S. Navy, 1932-1943," by Richard E. Miller.

He was a member of the Masons and attended the Guildfield Baptist Church in NE Washington where he was a treasurer for 26 years and was still singing in the men's choir. Services were held at Guildfield with burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. Survivors include two nieces and other kin.

Asked the secret of his longevity, he said he ate plenty of fruits and vegetables, didn't eat red meat or pork, and working at the Commissary was good exercise. And, "I didn't have anyone to argue with any more."

Neighbors

Dawn and Mark Witherow, of Clinton and formerly of Morningside, have a new son, James Hunter, born Oct. 26 at Southern Maryland Hospital. Baby James, who weighed only 5 pounds, has two much-older siblings, Constance, 20, and Mark Jr., 16.

Among the 17 nominated for 2014 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year last spring were four from Morningside Schools: Laura Shelton and Amanda Standard both from Benjamin D. Foullois Creative & Performing Arts; and Nicole Bailey and Susan Pinales of Imagine Foundations @ Morningside (formerly Morningside Elementary). Foullois' Laura Shelton went on to be named The Teacher of the Year.

Kaisha Sutton and Quinton Huguley, of Upper Marlboro,

have won an \$80,000 wedding giveaway contest, sponsored by Arena Stage. The couple, who met the first day of college at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, will tie the knot on Jan. 2 at the Mead Center for American Theater at Arena, complete with catering, a wedding cake, decorations, photography and event planning services.

Where's Tigger?

Dozens of signs have been posted along Suitland Road in my neighborhood about a white Maltipoo, 11 months old, male, with long curly tail, medium white hair and short ears. Tigger disappeared from Juanita Court in Skyline. There's a reward. If you have information, call 240-595-0377.

Mt. Calvary, McNamara host Open Houses, Nov. 9

Bishop McNamara High School, voted the top private school in Prince George's County for the past two years, invites you to their Open House, Sunday, Nov. 9, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Tour the campus and learn about the Concurrent College Enrollment Program and the 17 Advanced Placement Courses, as well as the challenging College Prep Curriculum provided for students, with more than 163 courses offered. McNamara is at 6800 Marlboro Pike, in Forestville. For information, call 301-735-8401.

Mount Calvary Catholic School, right next door to McNamara, is holding a Pre-K to 8th grade Open House for prospective students and families, Nov. 9, 12:30 to 2 p.m. For information, call 301-735-5262.

Lights! Camera! Murder!

Mama Stella's Restaurant, in Clinton, is offering a Mystery Dinner, by R.I.P. Productions, on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. An excellent 3-course meal is included. Call to reserve your ticket(s) now as seats are going fast: 301-868-3057. \$10 discount for active military.

Changing landscape

President Obama dedicated the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial on Oct. 5. Just the other day, as I drove to the Mall and turned onto Independence Avenue, there, across the street from the Botanical Garden, is the

new Memorial. The granite walls, the water and the ceremonial flame fascinated me. Now I must go back and walk around it.

The Glenarden Apartments in Landover were demolished Oct. 28. The 593 units, once garden-style subsidized apartments, have been empty, and blighted, since 2012. The property is slated for a mixed-use community with housing for seniors and low- and moderate-income residents, market-value townhouses, and retail.

The new Strayer University campus has opened on Auth Place in Camp Springs.

May they rest in peace

Bruno Augustin Parco, 91, of Clarksville and formerly of Suitland and Morningside, died June 15. He was born in the Philippines to Juan Parco and Basilisa Augustin, and served with the U.S. Navy 1945-1968. He was also retired from the GSA Police Force, which he served 1968-1984. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus and Fleet Reserve Association. Bruno was the husband, for 60 years, of Nina Anguay Parco; father of Beatrice, Theresa, Grace, Patricia and the late Bennett. He was a Eucharistic minister at St. Bernardine's in Suitland where Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated.

Ben Bradlee, the legendary editor of the Washington Post, died Oct. 21. Through the Post, I saw him through the Watergate and Pentagon Papers eras, and I loved "All the President's Men." This week I've been reading every story on him, and missing him all over again. Back when I was editing my high school and college newspapers, I always thought someday I'd be a reporter on a paper like the Post, with an editor like Ben Bradlee. But here I am. Do you have a good story for me? Call.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Davey Capps, Jr., Nov. 9; Cindy Lewis, Nov. 12; and Robin Brown, Nov. 13.

Happy anniversary to John and Dineen Whipple on their 39th, Nov. 8; Becky and Dave Capps, their 51st on Nov. 9; and Roseann and Franny Rohan, also their 51st on Nov. 9.

COUNT ON US MATH SHOW

Prince George's County Public Schools' popular call in math help show 2014-2015 season airs on Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00 PM on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Channel 38.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LISTENING SESSIONS

Attention all parents with IEP'S, 504 Plans or ADA Compliance Concerns please come out and let your voices be heard at Session 3: Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM. The session will be held at Tall Oaks Vocational High School 2112 Church Road Bowie, Maryland 20716. Please RSVP to the Board of Education Office at 301-952-6115.

Sponsored by Edward Burroughs III (District 8), Peggy Higgins, LCSW-C (District 2) and Verjeana Jacobs, Esq. (District 5). The PGCPSS Special Education Department, Special Education Citizens Advisory Council (SECAC) and the Disability Issues Advisory Board (DIAB) will be represented at each session.

6th ANNUAL TRASH TO TREASURE: GREEN CRAFT FAIR

Come to the 6th Annual "Trash to Treasure Green Craft Fair" on Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Go green with your holiday shopping this year and explore local craters and artists who create treasures made from at least 50% organic, fair trade or sustainably harvested materials.

Items for sale include candles, knitwear bags, jewelry, recycled wood carvings, paintings and more. All ages are welcome and the cost is free. Location is Watkins Nature Center 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro Maryland. Contact is 301-218-6702; TTY 301-218-6712

DANCE LIKE DAVID

The Annual Program Dance Like David" Dance will be on Saturday November 22, 2014 at 3:00 PM at Nottingham Myers Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Pastor is Rev. Constance Smith. Address is 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Church telephone number is 301-888-2171.

Neighborhood Events

Trash To Treasure: 6th Annual Green Craft Fair

Upper Marlboro, MD – "Go Green" with your holiday shopping this year! Join us, Saturday, November 8, for our 6th Annual "Trash to Treasure: Green Craft Fair" at Watkins Nature Center, located in beautiful Watkins Regional Park.

Explore local crafters and artists who create treasures made from at least 50% recycled, organic, fair trade or sustainably-harvested materials. Items for sale include jewelry, candles, recycled wood carvings, knitwear, bags, paintings and more. All ages welcome!

WHERE: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
WHEN: Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 10AM – 4PM

Rob Taylor Earns Maryland Clean Energy Award

LAUREL, MD – Energy Manager Rob Taylor has earned the Maryland Clean Energy Center's (MCEC) Excellence in Public Service Award for spearheading solar and wind power purchases for WSSC. Taylor's efforts to include clean energy in WSSC's energy portfolio contribute to the company's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

"Rob Taylor's work is exemplary for a water utility, setting standards for the industry," said Katherine Magruder, MCEC Executive Director. "But what makes this work notable to us is the impact on the environment and our communities, as well as his continued commitment."

Taylor manages WSSC's clean energy initiatives, which include direct energy generated from a regional wind energy installation that accounts for 30 percent of the utilities' power. In addition, the energy manager marshalled the inclusion of solar power systems totaling four megawatts at two of six WSSC's six wastewater treatment plants, with future plans for an additional two - four megawatts each. As a result, WSSC is currently using more than 64 million kilowatt hours per year of renewable energy.

