

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1952

Vol. 82, No. 50 December 11 – December 17, 2014 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA.

President Barack Obama meets with Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Neil Eggleston, Counsel to the President, Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri and Press Secretary Josh Earnest in the Oval Office to discuss the decision by a Staten Island grand jury not to indict police officers who had interacted with Eric Garner during an arrest last summer that resulted in Garner's death. The President later made a statement about the decision at the top of his remarks at the Tribal Nations Conference, Dec. 3, 2014.

Obama Statement on the Grand Jury Decision in the Death of Eric Garner

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

Today, a grand jury in Staten Island decided not to bring criminal charges against police officers involved in the tragic death of Eric Garner.

Speaking at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference this evening, President

Obama delivered the following statement:

"Some of you may have heard there was a decision that came out today by a grand jury not to indict police officers who had interacted with an individual with Eric Garner in New York City, all of which was caught on videotape and speaks to the larger issues that

we've been talking about now for the last week, the last month, the last year, and, sadly, for decades, and that is the concern on the part of too many minority communities that law enforcement is not working with them and dealing with them in a fair way.

"And there's going to be, I'm sure, additional statements

by law enforcement. My tradition is not to remark on cases where there may still be an investigation. But I want everybody to understand that this week, in the wake of Ferguson, we initiated a task force whose job it is to come

See **GARNER** Page A3

State Debates Folding Tax Credit For 'House of Cards,' Other Productions

By DANI SHAE THOMPSON
Capital News Service

Frank Underwood may be looking for a new base of operations.

Maryland tax credits worth millions have kept "House of Cards" in the state for three seasons, but a real-world budget crunch may mean Kevin Spacey — who plays the political villain — and rest of the cast and crew will head elsewhere.

A state legislative committee held a public hearing Tuesday on the feasibility of Maryland's film production tax

credit, most notably associated with the Netflix series.

Film productions are exempt from state tax when purchasing goods or services related to the production, but the state is reaping only 10 cents for every dollar it gives up, according to a report from the state's Department of Legislative Services.

The report concludes that the credit does not promote long-term economic growth for Maryland and recommends that the General Assem-

See **TAX CREDIT** Page A5

PG County Seeks to Recover Waste to Produce Clean Energy

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD – By 2020, the Prince George's County Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill will phase out traditional methods of processing the County's municipal solid waste through landfilling. The County is seeking a new system to optimize the recovery of recyclables and conversion of organics into compost, fuel or renewable energy. To gain a greater understanding of innovative technologies that support these goals, the De-

partment of the Environment (DoE) and the Office of Central Services (OCS) has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design proposals for the development, operation and maintenance of a resource recovery facility at the Western Branch Yard Waste Processing Facility located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

OCS will host a Pre-Qualifications Conference on November 20, 2014 at 10 a.m. at 1400 McCormick Drive, suite

See **WASTE** Page A7

Prince George's County Council Members Sworn in

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

New Council Convenes Dec. 2 for Gavel Exchange

The nine-member Prince George's County Council was administered the Oath of Office today by Clerk of the Court Sydney Harrison during a swearing-in ceremony held on the Promenade outside of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

Three of the nine members sworn-in today, Council Members Danielle Glaros, (D) – District 3; Deni Taveras, (D) – District 2; and Todd Turner, (D) – District 4, are serving their first terms. Council Member Derrick Leon Davis, (D) – District 6 completed a vacated term and now begins serving his first term in office. Council Members Mary Lehman (D) – District 1; Andrea C. Harrison, (D) – District 5; Karen R. Toles, (D) – District 7; Obie Patterson (D) – District 8; and Mel Franklin, (D) – District 9, are beginning their second terms in office.

Council Chairman Mel Franklin, who delivered the Inaugural Address on behalf of the County Council, said the Council

looks forward to moving the County forward in partnership with County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, also inaugurated to serve a second term today. Chairman Franklin emphasized the importance progress that the Council and County Executive have made.

"This County Government stands before you stronger, more unified, and more focused than ever before. From establishing ourselves as the place to be for economic development in this region to reducing crime to historic lows; From taking bold, unprecedented steps to reform our school system to rebuilding our health care sector; we are doing big things, on purpose, to reshape and advance the future of our great county."

The Prince George's County Council will convene tomorrow, December 2, at 11:00 a.m., to elect the Council leadership team for the 2015 Legislative Year. The session will be held at the County Administration Building, Council Hearing Room, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. There will be a press briefing with the new Council leadership immediately following in the Council Media Room.

Public Safety Food Basket Program Needs Your Support

Christmas Food Baskets Reduced by 50% Due to Lack of Funds

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire Department

Together, we did it again! On behalf of the more than 3,000 recipients who received Christmas Food Baskets during the 2013 Christmas Holiday and the Public Safety Assistance Program, Inc. (PSAP) – Thank You. It simply would not have been possible for the program to be so successful without your help.

We can hardly believe that this year will be the 30th year that Prince George's County's Public Safety Agencies, the Office of the County Executive, and the Office of Homeland Security has prepared and delivered holiday food baskets for those in need through the Public Safety Assistance Program, Inc. Unfortunately, the need is great and just as in previous years, as the season approaches, we begin to receive requests. We know that many families continue to have a hard time making ends meet, and as always, we hope to do more this year than last.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

We believe that we can assist more families this year than we did last year, but we can only do so with your continued generous support. Every donation – however large or small – moves us closer to our goal of helping more families. As you know, members from each of the

Public Safety Agencies provide the many manpower hours needed to prepare our Christmas Baskets and they too, are committed to doing whatever is necessary.

This year, based on the amount of funds available, we will need to cut our food baskets in half. 3000 delivered

last year and it appears only 1,500 this year. The requests for baskets continues to grow above and beyond last year's total and we are having to turn requests down. We need

See **FOOD BASKET** Page A5

INSIDE

Clyde Doughty, Jr. Named Bowie State University Director of Athletics

Clyde Doughty, Jr., a veteran of intercollegiate athletics administration including 32 years of experience at New York Institute of Technology, has been named the new director of athletics at Bowie State University.