MCEC annually recognizes individuals who have done outstanding work to advance clean energy and energy efficiency in Maryland. The center's awards celebrate the leadership, partnership, advocacy and overall championship of the sector. The award will be presented to Taylor today at the Maryland Clean Energy Summit luncheon in College Park, Maryland.

McDonald's Surprises Prince George's County Teacher of the Year With \$500 For School Supplies

Washington, D.C. – The McDonald's Family Restaurants of Greater Washington, D.C. honored Laura Shelton, the Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. Shelton was recognized by the Maryland State Board of Education for excellence in instruction and leadership within the classroom and community.

To celebrate Shelton's accomplishment, McDonald's hosted a "McTeacher of the Year Night" in her honor on Tuesday, September 30th at

the McDonald's located at 4777 Allentown Road in Suitland. Members of Benjamin D. Foullois Creative and Performing Arts Academy and the local community gathered to congratulate Shelton while also earning a portion of total sales during the event. McDonald's matched the amount raised and has donated \$329 to Benjamin D. Foullois Creative and Performing Arts Academy. In addition, McDonald's surprised Shelton with a \$500 gift card for school supplies.

"McDonald's has a long history of supporting educational programs within our communities and we are excited to be a partner of the Maryland State Department of Education," says Bryan Cleghorn, McDonald's Washington D.C. Cooperative President. "By hosting these special McTeacher Nights at McDonald's it not only provides an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding Teacher of the Year honor, but it is a great occasion to raise money for a deserving school."

McDonald's legacy of charitable contributions to the community and support for education permits local schools to benefit from McTeacher of the Year Nights as a local fund raiser. The local Maryland McDonald's restaurants annually honor Maryland's twenty-four Teachers of the Year nominees as the official sponsor of The Teacher of the Year Annual Cruise and as a sponsor for the Teacher of the Year Gala. McDonald's has served as an official sponsor to the program for over 16 years.

DHMH Reminds Marylanders to Get Flu Shots

Baltimore, MD (October 1, 2014) – Influenza season has begun. Though no influenza cases have been confirmed yet in Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) reminds all Maryland residents that now is the time to get vaccinated against the flu.

September 28, 2014, marked the official beginning of the 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season for Maryland and for the rest of the United States. Influenza activity typically starts to increase in October. While it is expected that influenza activity will begin to increase in the coming weeks and months, it is important to remember that there are other respiratory viruses already circulating that might cause symptoms similar to those of influenza.

"We know that Marylanders have been paying attention to respiratory viruses recently, including enterovirus D68," said DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein. "One respiratory virus that leads to hospitalizations and deaths every year in Maryland is influenza. Protect yourself and your family and friends by getting vaccinated." Sharfstein will be participating in a 30-minute Twitter chat on the Enterovirus D68, influenza and Ebola viruses, 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2. Users should post or follow tweets with #MDHealthChat.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that may lead to serious complications,

hospitalization or even death. The virus that causes influenza spreads from person to person through coughing or sneezing, as well as through direct contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces or objects. Common symptoms include fever, body aches, fatigue, coughing and sore throat. Symptoms usually begin one to four days after being exposed to the virus.

The influenza vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your family from becoming ill with influenza. The vaccine protects against both influenza A and B strains, including the H1N1 strain. It is important to get vaccinated at the beginning of every influenza season. The vaccine is widely available, and Maryland residents are urged to get protected now by contacting their health care provider, local health department or neighborhood pharmacy.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone older than six months. It is especially important for people at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease, including:

- Children 6 months to 5 years of age;
- People 65 and older;
- Pregnant women; and
- People of any age with certain acute or chronic medical conditions, including weakened immune systems.

Health care workers, household contacts of high-risk individuals, daycare/school workers, and others caring for anyone in these high-risk groups should also be vaccinated to avoid spreading the disease.

If you believe you are ill with influenza:

- Stay home from work and school whenever possible, to avoid spreading the flu to your friends and co-workers
- Get rest and drink plenty of fluids.
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers and wash your hands often.
- Contact your healthcare provider for management of flu symptoms or treatment of any complications.

Stay up-to-date on influenza activity in Maryland by visiting <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/fluwatch> for weekly updates.

Maryland has an established Internet-based Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS). This tool is designed to enhance the state's existing influenza surveillance by monitoring influenza-like illnesses among residents who might not seek medical care. Please volunteer! Sign up via the Internet at <http://flusurvey.dhmm.md.gov/> to receive online surveys where you can report any flu-like symptoms each week.

For more information about the seriousness of influenza and the benefits of vaccination, visit <http://flu.maryland.gov> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protection/vaccine/index.htm> or call CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO..

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Congratulations to Ms. Sharon I. Theodore-Lewis, Esq. and Mr. Curtis Eugene on your appointments to the Board of Ethics for Prince George's County Council.

BEFORE AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM

Union Bethel Christian Education Ministry is now registering for the Before and After Care Program thru June 6, 2015. Call Sis. Mathews @ 301-372-8374 for more information

VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

Clinton United Methodist Church will be recognizing all Veterans and Military Personnel on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at their 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Morning Worship Services. Please come and invite your family members and friends to attend. You do not have to be a member of Clinton United Methodist Church to be recognized. Light refreshments will be served. Call 301-868-1281. Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman is the Pastor. The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Are Extended Warranties Worth the Cost?

Are these costly add-ons worth the expense or simply a sucker bet intended to boost the seller's bottom line? It depends on whom you ask.

According to consumer watchdog organizations like the Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Reports, extended warranties and service contracts often don't make strong financial sense. However, some people find extended warranties reassuring, especially for large purchases with electronic components that can go awry and are expensive to repair or are easily broken.

Before you buy an extended warranty, do your research and consider these points:

- ❑ Does it overlap with the manufacturer's warranty? Don't pay twice for duplicate coverage.
- ❑ Many credit cards automatically extend the manufacturer's warranty for up to a year on purchases — for free.
- ❑ Before purchasing, check the company's track record with your state's Department of Insurance, the Better Business Bureau and independent reviewers like Angie's List.
- ❑ Service contracts might not cover specific product parts or repairs. If the terms don't list a part or function as specifically covered, assume it's not.
- ❑ Carefully review the contract for deductibles, limits on the number of allowable service calls, exclusions and clauses that allow the company to deny coverage — for example, if you don't follow their instructions for routine maintenance.
- ❑ Ask whether the retailer handles repairs itself. You may be required to mail the product to a repair center, so factor in shipping costs if they're not included.

New cars typically come with a basic factory warranty that covers most components for at least 3 years or 36,000 miles (sometimes more), as well as separate warranties for items like the powertrain, corrosion and roadside assistance.

Before purchasing an extended car warranty from the dealer or a third-party vendor, consider:

- ❑ If you plan to sell the car before the basic warranty expires, an extended warranty probably doesn't make sense; however, if you'll likely keep the car for many years, it may.
- ❑ Don't feel compelled to buy an extended warranty immediately. Policies can usually be purchased months or years later — although the cost will increase as the car ages.
- ❑ If buying an extended warranty through the dealer, find out whether it's backed by the manufacturer (which means you can go to any dealership throughout the country) or by a third party, which could limit your repair options considerably.
- ❑ Most carriers sell a variety of plans at varying costs, duration and mileage limits — everything from basic powertrain-only policies to comprehensive bumper-to-bumper coverage.
- ❑ Ask whether the warranty can be transferred to a new owner — that'll boost resale value.
- ❑ Extended warranties are also available for used cars. They're more risky to buy than new cars and thus may be better candidates. However, the older the car, the more expensive — and limited — the coverage likely will be.

As an alternative, consider putting the same amount into a savings account. That way, if the product breaks, you'll have enough money on hand to replace it. If not, you'll have a nice chunk of change.

Bottom line: If it will make you sleep more soundly, consider extended warranties for your major purchases. Just do your homework first and realize that peace of mind may cost much more than any repair bills you ultimately need.



Community of Coders in Washington Uses Technology to Confront Social Issues

By Stephen Waldron
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — A group of computer programmers in the Washington area is using coding skills to effect social change, collaborating on public-service projects and teaching women and other underrepresented groups how to code.

Hear Me Code and Code for Progress are two of the organizations that recently collaborated to build Buscando (which means searching), an online database designed to help unaccompanied immigrant children in Maryland find help and resources.

The website is a product of a partnership between volunteer coders and Maryland's government in response to the needs of unaccompanied immigrant children who have arrived in the state.

For Aliya Rahman, program director at Code for Progress, the task was to provide a digital resource that would serve a specific social group.

"We were asked to think of a way that we could build a tech tool that would fill a gap in public infrastructure," Rahman said.

Buscando took shape during Tech Lady Hackathon in Washington, a weekend-long gathering for women with all levels of coding experience to collaborate on projects. Forty volunteer coders worked together to build Buscando's prototype, and the site

was launched on September 17.

While Buscando is an example of programmers using their skills to provide a social service, Rahman also sees coding, the process used to build and design websites and other applications, as a tool for activism.

"If the work is to confront power and work with equality and justice in this country, ballots are one way to do it," Rahman said. "Coding is another way."

Hear Me Code offers free monthly classes to women who want to learn coding skills. The curriculum, which runs over the course of one year, is designed to equip students with practical skills they can apply in long-term coding projects.

Code for Progress runs a fellowship program which aims to bring new professionals into the technology field. Students attend coding classes full-time, while completing a field project where they design digital tools to help local organizations.

According to Michelle Fox, managing director at Code for Progress, the coding skills that students develop in the fellowship program also make them more appealing to potential employers.

"These sorts of coding skills are the future of organizing, and the future of employment," Fox said. "Every organization has a need for technology skills."

Code for Progress and Hear Me Code also aim to increase di-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALDRON
Coding Activists: Aliya Rahman (right), program director at Code for Progress, helps student Dago Bailon with a coding project at the organization's headquarters in Washington.

versity in the technology industry by offering coding lessons for women and people of color.

According to a 2011 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly three out of every four people working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields were men. African-Americans and Hispanics made up a combined 13 percent of the STEM workforce, according to the report.

"It's hard to look around and see very few people like you," Rahman said. "It tells you a story, in a way."

Shannon Turner, founder of Hear Me Code, believes that this disparity is harmful to the industry as a whole.

"The tech industry right now is not using its full talent base," Turner said. "That's a big mistake."

Turner formed Hear Me Code last year after attending technology events where she felt women were underrepresented and not taken seriously.

"If there were 200 people there, I would be one of 10 women," Turner said. "It was intimidating."

Turner taught herself to code, and described it as a frustrating and slow experience. Hear Me Code is meant to be an environment where coders can learn from each other.

"I didn't know anyone who I could reach out to," Turner said. "In forming this group, I wanted to be that for other people."

Ebola from A1

Should a traveler need medical attention, health officials will provide advance direction to the emergency management system for transport and the local hospital for evaluation. Maryland's public health laboratory is available 24 hours a day for Ebola testing.

"Every day, public health workers in Maryland reach out to patients with such diseases as tuberculosis and meningitis," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "Our plan for Ebola builds upon the strong and proven foundation."

The policy includes specific provisions for health care workers who are returning from caring for Ebola patients.

Individuals at high or some risk of infection will sign agreements outlining certain restrictions, and other travelers will receive daily monitoring and will be alert for signs and symptoms of possible infection. At any time — in case of noncompliance, or if necessary for the public health — the state may issue a specific public health order.

The level of monitoring and restrictions, including planned and unannounced home visits, will be based on the potential risk. Specifically:

- Home restriction for individuals at "high risk." Individuals with a known exposure to Ebola virus, such as through a splash of body fluid on exposed skin or a needle-stick injury will remain at home for the 21-day period and will be closely monitored.

- Activity restriction for individuals at "some risk." Health care workers who were wearing personal protective equipment during care for patients with Ebola virus are at "some risk." They will refrain from attending mass gatherings and using public transportation, will refrain from traveling long distances without approval from health department officials, and will also be closely monitored by state and local health officials.

Governor O'Malley and Maryland's public health officials worked closely with their counterparts in Virginia and the District of Columbia so all three jurisdictions are executing active monitoring policies that are compatible.

Statements of Support

"We are pleased to see the measured approach that Maryland is implementing to assess healthcare workers returning from West Africa. We applaud the efforts of these healthcare workers who are putting their personal safety at risk and want to ensure that they are appropriately monitored to protect themselves and the citizens of Maryland."

— **Dr. Paul Rothman**,
Dean of the Medical Faculty,
CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine

"The University of Maryland Medical System supports this balanced science-based approach. We also appreciate the cooperative engagement among the three health systems and DHMH in our state-wide preparedness effort."

— **Jeffrey Rivest**, President
and CEO of the University of
Maryland Medical Center

"MedStar Health fully supports the policy expressed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding healthcare workers returning from volunteer work in West Africa. It is a well thought-out approach that balances the important work being done by

caregivers from our region working relentlessly in the affected areas of West Africa to care for those with Ebola with the imperative of protecting the health of our community."

— **Dr. David Mayer**,
Vice President, Quality and
Safety, MedStar Health

"The Maryland Hospital Association supports the state's newly announced policy for health care workers returning from the affected countries of West Africa (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) who provided care to critically ill Ebola patients. Developed with the input of hospitals and clinical epidemiology experts in the state, the policy is based on the scientific and clinical evidence available to date about the Ebola virus. The state's policy strikes a critical balance between the need to closely monitor potential high- and medium- risk health care workers, and the need to have the right number of health care providers available to quell the virus at its source in West Africa and to take care of potential Ebola patients here in Maryland"

— **Carmela Coyle**, Executive
Director of the Maryland
Hospital Association

Christmas Celebration 2014

Evangel Multi-Media & Arts Center in Upper Marlboro, MD returns with the most spectacular and popular full-scale holiday musical ever, "Christmas Celebration 2014." This year's extravaganza features gospel music's biggest and brightest stars including, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Marvin Sapp, Tamela Mann, Erica Campbell, James Fortune and Zacardi Cortez. With only twelve performances, December 6th through the 21st, this is a "must see" Christmas favorite that you don't want to leave off your to-do-list list this year.

In its 24th season, "Christmas Celebration 2014" for two and a half hours, you will be enthralled by 10 scenes of Christmas taking you back in time to the Victorian era, modern-day, and biblical times. "CC2014" will be transformed as the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ comes to life on stage. You will be swept away as beautiful camels, sheep, llama, horses, dogs and goats parade the isles and set the tone for a surreal nativity scene. This production is filled with non-stop excitement including a fascinating light show, in-

novative DL2 technology and other special effects that illuminate a cast of over 200 men, women and children. The lively and spirited dance scenes, dramatic imagery and phenomenal singing will have you clapping, laughing and talking back to the performers.

This holiday classic has been entertaining audiences of all ages and is slated to attract over 25,000 ticketgoers. Evangel's 140,000 square foot facility and world-class theater comfort make every moment enjoyable, every view memorable and the high-tech audio system brings the stage to you. This is truly an event for the entire family. An event of this magnitude may never happen again. You don't want to miss this!!! Performance Dates ~ 12 Performances over 3 Week-ends starting December 6th through 21st!