Community, Page A3

A Time for Prayer, Thanksgiving, Discernment and Strategic Nonviolent Action

I hope we will use this November time of Thanksgiving and celebration of Native American Heritage month by some first Americans, as an opportunity for national and personal soul searching and discussion about what it means to be an American.

Commentary, Page A4

New Website Available on Quality of Care in Maryland Hospitals

The Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website brings together the Commission's consumer guides on hospitals, long term care, and ambulatory surgery centers, as well as the quality report on health benefits plans, to create a comprehensive, consumer friendly resource tool.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1"

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1, finds Katniss Everdeen in District 13 after she literally shatters the games forever. Under the leadership of President Coin and the advice of her trusted friends, Katniss spreads her wings as she fights to save Peeta and a nation moved by her courage.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that the price of getting solar panels installed on a home is lower than ever, but has it gotten to the point anywhere in the U.S. where it's actually cheaper than traditional grid power yet?

— Lester Milstein, Boston, MA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Bishop McNamara High School celebrates 50 years

Built on a site next to Mount Calvary Catholic Church on Marlboro Pike in Forestville, Bishop McNamara High School began with Msgr. Peter Rakowski's plan to build a Catholic high school for boys, and one for girls in southern Prince George's County. So it was that, in 1962, Washington Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle extended an invitation to the Brothers of Holy Cross to administer and staff a new high school.

Two years earlier, the Archbishop had the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis build and administer a new school for girls, La Reine High in Suitland. La Reine opened with 130 freshmen in 1960, adding a class each year. Bishop McNamara admitted its first classes (freshman and sophomore) of 334 boys in 1964. La Reine closed and McNamara became co-ed in 1991. The school bears the name of Bishop John Michael McNamara, a former auxiliary bishop to the Archbishops of Baltimore and Washington and the founder of St. Gabriel's parish in Washington.

McNamara has gone on to become one of the premier, private, college-prep high schools in Maryland. Celebration of the school's 50th has already begun, with a special Mass in September, Homecoming Weekend, and a Golden Gala in November.

Coming up next year is a Founder's Day Mass, a La Reine "Queen of Hearts" reunion which begins with a tour of their old school (now Drew Freeman Middle School), the Mustang Cup Golf Tournament, and Caritas Awards Night. For information, call 301-735-8401.

Can you win at Harrington Casino?

Phyllis Cooks, President of VFW Post 9619 Ladies Auxiliary, invites you to join them for a bus trip to Harrington Casino on Thursday, Dec. 18, and receive \$10 in Free Slot Play and a Free Buffet. The bus loads at 9 a.m. at the Post and returns at 6 p.m. Advance ticket sales only: \$30. See the bartender at the VFW for a ticket. For information, call Phyllis at 301-736-5022.

The trip is a fund-raiser for the State Commander's & State

President's Special Project, "Suicide Prevention for members of our Military."

Neighbors

Helen Nichols-Richardson, of Morningside, and her sister Judy Nichols recently flew to San Diego to visit their niece, Samantha "Sam" Fletcher, who is serving in the Navy there. Sam is the daughter of their sister Dottie. Their four days in San Diego included a visit to Old Town, which, Helen told me, is like an Indian reservation. It was Helen's first trip to California.

Speaking of trips, I have just returned from a week in West Chester, Ohio, with my daughters Kathleen Shearer, who hosted a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Among the guests was my niece, Elizabeth, who has just passed the Ohio bar. By the way, I traveled Greyhound.

Father Mathai Mannoovadakketil Yohannan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Tiruvalla, in India, and the Syro-Malankara Rite, is now in residence at Holy Family Parish in Forestville and works with the Latin Catholic Community in the parish.

'Tis the season...

There's still time to visit the Surratt House and enjoy the simpler ways of celebrating the holidays as the people of the Civil War era did. The House will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thurs. and Fri.; noon to 4 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Admission is: adults, \$3; seniors (60+), \$2; groups of 10 plus adults, \$2; students (5-18), \$1; under 5, free. The House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. For information, call 301-868-1121. By the way, Surratt House will close Dec. 15 for the winter holidays and reopen Jan. 15.

And there's still one weekend left to check out the gingerbread houses at Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro. See an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses and admire the winners. The house will be open noon to 5 p.m., Dec. 12-14. Admission is \$1.00. For information: 301-952-8010.

30 years ago in Morningside

The Morningside Sportsmen's Club and its president, Marshall Carson, were on the

road Dec. 15, 1984, with Santa Claus (Ivy Rainwater), cruising Morningside and Skyline, collecting canned goods for needy families. Helpers were Dave Williams, Smoky Wills, Richie Jones, Phil, Robin, Steven and Paula Sedwick, and Morningside Police Officer David Townsend. This was the Sportsmen's 13th annual canned food drive.

May they rest in peace

Betty Jean McClain, 71, of Skyline, died Nov. 30. She was born in Washington, daughter of Ernestine (Porter) Ware and Albert Bernard Ware. Survivors include her husband Harvey E. McClain; brother James Ware; and cousins, Earl Ratliff Jr, Paul Ratliff, Lynn Murrow, Helen Padgett and Judy D'Andelet. Betty was the aunt of Pamela Shepard and Timothy Fleming. Services were at Lee's with burial at Cedar Hill.

James P. Maruca, 90, of Dunkirk and formerly of Camp Springs, died Nov. 19 at Washington Hospital Center. He was born in Gallitzin, Pa., to Sophia and Anthony Maruca. He served in the Army, and retired after 45 years of federal service as Director of Small Business for the Department of Commerce. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Department of Commerce Federal Credit Union. During his years in Camp Springs, he and his wife Liz were active members of St. Philip's Church and he served as president of the Parish Council in the late '70s. Jim's survivors include his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth; children, Connie Zambelli, James Jr., Don and Christopher Maruca; ten grandchildren and two siblings.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Bernie (Barbour) Pace and Thomas Shipman Jr., Dec. 13; Linda Gryskewicz, Dec. 15; Stacie Smith and Erin Nicole Brown-Sandoval, Dec. 16; Bradley Wade and David Williams III, Dec. 17; Charlene Baker and Paul Ratliff, Dec. 18.