Purchase tickets by calling 301-249-9400 and please visit the website: www.evangelchristmascelebration.com

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski, Cardin Call on HHS to Release Critical Heating Assistance Funding for Low-Income Families As Winter Approaches

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) today announced that they have called on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell to release needed federal heating assistance funds without delay, and at no less than \$4.7 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2015. These funds, provided through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), provide aid to families across Maryland and the nation who are struggling to pay their energy bills as winter approaches. Senators Mikulski and Cardin sent a letter to Secretary Burwell along with 44 bipartisan Senate colleagues, led by Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine).

"No family should be forced to choose between paying the heating bill and putting food on the table," Senator Mikulski said. "Too many people are being stretched and stressed by high energy costs. Providing critical energy assistance for low income families will help those most in need care for themselves and their families as winter approaches."

"LIHEAP is a critical life line for more than 124,000 households in Maryland. Going without heat in the winter can be dangerous and even deadly to seniors, young children and the disabled," said Senator Cardin. "As a matter of public health and safety, the federal government has a responsibility to help keep the power on for low-income households rather than leave American families in the dark."

LIHEAP funding proved especially important last winter, when many areas of the country ex-

perienced record cold, above-average snowfall and an extended winter season that produced snowfall events into late March. The letter sent to Secretary Burwell seeks to assist communities across Maryland and the country anticipate what level of federal assistance they can depend on in the coming months as they plan ahead for whatever winter brings.

In addition to Senators Mikulski, Cardin, Reed and Collins, Senators requesting LIHEAP funding include Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Robert Casey (D-Pa.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Angus King (D-Maine), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), John Walsh (D-Mont.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PHOTO CREDIT: ???

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society was founded in 1969 and is the oldest county genealogical society in continuous existence in the State of Maryland. Initially the Founding and Charter members loaned books from their personal libraries to one another. As the Society acquired books through purchase or gift, a Library Committee was appointed and the Librarian transported the small collection to and from meetings. The library is housed in a circa 1961 Bowie ranch-style house. The library is open to the public 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and also on the last Saturday of each month 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. While the Library is open to the public, only Society members may borrow books, periodicals and video and audio cassettes.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Closer to the Finish Line

With opportunity gaps widening for poor children and children of color, new guidance from the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education offers new hope and protection from discrimination. For the first time in 13 years, the Department now makes clear that states, school districts, and schools must make education resources equally available to all students without regard to race, color, or national origin. It prohibits schools and school districts from discriminating in their allocation of courses, academic programs and extracurricular activities, teachers and leaders, other school personnel, school facilities, and technology and instructional materials, and offers steps to level the playing field. This is some of the unfinished business of the Civil Rights movement and a giant step forward for poor children, often children of color, currently taught at higher rates by inexperienced, unqualified, or out of field teachers and provided far fewer resources than their wealthier peers. Our responsibility now is to ensure that children left behind truly benefit from these protections.

The new guidance has real potential to address many of the lingering disparities after *Brown v Board of Education*. Sixty years after that historic court decision, the Department of Education has made it clear that poor children and children of color are still routinely denied access to their fair share of strong teachers, decent schools, and current textbooks. These actions are not only immoral, but illegal under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The guidance states that wherever a state or district has seen fit to provide any education resource like a chemistry course, high-speed internet access, or a school counselor, it must be provided equally. This has been in the works for a very long time and was inspired by the Equity and Excellence Commission, convened in 2010 to examine and propose remedies to disparities in educational opportunities and student achievement. Years of advocacy that preceded *Brown* sought federal oversight of unfair distribution of resources by schools, districts, and states. But

fairness must be a continuing concern as separate and unequal continues to pervade the education of children in our nation. The last time similar guidance was issued by the Department of Education was January 19, 2001 as one of the last acts of the Clinton Administration.

Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education, said in her "Dear Colleague letter" to states, school districts, and schools: "Students of color must not be consigned to dilapidated, overcrowded school buildings that lack essential educational facilities, such as science laboratories, auditoriums, and athletic fields, and that may not be able to support the increasing infrastructure demands of rapidly expanding educational technologies while providing better facilities for other students." While this language may sound like a familiar argument from the desegregation cases in the 1960s when "educational technology" meant film strips and slide rules, this new guidance recognizes that disparities still exist today and demonstrates a heightened commitment by the Administration to eliminate discrimination "root and branch" and protect students' access to education.

If students of color in a school are consigned to remedial courses and are denied a strong teacher or current textbooks that could be discriminatory. If Advanced Placement courses are offered only in schools with the lowest enrollment of Black or Latino students, or if the only district school without air conditioning is the one most Latino students attend, or if the math teacher assigned to English language learners is the only math teacher without a major or minor in math, this may be evidence of discrimination in the distribution of educational resources. The Civil Rights Act protects students both from intentional discrimination and from discrimination that rises from the disparate impact of policies and procedures on student groups by race.

This new guidance is good and long overdue news for poor students and students of color in education. The next step is ensuring what is promised is delivered. Students, parents, educators and community members who suspect children are receiving less than their fair share should seek to learn more, address problems they see, and file

See WATCH, Page A6

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen Talks about Income Inequality

"The extent of and continuing increase in inequality in the United States greatly concern me... I think it is appropriate to ask whether this trend is compatible with values rooted in our nation's history, among them the high value Americans have traditionally placed on equality of opportunity."

— Janet Yellen, *Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System*

With all the political, national security and disease news recently flooding the airways, you may have missed one of the most important American speeches from one of the world's most powerful economic leaders last week. In a speech at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on Friday, Janet Yellen, who in February became the first woman Federal Reserve Chair, bravely waded into the national debate on income inequality. Her remarks echoed many of the opportunity themes that have been championed by the National Urban League throughout our 104-year history.

Drawing from the Federal Reserve's triennial Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), Yellen documents that "The past several decades have seen the most sustained rise in inequality since the 19th century..." She also outlines what she calls four "building blocks" of opportunity to help improve the economic circumstances of individuals and families. These building blocks closely align with the National Urban League's long-standing economic empowerment agenda: resources available to children, higher education that families can afford, business ownership and inherited wealth.

Highlights from Yellen's comments include:

- The average income of the top 5 percent of households grew by 38 percent from 1989 to 2013, while the average real income of the other 95 percent of households grew less than 10 percent.
- The average real worth of families in the top 5 percent has nearly doubled, on net- from \$3.6

million in 1989 to \$6.8 million in 2013, while the average net worth of the lower half of distribution, representing 62 million households, was \$11,000 in 2013.

- While Americans in all economic groups were adversely affected by the housing crisis, homeowners in the bottom half of households by wealth reported 61 percent less home equity in 2013 than in 2007. The next 45 percent reported a 29 percent loss of housing wealth, and the top 5 lost 20 percent.

- Research tells us that inequality tends to persist from one generation to the next. One study found that 4 in 10 children raised in families in the lowest-income fifth of households remain in that quintile as adults.

Again, while Yellen points out that "to the extent that opportunity itself is enhanced by access to economic resources, inequality of outcomes can exacerbate inequality of opportunity, thereby perpetuating a trend of increasing inequality," she does not attempt to directly link how much the opportunity factors influence income and wealth inequality. But we do.

We know that opportunity is not equal when affluent families have significant resources for things like better nutrition, health care and early childhood education, while many other households have very little, if any resources, to spare for these purposes. We know that low-income families face an unfair disadvantage when public funding for safety net programs and public education is cut. We also know that the rising cost of college, the slowdown in business formation for low-income Americans, and the huge gap in inheritances between the top and bottom rungs of the economic ladder directly impact economic prosperity and mobility.

What makes Janet Yellen's comments about income inequality so remarkable is the fact that rarely, if ever, has a Fed Chair spoken so honestly and openly about such a hot-button issue. We applaud her for speaking out, and this is an issue that should "greatly concern" us all.

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email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions/Legals Liz Brandenstein
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Senior Editor Legusta Floyd
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Editor Michal W. Frangia
	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let Anger Issues Control You

For most of us, our daily lives include a lot of stress and tension. There's that morning traffic jam, the supervisor who never appreciates us, the kids' latest problems, the news reports of terrorism reports, bad economic news and local crimes.

Unfortunately, for many people, daily stress and tension can build to the point that it only takes one small incident for them to explode, letting their anger get out of control.

Experts say anger is the most poorly-managed emotion in our society, with as many as one in five Americans having an anger control problem. Not being able to manage one's anger is a major cause of conflicts in both professional and personal relationships.

Is anger a problem for you? One way to judge how well you control your anger is to consider whether you've ever, during an argument, raised your voice, broken something, pushed, slapped or physically hurt someone, embarrassed yourself, or felt out of control.

If any of those apply, consider these actions to help you better manage your anger.

A starting point is accepting responsibility for your anger. Anger may be triggered by someone else, but it's you who lets it happen and grow out of control.

It's also important to recognize the beginning signs of anger. Anger is easier to control when emotions are still at a low level.

Try to identify the cause of your anger. It isn't someone else, but rather something within you, emotional or psychological from your past, that's usually the real source of your anger.

And when anger does occur, learn to focus on the situation or behavior making you angry, rather than the other person. Criticizing or name-calling doesn't resolve a problem but merely escalates it. Rather than putting the other person on the defensive and raising the conflict level, use "I" statements to talk about what you're feeling and experiencing.

Learning to listen and communicate more effectively can also help control anger. Too often situations leading to an angry outburst are simply the result of not understanding what was said, or not expressing yourself clearly and calmly.

When anger controls you it can make your life miserable, lead to very real problems and even affect your health. If your anger is sometimes out of control, consider an Anger Management course (see your local hospital or mental health center), or consulting a professional counselor offering Anger Management help.

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

Weather from A1

The TRIP Center is the hub for DPW&T's coordination of snow and emergency related activities with public safety agencies, state and regional transportation management centers.

The County's Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) system, which allows for tracking of all County and contractor snow vehicles to determine where a particular vehicle is or has been, will be monitored from the Command Center.

The Dry Run provides an opportunity for inclement weather emergency procedures to be tested before the winter weather strikes. More than 400 DPW&T employees, engineers, administrative staff, project coordinators and bus drivers, as well as

crews from other County agencies that partner with DPW&T in snow and ice operations, participate in assignments ranging from snowplow drivers and safety inspectors to supply monitors and customer service representatives.

During the Dry Run, drivers follow their assigned routes to familiarize themselves with the roads, time their runs and conduct inspections to identify any hazardous road conditions that need to be addressed. Safety inspections of all vehicles and evaluations of operational procedures and communication systems will allow for any adjustments to be made before inclement weather hits.

For more information and/or to schedule a ride-along, contact Carol Terry at 240-695-7874.

Sour U.S. - Russia Relations Hit Maryland, State Closes Trade Office

By Idrees Ali
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — In December 2010, amid much fanfare and expectations, Maryland became the first U.S. state to open an office in Russia with the aim of increasing trade.

But in July the office was "suspended," becoming the latest casualty of tensions between Russia and the United States, and a symbol of lost potential for Maryland business with Russia.

The office was shut down at a time when exports from the state to Russia were climbing dramatically. Between 2010 and 2013, exports from Maryland to Russia, consisting primarily of transportation equipment, increased by more than 300 percent, making it the sixth largest destination for the state's exports.

"I don't believe we tapped the opportunities that existed," said Robert Walker, deputy secretary at the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

The suspension of the office — Walker believes there is a chance it could eventually re-open — is just one sign of the impact of the events in Ukraine.

The trade office was in the hands of the Partnership for International Business Development, a Russian company whose website lists other clients, such as IBM and Siemens. Maryland did not station state employees there.

"I believe budgetary constraints were one reason, but the reason behind (the closing) were relations between the U.S. and Russia," said Boris Kornilov, general director of the Partnership for International Business Development, who was Maryland's representative in Russia.

Additionally, companies, ranging from construction firms to small bookstores, are feeling the pain of what is considered by foreign policy experts to be the lowest point in U.S.-Russia relations since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Contingency Office Closure

Less than a 30-minute drive away from the Kremlin, the seat of power in Russia, an office in a Moscow building served as Maryland's contingency office.

The contingency office "opened with the expectation that it would facilitate trade," between Maryland and Russia, and transform the state into a "global gateway," said Walker, who was present at a ceremony that marked the opening of the partnership in Moscow.

In practical terms, the contingency office was to provide market advice and information to

Maryland companies interested in entering the Russian market, while also bringing Russian investment into Maryland.

The contingency office was not paid a retainer, but rather worked on a performance basis. Walker said \$30,000 was spent since the office started.

In that time, the contingency office assisted between 20 and 30 Maryland companies.

"In 2008, 2009, 2010, the relations between the U.S. and Russia were pretty good ... Russian companies were looking at the U.S. and small (U.S.) businesses were looking at Russia," Kornilov said.

Much of that optimism was based on President Barack Obama sweeping into power in 2009 and expectations that he would prioritize improving relations with Russia.

"The pursuit of power is no longer a zero-sum game ... That's why I have called for a "reset" in relations between the United States and Russia," Obama said, during his first presidential visit to Russia in 2009.

But earlier this year Maryland's contingency office was suspended, in large part because of the prevailing geopolitical situation.

"In light of the environment, we suspended the operations," said Walker, blaming the "political situation, sanctions and business climate in general."

The environment Walker was referring to stems from the situation in Ukraine.

When Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich chose to sign an association agreement with Russia, instead of one with the European Union, in February, protests erupted in Kiev. The protesters were successful in removing Yanukovich, and in response, pro-Russian troops took over the Ukrainian peninsula region of Crimea.

The United States and the European Union then imposed sanctions on Russian individuals believed to have been associated with the intervention in Crimea and the continued support by Russia of pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Business Slows Down

Since 2010, economic relations between Maryland and Russia have grown rapidly. Between 2010 and 2013, exports from Maryland to Russia increased from less than \$100 million to nearly \$500 million. In fact, the first half of 2014 saw an increase of more than 5 percent over the same time period in 2013.

But this rise could in part be explained by contracts signed



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY IDREES ALI

WASHINGTON — The Russian ambassador's residence in Washington. Capital News Service photo by Idrees Ali.

much earlier, and the figures are likely to change in the future, said businesses that deal with Russia.

"It has affected business very much so," said Michael Rae, president of Rockville-based Argus Limited, which provides equipment for oil and gas pipelines in Russia, among other countries in the region.

For Argus, the recent sanctions could mean a decrease in business by as much as 75 percent, which would lead to layoffs and moving into smaller offices.

In 2011, Argus completed a \$45 million deal to supply compression equipment to Russia, the largest Export-Import Bank of the United States financed deal with Russia in more than 15 years.

"The latest ups and downs have been painful personally," Rae said.

The economic impact of the sanctions on the Russian economy are slowly becoming clear.