Happy anniversary to Johnny and Helen (Nichols) Richardon on Dec. 14, and to Margaret and Leslie Greene who'll celebrate their 71st anniversary on Dec. 18.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Combined Children's Ministry of the New Hope Fellowship Parish will present a Christmas Celebration Sunday December 21, 2014 10:00 AM at Christ Church Campus. Rev. Constance C. Smith is the Senior Pastor. The address is 22919 Christ Church Road Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

BOWIE ICE ARENA'S HOLIDAY SKATE

There will be some holiday fun during the 1:00 PM-3:00 PM public session on December 13, 2014 at Bowie Ice Arena. You will have the opportunity to skate with Santa. Bowie ISI Team will be on the ice with tips for beginners. There will be door prizes, Bake Sale and free mini lessons. Come and decorate a cookie and build a snowman. The admission is free with a donation for the Toys for Tots Drive. They will also be collecting canned food for the Bowie Pantry. The address is 3330 North View Drive Bowie, Maryland 20716. Telephone number 301-809-3090

WALKING TACO NIGHT

Xteens ages 10-17 will be able to make tacos from fresh ingredients of tomatoes, cheese, chips, and other ingredients Friday, December 26, 2014. Proper food handling will be part of the process. Cost is free. Location is Baden Community Center Baden, Maryland. Call 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030 for more information.

CAFE AGAPE

Cafe Agape presents Janine Gilbert-Carter Friday, December 19, 2014 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. at St. Paul UMC in their Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 6634 St. Barnabas Road. Rev. Daryl Williams is the pastor. The cost is \$5.00 Entertainment Fee. Dinner is optional at additional cost. Contact Deborah Johnson at 301-567-4433.

2014 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Please invite your families, friends, neighbors and co-workers to attend this event of the Westphalia Choir Saturday December 20, 2014 6:00 PM at Westphalia Church. Rev. Dr. Timothy West,

Pastor. Call 301-735-9373 or e-mail www.westphaliaum.org for more information.

KIDGITS HO HO HOLIDAY EVENT

Come to St. Charles Town Center December 20, 2014 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM for the Kidgits Ho Ho Holiday Event to celebrate the season and spread holiday cheer. There will be family friendly activities, holiday crafts, cookie decorating, give aways and lots of holiday fun. It's just \$5 to join if you are not a member. Visit <http://www.simon.com/kidgits/> for more information. The address is 11110 Mall Circle Waldorf, Maryland 20603.

FITNESS and NUTRITION

Saturday December 13, 2014 from 7:00 PM-10:00 PM will be an active night of fitness and healthy living for Xtreme Teens (ages 10-17) at Baden Community Center 13601 Baden-Westwood Road Baden, Maryland. Cost is free. Call 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-203-6030 for additional information.

Neighborhood Events

PG County Council Elects New Leadership Team: Announces Committee Leadership For 2015

Council Member Franklin Elected to Serve Second Consecutive Term as Chair; Council Member Davis Elected Vice-Chair

The Prince George's County Council unanimously reelected Council Chairman Mel Franklin (D) – District 9, to lead the legislative body for a second consecutive term in Legislative Year 2015, and Council Member Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, as Vice Chair. The newly confirmed Council leadership team presided over the first session of the Legislative Year 2015 on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Chairman Franklin and Vice-Chair Davis will serve in Council leadership through December 1, 2015.

Chairman Franklin thanked his Council colleagues for again entrusting him with the "Gavel of Leadership."

"To serve this honorable body for a second year as Chair of the Prince George's County Council is truly humbling and is not a responsibility that I take lightly. Colleagues please know that I have that same confidence, respect and admiration for each of you, and for the people of Prince George's County. I know your decision was made with careful thought. I accept this assignment with deep gratitude and I pledge to keep myself worthy of this privilege, continuing to provide leadership with integrity, and advancing an agenda that makes a great County even greater."

Chairman Franklin also announced the 2015 Legislative Year committee leadership appointments:

Public Safety and Fiscal Management (PSFM)

Chair, Council Member Obie Patterson; Vice-Chair, Council Member Andrea Harrison

Health, Education and Human Services (HEHS):

Chair, Council Member Karen Toles; Vice-Chair, Council Member Derrick L. Davis

Transportation, Housing and Environment (THE):

Chair, Council Member Mary Lehman; Vice-Chair, Council Member Todd Turner

Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED):

Chair, Council Member Andrea Harrison; Vice-Chair, Council Member Dannielle Glaros

Rules and General Assembly:

Chair, Council Member Derrick L. Davis; Vice-Chair, Council Member Todd Turner
Chair Franklin also addressed the 2015 Legislative agenda in his remarks.

"As we begin our 2015 Legislative Year, we stand at the door of our near limitless destiny as the land of opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds from all corners of the world." He added, "Our vision must be bold and decisive. Our future should be one of economic inclusion and integration; shared opportunity and unbridled prosperity. Let there be no bounds to the greatness that we dream for Prince George's County. Let there be no horizon that we dare not reach."

To access Gavel Exchange photographs and speeches, or watch "on demand" click HERE. Prince George's Community Television (CTV) will

replay the Gavel Exchange on Channel 41 (Verizon FIOS) and Channel 70, (Comcast). Visit www.pgctv.org or contact CTV at 301.773.0900 for programming information.

Williams Last Second 3-Pointer Lifts Bowie State 74-73 over Millersville

Millersville, Pa. - The Bowie State University men's basketball team took home a thrilling 74-73 last second victory on Monday evening against Millersville University. The Bulldogs improve to 5-2 on the season with the win while the Marauders slip to 3-4 on the year with the setback.