Russia's former finance minister Alexei Kudrin, considered to be close to President Vladimir Putin, recently said that Russia had already lost almost 1 percent of Gross Domestic Product growth because of the sanctions. Investors have also pulled out almost \$75 billion from Russia in the first half of 2014, while foreign direct investment from the U.S. to Russia was down by almost half, according to the Central Bank of Russia.

Forty-one Russian and Crimean government officials have been placed on the U.S. sanctions list, in addition to the 46 entities on the list as of Sept. 17, according to the U.S.-Russia

Business Council, a Washington-based trade association.

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, has praised the sanctions against Russia, while also making it clear that the loss of business is Russia's fault.

"The sanctions leveled against Russia are directed at Mr. Putin and his inner circle who are responsible for the ongoing aggression, not the people of Russia or American companies," said Sue Walitsky, Cardin's national communications director, in an email.

A business that would seem immune to the crisis thousands of miles away, is a small bookstore located in Kensington.

Russia Online, Inc., which opened in 1999 and specializes in books from Russia and former Soviet countries, has suffered from an overall decrease in the bookstore market. But the crisis has taken a toll as well, said James Beale, founder and owner.

He said that even though books were not directly affected by sanctions, he was "always aware that sanctions against banks," through which payments are made, could be a problem.

The bookstore, Beale said, is facing slowing imports from Ukraine also, where publishers have to cut back on employees because of the deteriorating economic situation.

"There could be unofficial problems," Beale said, referring to a slowing down of exports from Russia because of longer customs checks.

How a Register of Wills Closes Out a Person's Life

By LEJLA SARCEVIC
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Marylanders who own any property should prepare a will. They may file it with the register of wills or give it to a family member for safekeeping.

Once a person dies, their family members or other parties can open an estate. However, there are certain steps with a register of wills that they must take before it's distributed.

• A register of wills cannot take any action without a death certificate.

• Generally, if the total value of the estate is less than \$50,000, the estate can be opened immediately.

• If the estate is worth over \$50,000, the person wishing to be the personal representative of the estate must be bonded for any inheritance taxes that may be due, any debts that the deceased had, the fees and costs of the register and any other fees.

• Once an individual has been bonded they can be appointed the personal representative of the estate.

• After appointment, the personal representative has three months to file an inventory of all assets including: real property, household goods, stocks and bonds.

• Nine months after appointment, accounting is due that

shows what's filed in the inventory and any receipts that make up the gross estate.

• After that, expenses such as probate fees, funeral fees, last bills and debts are deducted, resulting in a net estate.

• People can file claims against the estate within six months of death, however, a personal representative can disallow the claim. In this case, the person who filed the claim can request a hearing before the orphans' court.

• Once all documents are filed, the register must conduct an audit of all filings before the judge of the orphans' court signs off, after which the estate can be distributed.

The whole process can be over in less than a year, although register Patricia Campen, D-Talbot County, said that recently some have taken as long as two years because of the poor housing market.

Register Margaret Phipps, D-Calvert County, said that over the years she has seen more disputes over the estates as the economic situation has worsened and people are trying to find dollars wherever they can. These disputes can also extend the probate process, she said.

For deceased who have not filed a will, the state will prepare one for them and assets will go to the closest living relatives, according to intestate succession laws of Maryland.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Fury”

Fury
Grade: B
Rated R, pervasive harsh
profanity, a fair amount of
brutal violence
2 hr., 14 min

The title character of *Fury* is a Sherman tank operated by the U.S. Army at the tail end of World War II, in the heart of Nazi Germany. In addition to the home-field advantage, we're told the Germans also have more firepower and better war machines than we do. But do they have more pluck and determination? More than the Yanks?! Think again, Jerry!

David Ayer, who has written (and sometimes directed) several films about the L.A.P.D. (*Training Day*, *End of Watch*), smoothly transfers that set of skills to the war genre while focusing on the same themes of brotherhood, loyalty, and righteousness. *Fury* is a compelling, often claustrophobic drama set mainly inside and around the tank as its crew embarks on a routinely perilous mission to take and defend a crossroads. The battle sequences are intense, sometimes brutal — an alarming recreation of the hellishness of war. The in-between scenes aren't nearly as gripping, but the top-notch performances sustain them.

We meet the *Fury* crew as they're being joined by Norman Ellison (Logan Lerman), a squeamish, fresh-faced rookie who's never seen combat but who does get to see half of the face of the dead gunner he's replacing, because it's still in his seat in the tank. (War is gross.) Their leader, sergeant Don “Wardaddy” Collier (Brad Pitt), tells the new kid, “Don't



April, 1945. As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a battle-hardened army sergeant named Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) commands a Sherman tank and her five-man crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Outnumbered and outgunned, and with a rookie soldier thrust into their platoon, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds in their heroic attempts to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany. (C) Sony

get too close to anyone” — advice that Wardaddy clearly has not followed himself, as we see from the bond he shares with the other crew members. It's somewhere between paternal and fraternal, and it may remind you of Aldo Raine in *Inglourious Basterds*.

The others all have nicknames and obvious character traits, too, for easy reference. Boyd “Bible” Swan (Shia LaBeouf) is a bushily mustached Christian who believes the Allies are doing God's will. Grady “Coon-Ass” Travis is a boisterous Georgia hick. Trini “Gordo” Garcia is a Mexican. God and religion come up a lot in the crew's tank talk, with Bible's belief in the divine endorsement of their work shared generally.

(Wardaddy notes with irony that under the rules of religion, “We can kill [the Germans], but we can't f*** 'em.”)

There's a curious interlude where Wardaddy and Norman pause and play house for a while with two young German women in a newly defeated village. Their hatred of the Nazis does not necessarily extend to the entire German population, though when the other soldiers eventually join the scene, the dynamic between them — especially Wardaddy and Bible, who are often at odds — makes for heady drama. Other dramatic moments in the film don't fare quite as well, falling more into the category of Standard War Drama. Nothing is bad, but none of it really resonates, ei-

ther, despite the committed performances from the five leads. It needs another layer.

But it's the thunderous tank battles that are meant to overwhelm us, not the dramatic dialogues between brothers in arms. *Fury* delivers on that score, the action loud and tense, often hold-your-breath exciting, thanks to Ayer's unshowy yet effective style. (Roman Vasyanov's cinematography makes it bleakly pretty to look at, too.) This is where it pays off that Ayer has already established characters, to lend weight to the setbacks and crises the plot will require. When the acts of bravery come — oh, you better believe there are acts of bravery — it's hard not to feel stirred by the sturdy, well-told story.

Watch from A4

complaints with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights when disparities are not addressed. Monitoring of enforcement is essential if the neediest children are to benefit. Every child deserves a level playing field and a fair chance to succeed.

With opportunity gaps widening for poor children and children of color, new guidance from the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education offers new hope and protection from discrimination. For the first time in 13 years, the Department now makes clear that states, school districts, and schools must make education resources equally available to all students without regard to race, color, or national origin. It prohibits schools and school districts from discriminating in their allocation of courses, academic programs and extracurricular activities, teachers and leaders, other school personnel, school facilities, and technology and offers steps to level the playing field. This is some of the unfinished business of the Civil Rights movement and a giant step forward for poor children, often children of color, currently taught at higher rates by inexperienced, unqualified, or out of field teachers and provided far fewer resources than their wealthier peers. Our responsibility now is to ensure that chil-

dren left behind truly benefit from these protections.

The new guidance has real potential to address many of the lingering disparities after *Brown v Board of Education*. Sixty years after that historic court decision, the Department of Education has made it clear that poor children and children of color are still routinely denied access to their fair share of strong teachers, decent schools, and current textbooks. These actions are not only immoral, but illegal under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The guidance states that wherever a state or district has seen fit to provide any education resource like a chemistry course, high-speed internet access, or a school counselor, it must be provided equally. This has been in the works for a very long time and was inspired by the Equity and Excellence Commission, convened in 2010 to examine and propose remedies to disparities in educational opportunities and student achievement. Years of advocacy that preceded *Brown* sought federal oversight of unfair distribution of resources by schools, districts, and states. But fairness must be a continuing concern as separate and unequal continues to pervade the education of children in our nation. The last time similar guidance was issued by the Department of Education was January 19, 2001 as one of the last acts of the Clinton Administration.

Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the

U.S. Department of Education, said in her “Dear Colleague letter” to states, school districts, and schools: “Students of color must not be consigned to dilapidated, overcrowded school buildings that lack essential educational facilities, such as science laboratories, auditoriums, and athletic fields, and that may not be able to support the increasing infrastructure demands of rapidly expanding educational technologies while providing better facilities for other students.” While this language may sound like a familiar argument from the desegregation cases in the 1960s when “educational technology” meant film strips and slide rules, this new guidance recognizes that disparities still exist today and demonstrates a heightened commitment by the Administration to eliminate discrimination “root and branch” and protect students' access to education.

If students of color in a school are consigned to remedial courses and are denied a strong teacher or current textbooks that could be discriminatory. If Advanced Placement courses are offered only in schools with the lowest enrollment of Black or Latino students, or if the only district school without air conditioning is the one most Latino students attend, or if the math teacher assigned to English language learners is the only math teacher without a major or minor in math, this may be evi-

dence of discrimination in the distribution of educational resources. The Civil Rights Act protects students both from intentional discrimination and from discrimination that rises from the disparate impact of policies and procedures on student groups by race.

This new guidance is good and long overdue news for poor students and students of color in education. The next step is ensuring what is promised is delivered. Students, parents, educators and community members who suspect children are receiving less than their fair share should seek to learn more, address problems they see, and file complaints with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights when disparities are not addressed. Monitoring of enforcement is essential if the neediest children are to benefit. Every child deserves a level playing field and a fair chance to succeed.

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

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

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The NBA's 21st-Century Vampires

It seems that NBA owners thirst for the blood of their players. Unlike vampires of yesteryear, they don't want these precious fluids for personal sustenance. Instead,



it's for the health and vitality of their billion-dollar franchise investments. According to an article in *ESPN The Magazine* the owners want the blood of their athletes and some may already be harvesting.

This isn't blood testing to see if players are taking performance enhancing drugs. It's actually the opposite. It's blood testing—along with 24-7 monitoring—for the purposes of building a better basketball cyborg. The article, co-written by Pablo Torre and Tom Haberstroh, outlines the new ways that teams “scrutinize, optimize and fundamentally think about their players.”

They then outline the neoliberal fever dream that animates the NBA's new generation of billionaire hedge fund managers and tech innovators who see their players' bodies and by extension their private lives as just another asset in their portfolio.

Owners “have discovered how to leverage new, ever-shrinking technologies to supervise a player's sleeping habits, record his physical movements, appraise his diet and test his blood.” Torre and Haberstroh then point out wryly, “In automotive terms, the league is investing in a more accurate odometer.”

What is particularly disturbing is the execs who are proudly gushing about this new normal. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is one of them. The billionaire with a yacht named after Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* told Torre and Haberstroh, “I think the smartest thing we do for health from a data perspective is take ongoing assessments and even blood tests so we have a baseline for each individual that we can monitor for any abnormalities. When someone is ill, we know what their numbers should be.”

Does he mean their health numbers or in-game numbers? In the context of the article, it's not clear. What is clear is the quote from former Mavs guard Devin Harris who said, “I don't know what they do with it once they have it, but they definitely take it. And I know they talked about taking blood throughout the season for certain stuff.”

The words of executives reveal an NBA where players' bodies have been further “thingified” over the last ten years, transformed in the eyes of ownership from “malice in the palace” thugs, in need of a dress code and charm school classes, to human hosts of optimal basketball nutrients.

Sacramento Kings General Manager Peter D'Alessandro is all-in on these new practices. “The holy grail,” he says, “is sequencing and understanding the genome. And how that relates to pro athletes on an injury basis and who's naturally good at certain sports.”

Naturally good.

D'Alessandro also says, “We need to be able to have impact on these players in their private time. It doesn't have to be us vs. you. It can be a partnership.”

That talk of partnership sounds lovely, but the first time the National Basketball Players Association had even heard about the NBA's 24-7 biometric monitoring agenda, was—remarkably—when *ESPN* was researching this article.

NBPA counsel Ron Klempner said, “If the league and teams want to discuss potentially invasive testing procedures that relate to performance, they're free to start that dialogue and we'll be glad to weigh the benefits against the risks.... We've barely left the starting line on these issues.”

The NBPA faces this now with a recently hired executive director in Michelle Roberts, and the news that the league had signed a new staggering \$24 billion television deal with *ESPN* and *TNT*. As franchises get sold for record prices, players are seen as “partners” in the way Poland was a “partner” in the US war on Iraq. The players' powerlessness—not their partnership—has been the prerequisite to these exploding franchise values and, not incidentally, the ways that players are being treated like genetically modified sides of beef.

All-star Andre Iguodala made it plain, saying, “I just hope we don't become robots, where they're feeding us the same thing, every day, and then it's time to flip the switch and go to sleep.”

This is a beautiful game. If we don't want it to become a cultural symbol of a world where some workers are deemed disposable and others are genetically honed it to perfection... a symbol of a world where billionaires sit in the front car of the snowpiercer toasting their good fortunes as the neoliberal kings of this monstrous distortion of human interaction, then the union is going to have to stand up. They won't need garlic and a wooden stake, just some damn backbone to stand up to the collection hedge fund harvesters and say that they demand ownership of their own humanity.

Calendar of Events

November 65 — November 12, 2014

Xtreme Teens: Cafe Groove

Date and Time: Friday, November 7, 2014 6-10 pm
Description: Join us as we travel to Glassmanor Community Center to participate in a night of arts by and for the community. We will depart at 6:30 pm and return by 10 pm. The \$3 fee and the permission slip signed by a parent/guardian are required for attendance on this trip.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

Blue Magic, HeatWave, Emotions, and New Birth

Date and Time: November 7, 2014 at 7:30 PM
Description: 70's Soul Sounds: Blue Magic, HeatWave, Emotions, and New Birth

Cost: Reserved seating; www.ticketmaster.com

Location: The Show Place Arena 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

Get Your Mind Right: The 3 C's

Date & Time: Friday, November 7, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: This session of Get Your Mind Right is dedicated to learning and mastering the 3 C's - Human Capital, Social Capital, and Financial Capital. With special guest speakers from the University of Maryland, youth learn that it takes more than just money to succeed in life! The "Get Your Mind Right program" is a year-round initiative where youth set three-month personal & academic goals, with Xtreme Teens coordinators assisting them achieve their vision. There is an incentive for youth who achieve their three month goals; they receive gift cards.

Cost: Free

Ages: 10-17 (Parents are welcome)

Location: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington 20744

Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

Platinum Live: Philadanco!

Date and Time: Friday, November 7, 2014 12 noon

Description: The famed Philadelphia Dance Company performs a fast-paced dance concert for seniors. This one-hour matinee features modern dance selections that are new to Playhouse patrons and guaranteed to mesmerize the audience with the troupe's beauty, energy and excitement.