Senior Zafir Williams (Philadelphia, Pa.) was the leader and hero, pumping in a career-best 23 points for the Bowie State. Senior Cameron Knox (Baltimore, Md.) added 16 points in the win while junior Justin Beck (Ellicott City, Md.) chipped in 11 points to go along with a team-high six rebounds.

Kelvin Parker paced four Marauder players in double figures with 19 points in the loss while Tyree Smith and Eddie Callender scored 17 and 14 points respectively. Parker was also Millersville's leading rebounder with seven. Sam Light came off the bench to tally 10 points, which included 8-for-8 at the free throw line.

The first 20 minutes of action featured 12 lead changes and three ties with neither team leading by more than six points. Millersville went 13-of-29 (44.8 percent) from the field in the first half while Bowie State made 15-of-32 from the field (46.9 percent).

With the Marauders trailing 49-47 with 12:11 left, Jalen Lester hit a three that gave Millersville a one point lead. The Marauders pushed its lead to as many as nine with 4:48 to go on Smith's 3-pointer, which followed one from Parker.

Bowie State's Williams, who shot a career-best 6-of-7 triples, provided the answer for the Bulldogs. He followed Smith's triple with one of his own, and after Callender's bucket put Millersville in front 73-67 with 1:36 to go, Williams buried another three and was fouled in the process. He converted the four-point play to pull the Bulldogs to within two.

Millersville had a point-blank look from Callender swatted away by Andre Jackson, giving Bowie State possession with 40 seconds left. The Bulldogs' first look missed and the rebound was hauled in by Tommy Patterson, but a turnover gave the possession back to Bowie State. Callender blocked a Cameron Knox runner out of bounds with four seconds left. For Bowie State, the third chance was the charm. Knox found Williams off the inbound pass, and he drilled the three from the top of the key with 1.3 seconds left. Millersville last chance ended in a pass skipping out of bounds.

"The thing that makes me very proud of this (tonight) was we stuck together ... With 1:36 left in the game we were down six and our guys never gave up", said an elated Bowie State head coach Darrell Brooks. "Free throws were big for us (13-of-15) and we out-rebounded them (38-36). "Both teams made big shots and big plays but we just for-

tunate at the end to have the last shot."

The Bulldogs return to action on Saturday, December 6th when they host Georgia Regents University - Augusta. Game time is slated for 2 pm in the A.C. Jordan Arena.

CAFY's Helping Hands Program

We are collecting clothes, non-perishable foods and household items for the three families we have served this year. All of these families have worked hard to overcome the impact of crime. And more importantly to minimize the harm it caused their children. We are hoping our third year Helping Hands Program will bless them and help make the holidays a little brighter.

If you would like to help. You can can drop off items at 9201 Basil Court, Ste 160; Largo, MD 20774 - Starting Today through Monday, December 15, 2014.

We plan to have the families pick up or deliver to them on Tuesday, December 16th and 18th.

G. Family - Family with 4 children

Teen girl wears a size 10 in women pants and a medium in tops Size 8 in woman shoes

Young girl wears a 12-14 in little girls pants and medium tops and a 5 in shoes

Young boy wears a 10-12 in little boys pants and a medium in tops and a 4 1/2 in shoes

Toddler boy wears a 3t-4t in little boys tops and bottom and a size 9 in shoes

C. Family - Family with 3 children and one on the way

Toddler girl is 4 and is size 4T-5T

Young girl is 3 and is size 3T-4T

Teen girl is 14 and is size M

Infant items

P. Family - Family with 4 children

8 years old young man. Shoe size 4 1/2, shirt size 10 pants size 10..

6 years old young man. Shoe size 2 shirt size 7t pants size 7t.

4 years old young lady. Shoe size 13 shirt size 6t pants size 6t. Ulysses

2 year old young man. Shoe size 8 shirt size 3t pants size 3t..

Some of the items on their holiday list include:

Touch screen Tablet

Bikes

Scooters

WWE Wrestling

Action figures

Football

Basketball

Baseball glove

Dolls

Dollhouse

Dish set

Play tent

Bouncy balls

DVD Movies

Bat and baseball

Barbie dolls

Electronic toys

Big wheel

Spider man

Teenage mutant turtles

Toys .

Scooters

Thank you so much for joining in our efforts to help others. Should you have questions, please contact me or Vondale Mack (301-541-8905) or Jamyel Jenifer (301-541-8927).

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Smart Tax Moves To Consider Before New Year's Eve

The flurry of activity during the last weeks of December can make it difficult to pay attention to finances. If you want to save on your tax bill come April, now's the time to make some critical moves.

If you have a tax advisor or financial planner, it's wise to run these ideas by them first. Here are some suggestions to investigate by year-end with follow-up in the new year:



1. Accelerate your deductions and defer your income. It makes the list every year because it works. To keep your 2014 tax bill low, try to defer bonuses, consulting income or self-employment income until 2015 while taking as many deductions as you legally can in 2014. Deductions may include paying your January federal and state income taxes before Dec. 31, real estate taxes and interest payments.

2. Bunch non-urgent medical expenses this year or move them to 2015. If you have non-emergency medical procedures coming up, it's a good idea to pack them into the same year so people under age 65 can exceed the 10 percent adjusted gross income (AGI) minimum for medical expenses. For those over age 65, the AGI minimum is 7.5 percent.

3. Make last-minute withholding adjustments. If you've started making more money later in the year, make sure your withholding or estimated tax payments are adjusted before Dec. 31 so you don't face underpayment penalties later.

4. Evaluate your traditional and Roth IRA holdings. Many people who expect their tax rate to go up in retirement convert traditional IRAs to Roth accounts in advance. Those who don't do so keep their traditional accounts as-is. No matter how close you're getting to retirement, it's a good idea to take inventory of your IRA investments to make sure they're accessible and to contact your tax advisor if you have questions about strategy.

5. Contribute as much to retirement accounts as possible. Putting money away for retirement is always a good idea — for your tax bill and for your future. For tax year 2014, individual 401(k) (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/401k>) contribution limits are \$17,500 and \$5,500 for an IRA (not including catch-up contributions for taxpayers 50 or over). In 2015, those contribution limits will go up to \$18,000 and \$6,000 respectively.

6. Consider HSAs and FSAs. High-deductible insurance plans may offer a health savings account (HSA) option that allows you to deposit pretax dollars to pay for medical expenses high-deductible plans don't cover. Flexible Spending Accounts (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/fsa>) also allow pre-tax dollars to pay for dental care, vision checkups and glasses and over-the-counter drugs.

7. Gather state and local sales tax receipts. If you itemize your deductions, consider whether to deduct state and local sales taxes instead of state and local income taxes.

8. Consider a gift. Individuals can give up to \$14,000 a year per beneficiary to as many people as they'd like during 2014 free of gift or estate tax. That amount goes up to \$28,000 per beneficiary per year for spouses (both individual and spousal numbers will stay the same in 2015).

9. Make a last-minute charitable deduction. If you itemize, you can deduct for charitable contributions — but do some homework first. GuideStar.org lists every IRS-registered nonprofit organization, so you can do full research on the organization's work and legitimacy as well as its tax status.

10. Take that home office deduction. If you use part of your home for business or if your office is an unattached structure, you may qualify for a home office deduction up to \$1,500 a year.

11. Watch the news and keep your tax preparer's number handy. Congress may spend its final days arguing over a variety of expired tax breaks still pending. It's important to keep an eye on tax news between now and New Year's Day.

Bottom line: Use the end of the year to gather records and advice and make smart choices taxwise and otherwise.

Clyde Doughty, Jr. Named Bowie State University Director of Athletics

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

(Bowie, Md.) — Clyde Doughty, Jr., a veteran of intercollegiate athletics administration including 32 years of experience at New York Institute of Technology, has been named the new director of athletics at Bowie State University, beginning Jan. 7, 2015.

Doughty was director of intercollegiate athletics and managed the recreation and intramural programs at the Old Westbury campus of NYIT from 1988-2014. He served as the academic advisor to student athletes in 1982 and became the assistant director of athletics in 1984. A native of Queens, N.Y., Doughty first went to NYIT on a basketball scholarship in 1976 and enjoyed a playing career that included two appearances in the NCAA Division II Tournament, including the national championship game in 1980.

"I'm extremely excited and blessed to have the opportunity to serve as the new athletics director of the Bowie State University Bulldogs," said Doughty. "I look forward to working with the exceptional student athletes and the entire BSU community in continuing with the outstanding tradition of academic success, social development and quality athletic competition that is synonymous with Bowie State University."

Doughty brings a wealth of experience in Division II athletics. "I have spent my entire career in Division II," he said. "Bowie State has allowed me to continue with that experience while also becoming part of the historic Central Intercollegiate Athletics Association (CIAA)."

While at NYIT Doughty counts among his successes the

enhancement of the athletic department's organizational structure and stability and the improved academic performance of student athletes. Under his leadership, the program also fielded highly competitive teams that made numerous appearances in NCAA and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) post-season play. The men's lacrosse team appeared in the NCAA DII Championship six times, winning the title in 1997, 2003, 2005, and 2008. The lacrosse team also won the ECAC Championship in 2001, and the men's basketball team captured the ECAC title in 1995. Several other teams, including men's track and field, men's soccer, softball, women's basketball, women's volleyball, and men's and women's tennis, all earned repeated trips to post-season competition.

"Mr. Doughty comes to us with decades of high-quality experience as an athletics director in Division II and identifies strongly with student athletes," said Bowie State University President Mickey L. Burnim. "I think he is just the right person to take our intercollegiate athletics program to a higher level of excellence, and I am very pleased about his joining our leadership team."

"I want to thank and commend Ms. Donna Polk who has served admirably as Interim Director of Athletics since the departure of Anton Goff in July," Burnim added.

Polk thanked Dr. Burnim for the opportunity to serve in the leadership role and for his support of the athletics program. "I am excited about the great things occurring in our department with facilities projects and improving the student athlete experience,

and I look forward to our continued progression toward excellence under the new leadership of Mr. Doughty," she said.

Doughty has been active in management roles at both the conference and national levels. He was chair of the ECAC men's basketball committee, men's basketball chair for the New York Collegiate Athletic Conference, or NYCAC (now the East Coast Conference), and a member of the NCAA's Northeast Men's Basketball Regional Committee. He was president of the NYCAC from 1994-97 and a member of the ECAC's Executive Council from 1989-1992.

In 2001 he was named to a four-year term on the NCAA Division II Management Council to represent the ECC and was appointed to a second term in 2013. As a member of the council, he served on numerous committees and task groups, including the Division II Budget and Finance Committee, the Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Graduation Rates Project Team.

Doughty has managed multi-million dollar budgets and is an accomplished fundraiser with a record of success in developing alumni programming, sponsorships and marketing initiatives. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of the NYIT Athletics Bears Den Fund Raising Association and the establishment of the Bears Athletic Hall of Fame.

An advocate for educational and social development of student athletes off the field, Doughty assisted in the development of the Athletic Director's Honor Roll, the BEARS Mentor Educational Program, and the



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE
Clyde Doughty, Jr

Bears Care Community Service Program. He also developed the Night Out and Day Out programs as part of the award-winning Bears community engagement initiatives.

In 2004, Doughty was selected by the National Athletic Directors Association as the Division II Northeast Region Athletic Director of the Year.

Doughty holds three degrees from NYIT: a bachelor's in business management and master's degrees in human resource management and human relations.

He has a wife, Pamela, and three adult children — Brandon, Jessica and Andre.

About Bowie State University

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The University places special emphasis on the science, technology, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit the website at www.bowiestate.edu.