Cost: \$10/person

\$8/person (groups of 20 or more)

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Outdoor Adventurers

Date and Time: Saturday, November 8, 2014 8 am-5 pm

Description: Test your skills with outdoor adventures! From hiking, museums, art, carnivals, and historical sites, we will help you challenge yourself in a safe environment. This time, enjoy a trip to Fountain Rock Park in Walkerville, Maryland. Fees may vary, depending upon trip requirements.

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

Ages: 18 & up

Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center

4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712

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

6th Annual Trash to Treasure: Green Craft Fair!

Date & Time: Saturday, November 8, 2014 10 am-4 pm

Description: Go green with your holiday shopping this year! Join us for our 6th Annual "Trash to Treasure: Green Craft Fair!" Explore local craters and artists who create treasures made from at least 50% recycled, organic, fair trade or sustainably harvested materials. Items for sale include jewelry, candles, recycled wood carvings, knitwear bags, paintings and more.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Watkins Nature Center

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772

Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-218-6712

Seasonal Selections: Thanksgiving Feast

Date and Time: Sunday, November 9, 2014 12 noon-3:30 pm

Description: Ever wanted to try a historic recipe for your Thanksgiving dinner? The Kitchen Guild will feature 18th and 19th century recipes that you can make for your own Thanksgiving feast.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737

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

Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon
Description: Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed FREE use of both the fitness center and pool during these times.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 & up

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex

8001 Sheriff Road

Landover, MD 20785

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

Nature Hike for Homeschoolers

Date & Time: Thursday, November 13, 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

EARTH TALK ... Sweden's Environmental Leadership

Dear EarthTalk:

I recently heard that Sweden is the greenest country in the world. Is this true and, if so, by what standards? And where does the U.S. rank?

— Raul Swain,
New York, NY

sustainability by consulting firm Dual Citizen Inc. in its fourth annual Global Green Economy Index (GGEI). Norway, Costa Rica, Germany and Denmark rounded out the top five. The rankings take into account a wide range of economic indicators and datasets regarding leadership on climate change, encouragement of efficiency sectors, market facilitation and investing in green technology and sustainability, and management of ecosystems and natural capital.

Sweden's first place finish reflects the Swedes' ongoing commitment to climate change mitigation and sustainability policies and practices. The country is a leader in organic agriculture and renewable energy as well as per capita investment in green technology and sustainability research. Upwards of 75 percent of Swedes recycle their waste, while only four percent of the country's garbage goes to landfills. In fact, Sweden imports garbage from other nations to burn as a renewable source of energy.

On the climate front, Sweden was one of the first coun-

tries in the world—going back to 1991—to put in place a heavy tax on fossil fuels to encourage the development of greener sources of energy. Indeed, the high price of gas there has notably boosted sales and consumption of home-grown, renewable ethanol. Just a few decades ago Sweden derived 75 percent of its energy from fossil fuels, but is on track to shrink that to 18 percent by 2020, with many Swedes clamoring for the country to abandon fossil fuels entirely at that point. As if that wasn't enough, Sweden recently announced that it would pay a whopping \$500 million over the next four years into the United Nations' Green Climate Fund, a pool of money sourced from richer countries to help poorer ones transition to a future less dependent on polluting fossil fuels.

The United States didn't fare so well in the GGEI, ranking just 28th overall, just behind Rwanda and slightly ahead of Canada. Despite leadership in green technology and environmental awareness, Americans' disproportionately large carbon footprint and resistance to a national policy on climate change mitigation are hurdles to the U.S. achieving a better ranking.

The GGEI isn't the only sustainability ranking of countries. The Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network recently



CREDIT: SWEDENINUSA

Sweden topped the recently released environmental sustainability ranking of 60 countries by the Global Green Economy Index. The rankings take into account a wide range of key issues, including leadership on climate change, green technology and sustainability, and management of ecosystems and natural capital. Pictured: A display greets visitors to the Swedish Embassy in the United States.

released their 2014 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), a similar but more expansive ranking of 178 nations on environmental health and ecosystem vitality. Switzerland topped that list, followed by Luxembourg, Australia, Singapore and the Czech Republic. Sweden ranked 9th and the U.S. 33rd.

The fact that global rankings like the GGEI and EPI exist shows without a doubt that sustainability concerns are a global phenomenon, and that people from Iceland to Australia (two highly ranked countries) realize the importance of taking care of Mother Earth. Despite issuing different rankings, both indices had a lot in common, with five countries

(Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Spain) making the top 10 list of each. Another common conclusion was that the U.S. has much to do if it hopes to be taken seriously among world leaders committed to protecting the planet and our common future.

CONTACTS: GGEI 2014, dualcitizeninc.com/GGEI-Report2014.pdf; EPI, epi.yale.edu.

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

AT&T from A1

consumers who were frankly duped by this conduct."

It's the largest settlement against mobile cramming to date.

Under the settlement, the Federal Trade Commission will receive \$80 million to provide refunds to consumers the company unlawfully charged. A link is provided on the commission's website where customers can go to submit a claim.

An additional \$20 million will be paid as a penalty to attorneys general in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Maryland will receive \$788,000 of the fees. The Federal Communications Commission will receive \$5 million of the settlement.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler announces settlement against AT&T Mobile for charging illegal fees for "premium" text messaging services.

"For too long consumers were being charged on their phone bills for things they did not buy," said Tom Wheeler, chairman of the Federal Com-

munications Commission. "It stops today for AT&T."

The Federal Trade Commission has opened seven cramming cases against phone service

providers since 2013, two against mobile carriers. A case against T-Mobile is ongoing.

As a requirement for settlement, AT&T must notify its current customers who were billed for third-party charges and tell them of the refund program. They must also dedicate a section of their bill specifically to third-party charges, so customers know what they're paying for.

"We receive so many of these complaints as a result of mobile cramming," said Gansler. "What's more troubling is how many we didn't receive because people are getting these bills with \$9.99 charges. Most people don't review their bill with that kind of due diligence."

Food Bank from A1

serviced by the Maryland Food Bank, said he saw a substantial increase in need over the summer and expects the number of clients to rise during the fall and winter months.

Last summer, the church's food pantry, which is open five days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., served about 1,000 people per month, and he expects to see that number rise to 1,100 or 1,200 in the coming months due to the end of seasonal labor opportunities, he said. In past years, the church was only serving about 700 clients per month during the summer and 1,000 during the fall and winter months, he said.

This will be a difficult demand to meet when funds are tight, he added.

"People are coming in with stories saying, 'They cut \$150 out of my food stamps and they didn't even tell me. Even if they did tell me, how would I feed

my kids?'" he said.

The number of people registered in SNAP dropped in all but nine states, including Maryland, where about 12 percent of the population receives food stamps, according to the Food Research and Action Center, a national nonprofit working to reduce hunger in the U.S.

For fiscal year 2014 the benefits for Maryland were cut \$82 million. Nationwide, households of four are seeing an average monthly cut of \$36 to their benefits, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank focusing on government funding for poor and middle-income Americans.

About 41 percent of the food-insecure population in Maryland isn't eligible for SNAP benefits because their incomes are too high to qualify for programs, but not high enough to cover their food needs, according to the Maryland Food Bank.

The food bank services about 40,000 to 90,000 people in this



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MEGAN BROCKETT.

Trucks bring food donations collected from all over Maryland into the Maryland Food Bank in Baltimore, one of its three locations. The food bank aimed to collect over 35,000 pounds of food this month. Sept. 30

group – considered working poor – every year, Shaia said. "They make too much to qualify for assistance, but not

enough to pay bills," he said. "These are the ones who are saying, 'Do we get the medicine we need or do we get food?'"



Honor Those Who Have Served

Veteran's Day

November 11, 2014