Garner from A1

back to me with specific recommendations about how we strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color and minority communities that feel that bias is taking place; that we are going to take specific steps to improve the training and the work with state and local governments when it comes to policing in communities of color; that we are going to be scrupulous in investigating cases where we are concerned about the impartiality and accountability that's taking place.

"And as I said when I met with folks both from Ferguson

and law enforcement and clergy and civil rights activists, I said this is an issue that we've been dealing with for too long and it's time for us to make more progress than we've made. And I'm not interested in talk; I'm interested in action. And I am absolutely committed as President of the United States to making sure that we have a country in which everybody believes in the core principle that we are equal under the law.

"So I just got off the phone with my Attorney General, Eric Holder. He will have more specific comments about the case in New York. But I want everybody to know here, as well as everybody who may

be viewing my remarks here today, we are not going to let up until we see a strengthening of the trust and a strengthening of the accountability that exists between our communities and our law enforcement.

"And I say that as somebody who believes that law enforcement has an incredibly difficult job; that every man or woman in uniform are putting their lives at risk to protect us; that they have the right to come home, just like we do from our jobs; that there's real crime out there that they've got to tackle day in and day out -- but that they're only going to be able to do their job effectively if everybody has confidence in the system.

"And right now, unfortunately, we are seeing too many instances where people just do not have confidence that folks are being treated fairly. And in some cases, those may be misperceptions; but in some cases, that's a reality. And it is incumbent upon all of us, as Americans, regardless of race, region, faith, that we recognize this is an American problem, and not just a black problem or a brown problem or a Native American problem.

"This is an American problem. When anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law, that's a problem. And it's my job as President to help solve it."

Board of Public Works Approves Funding For Clean Water and the Chesapeake Bay

Grants and loans will reduce pollution, provide safe drinking water

By PRESS OFFICER
MDE

BALTIMORE, MD - On October 2, 2014, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved more than \$10 million in funding for projects to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and drinking water systems. The Board is composed of Governor Martin O'Malley, Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp and Comptroller Peter Franchot.

"Projects such as these are an important part of our effort to improve Maryland waterways and to provide safe and reliable drinking water," said Governor O'Malley. "These projects reduce pollution and

protect the environment and public health while creating jobs for more Marylanders."

The following funding was approved:

Sudlersville Wastewater Treatment Plant Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal project - Queen Anne's County

Grants totaling \$3,738,145 -- a \$2,364,420 Bay Restoration Fund grant and \$1,373,725 in Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Project grants -- to the Town of Sudlersville will help fund the Sudlersville Wastewater Treatment Plant Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal project. The project en-

tails the planning, design and construction of Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal upgrades of the Sudlersville Wastewater Treatment Plant and expansion from 75,000 gallons per day to 200,000 gallons per day. After the upgrades, the facility will reduce its nitrogen discharge by 83 percent and its phosphorus discharge by 90 percent, significantly reducing the amount of nutrients discharged to the Upper Chester River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Excessive amounts of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus lead to lowered levels of oxygen needed to support aquatic life in waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay. Enhanced Nutrient Re-

moval upgrades of the state's major wastewater treatment plants are a critical component of Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan.

East Prince Frederick Elevated Storage Tank Project - Calvert County

Grant and loan funding of \$2,918,000 -- a \$350,000 Water Supply Financial Assistance Program grant and a \$2,568,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund loan -- to Calvert County will help fund the construction of a 750,000 gallon elevated water storage tank necessary to meet peak demand and

See CHESAPEAKE Page A7

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin on World AIDS Day: “An HIV/AIDS-Free Generation is Within Our Reach.”

BALTIMORE — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), released the following statement in observance of World AIDS Day on December 1, 2014:

“Twenty-six years ago, during the first World AIDS Day, an HIV/AIDS diagnosis was a death sentence to many around the world. Today, in 2014, advances in treatment and massive changes in our collective response to the AIDS pandemic have transformed our ability to prevent and treat one of the most dreadful diseases we’ve ever seen. An HIV/AIDS free generation is within our reach. Everyday our capacity to end the pain and suffering associated with HIV/AIDS grows stronger. We turned this tide because of the heroic actions of those who have been fighting this disease since it began to spread and the innovative thinking of a new era of global humanitarians.

“The United States must remain a global leader in the fight for an HIV/AIDS free generation. At home, we must commit to investing in the treatment and testing to save lives in the U.S. and worldwide. Right here in Maryland, the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland are on the cutting edge of producing the next generation of treatments. Maryland nonprofits are helping those afflicted with HIV/AIDS achieve feats unheard of in 1988. And by outlawing the discrimination of Amer-

icans with preexisting conditions, the Affordable Care Act is ensuring that Americans with HIV/AIDS can access affordable, quality health insurance coverage.

“One major component of America’s success in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a bipartisan vision of the Congressional Black Caucus and President George W. Bush. PEPFAR has become the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease internationally, and it has saved millions of lives. PEPFAR’s initial aim was to provide treatment to 2 million people living with HIV, to prevent 7 million new HIV infections, and to provide care and support to 10 million people by 2010. By any standard, the program has been a resounding success, far exceeding those initial goals. PEPFAR directly supports nearly 5.1 million people undergoing treatment for HIV, and has contributed to a 20 percent reduction in new HIV infections globally.

“An HIV/AIDS-free generation is within our reach but only if we continue our all-out, coordinated attack on the disease. The global effort to end HIV/AIDS represents the best of what can happen when governments, the private sector and ordinary people work together for a common purpose. HIV/AIDS is not yet beaten and the challenges before us continue to be great, but I am confident that they can be overcome.”



Winter Festival of Lights

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: © M-NCPPC

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT WATKINS PARK

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Dates to be Announced. HOURS: 5-9:30 p.m. daily. \$5 per car; \$15 for mini-buses and limos; \$25 for buses; \$10 for multi-visit passes for cars and vans (good for three visits). The festival is FREE on December 25. You may bring canned food items to donate to local food banks for the holidays. Winter Festival of Lights is Prince George’s County, Maryland’s spectacular drive-through Christmas light display featuring more than a million twinkling lights.

The park is also home to the following facilities: Watkins Nature Center, the Chesapeake Carousel, Old Maryland Farm, the Watkins Regional Park miniature train and the Watkins Miniature Golf Course. Those who enjoy nature, sports, picnics, hiking, camping, or outdoor family activities will find plenty to do at Watkins Regional Park. Throughout the year the park hosts a variety of exciting special events including summer concerts in the park, the Winter Festival of Lights, National Senior Health Fitness Day, and charity runs/walks.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



A Time for Prayer, Thanksgiving, Discernment and Strategic Nonviolent Action

In the wake of Ferguson and a series of young Black male deaths at the hands of official law enforcement personnel (and one self-appointed neighborhood watchman who cost Trayvon Martin his life), I hope we will use this November time of Thanksgiving and celebration of Native American Heritage month by some first Americans, as an opportunity for national and personal soul searching and discussion about what it means to be an American. I also hope we will recommit to doing what we can to serve, speak up, and work with others to build a nation where every child is safe, seen, heard, respected and hopeful, and every parents’ son — and daughter — is valued and justly treated.

On the cusp of a holy season for Christians and Jews, it is timely to remember and help America remember that the kinship of human beings is more important than the fellowship of race and class and gender in a democratic society. We must all try harder to be decent and fair and insist that others be so in our presence by not telling, laughing at or tolerating racial, ethnic, religious, or gender jokes — or any practices intended to demean rather than enhance another human being. Walk away from them. Stare them down. Make them unacceptable in your presence. Through daily moral consciousness we must all counter the proliferating voices of racial and ethnic and religious division that are regaining too much respectability over the land. And let’s face up to rather than ignore our deep seated and growing racial problems while applauding the great progress we have made. We must all struggle to wake up and recognize that our ability to compete and lead credibly in a majority non-White world is as inextricably intertwined with our poor and non-White children as it is with our White and privileged ones, with our girls as well as our boys.

Let’s not spend a lot of useless time pinning blame and denying rather than thoughtfully examining the root causes of our

country’s systemic racial disparities and healing our divisions. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel put it aptly: “We are not all equally guilty, but we are all equally responsible” for building a decent and just America and ensuring the safety and hopefulness and opportunity of every child. So I offer a prayer for all of us in this time of national trial.

I Care and Am Willing To Serve and Work to Protect All Children©

Lord I cannot preach like Martin Luther King, Jr. or turn a poetic phrase like Maya Angelou and Robert Frost *but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to build a movement to protect all our children.*

I do not have Harriet Tubman’s courage, or Eleanor Roosevelt’s and Wilma Mankiller’s political skills *but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to save all our children.*

I cannot sing like Marian Anderson or Fannie Lou Hamer

or organize like Ella Baker and Bayard Rustin *but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to build a powerful nonviolent movement to protect all our children.*

I am not holy like Archbishop Tutu, forgiving like President Mandela, or disciplined like Mahatma Gandhi *but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to protect all our children.*

I am not brilliant like Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois or Elizabeth Cady Stanton, or as eloquent as Sojourner Truth and Booker T. Washington *but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to protect all our children.*

I have not Mother Teresa’s saintliness, The Dalai Lama’s or Dorothy Day’s love or Cesar Chavez’s gentle tough spirit *but I care and am willing to*

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Mel Watt Lowers Mortgage Down Payment Requirement

“Every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing on fair terms.”

— National Urban League 2025 housing empowerment goal

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Mel Watt is taking action to turn the American dream of homeownership into reality for many more people. Director Watt recently announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which he regulates and which are linchpins of the nation’s residential mortgage market, will reduce down payment requirements from 5 percent to 3 percent. This will enable many more low-income, but credit-worthy, consumers to become homeowners while helping the nation’s faltering housing market regain its traction.

We enthusiastically applaud this move and believe that as a result, more African American, Latino and working class borrowers of all races, who face an especially tough time securing mortgages, will have greater access to conventional loans, which are more affordable than other financing options. We are also encouraged that Director Watt’s plan will allow housing counseling in lieu of costly mortgage insurance to be a compensating factor to help make up for low down payments or low credit scores.

Saving the necessary down payment to purchase a home is one of the biggest obstacles to attaining the American Dream, especially for communities of color. African Americans and Latinos typically have lower incomes and are less likely to receive an inheritance or first-time buying help from their parents than white Americans. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, while it takes the typical white family 14 years to save for a 5 percent down payment, plus closing costs, it takes the typical Latino family 17 years and the typical African American family 21 years to save those amounts.

The National Urban League has long supported a reasonable and affordable “skin in the game” down payment requirement, but the ability to save a lump sum of money does not translate to the ability to pay a monthly mort-

gage. As Director Watt said at a Senate Banking Committee hearing recently, “The problem is that the down payment itself is not necessarily a reliable indicator of whether somebody will pay a loan. If they have good credit, if they have housing counseling... and know how to be responsible homeowners --- those can mitigate the perceived increased risk.”

Forty years of National Urban League housing counseling experience and independent research indicate that borrowers who receive housing counseling services are one-third less likely to be seriously delinquent on their mortgage than non-counseled borrowers. We have seen first-hand how housing counseling benefits borrowers, lenders, Fannie and Freddie, and communities. Nearly 50 of the National Urban League’s 95 affiliates provide home buyer education to ensure communities of color are well-informed of their housing rights and options. Since 2008, we have provided pre-and-post purchase counseling to nearly 180,000 clients.

Director Watt has been rolling out this policy for several months. On October 20, he told the Mortgage Bankers Association Annual Meeting, “To increase access for creditworthy but lower-wealth borrowers, FHFA is also working with the Enterprises [Fannie and Freddie] to develop sensible and responsible guidelines for mortgages with loan-to-value ratios between 95 and 97 percent. Through these revised guidelines, we believe that the Enterprises will be able to responsibly serve a targeted segment of creditworthy borrowers with lower-down payment mortgages by taking into account compensating factors. It is yet another much needed piece to the broader-access-to-credit puzzle.”

Director Watt recognizes that low down payments did not cause the housing crisis, but that irresponsible products and predatory lending did. Lowering Fannie and Freddie down payment requirements will allow tens of thousands of African Americans, Latinos and working class Americans to purchase lower cost mortgages and become homeowners. That is good for our communities and good for America.

The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post
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Contents © 2014, The Prince George’s Post

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General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Senior Editor Legusta Floyd
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Editor Michal W. Frangia
	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

The Evening News And Your Waistline

Whether you get your updates from a TV news show, the local paper, the Internet or just conversations with friends, these days the odds are good that what you're hearing is mostly bad news. And even when that news doesn't directly affect you, it can cause reactions that are very real and often fairly negative.

Most people aren't aware that simply hearing about bad things can increase the levels of anxiety and stress they are experiencing.

And, unfortunately, many people react to higher stress levels by turning more to something we all find comforting — food. It's called "stress eating" because it feeds an emotional rather than a physical hunger.

We do it because food, especially sweet things, trigger emotional and chemical reactions in our bodies that do make us feel better, though only for a sort time (then it's time for another snack).

Stress eating is a problem because it's one of the most common sources of excessive weight gain, something that can directly impact our self-image and health.

So instead of reaching for that donut the next time the stock market is tumbling, look for alternative ways to handle the stress.

Try analyzing why you're eating -- are you snacking because you're physically hungry or simply because you're stressed or bored or unhappy?

If it's emotional eating, try activities besides eating that can help calm you. Exercise, for example, not only burns calories and improves muscle tone, but also boosts the action of feel-good neurotransmitters in your body. And just a walk around the block will do the job.

Other stress busters include reading a book, listening to music, or just calling a friend.

And if you do need to snack, make it a healthy choice, like that piece of fruit instead of a donut or candy bar. Foods high in sugar and calories might quickly elevate good feelings, but they also lead to a sharp emotional crash as sugar levels drop.

Eating in response to stress is a common but fixable problem. Think about why you're eating and what you could do instead to help you feel calmer and more relaxed without resorting to food. Sometimes just being more aware of stress eating can do a great deal to minimize the problem.

If you think you are stress eating and want to get in control, consider seeking the help a professional counselor can offer to overcome the problem.

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

Food Basket from A1

your financial support to continue to provide food baskets to those in need.

Please mail your check early and help us get started on a bigger, more generous Christmas Food Basket program. Please make your check payable to "PSAP FOOD" and mail it to us at P.O. Box 548, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-0548. The Public Safety Assistance Program is a 501(C)3 organization and 100% of your contribution goes to

the Food Basket Program. Deliveries of food baskets will be made December 11 through December 22, 2014, starting from the Bunker Hill Fire Station #855 located at 3716 Rhode Island Avenue in Brentwood, Maryland.

Thank you in advance for your support. We appreciate your generosity and wish the very best for you and your family this holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. William Milligan at 240-508-9080.

Tax Credit from A1

bly allow the film production activity tax to expire as scheduled on July 1, 2016.

Legislative Services staff members who contributed to the report were present at the meeting to defend their recommendations.

"The current funding amount is about \$25 million (per year). But is that what optimizes economic benefits to the state?" said Robert Rehrmann, a policy analyst who contributed to the report.

Film production tax credits have become more popular in the last decade, with 37 states and the District offering some form of incentive in 2014.

In a letter to Gov. Martin O'Malley last year, Charlie Goldstein, senior vice president of MRC Studios, which produces

"House of Cards," warned that if the show does not receive tax credits, they will look to film in another state.

In total for all productions, Maryland has provided or set aside \$62.5 million in tax credits from fiscal year 2012 through 2016.

Supporters of the tax say the film industry promotes economic growth in Maryland by bringing in jobs and more local spending, and that we need to offer at least \$25 million in credits each year to be competitive with what other states offer.

"For many small businesses in the state, it has made the difference for keeping their doors open, the difference in hiring new staff, or the difference in making capital improvements to their property," said Hannah Byron, assistant secretary for

New Website Available on Quality of Care in Maryland Hospitals

Commission's Health Care Quality Reports website provides tool for comparing quality and performance on Maryland health care providers

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

Baltimore, MD (December 2, 2014) -- The Maryland Health Care Commission has announced the simultaneous launch of the Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website and the expanded Hospital Performance Guide.

The Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website brings together the Commission's consumer guides on hospitals, long term care, and ambulatory surgery centers, as well as the quality report on health benefits plans, to create a comprehensive, consumer friendly resource tool. Information on the site includes consumer ratings of the care provided, safety and quality results, and pricing information for certain types of hospital services and nursing home care. On each of the guides, consumers can con-

struct comparison reports on selected providers.

"The Maryland Health Care Quality Reports represents a shift in public reporting toward more consumer centered tools that enable consumers to become more engaged in their healthcare decisions," said Ben Steffen, Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission.

The new Hospital Performance Guide, now one key component of the Maryland Health Care Quality Reports, enables consumers to search and compare information on the 46 Maryland hospitals. The site has been redesigned based on the input from consumer focus groups and quality experts. The new guide contains important data on how well hospitals perform on quality measures — such as the frequency of certain infections that develop in the hospital and how often patients

have to be readmitted to the hospital. Chairman of the Maryland Health Care Commission, Dr. Craig Tanio, announced release of the redesigned Performance Guide, which includes information on patient satisfaction, infection reporting, patient safety, and the costs of 25 common services such as childbirth and heart failure.

"This vastly improved website will provide new information in an easy-to-use format to patients and will inform hospital decision makers on how their institutions compare, both in Maryland and to national standards for performance," said Dr. Tanio.

About the Maryland Health Care Commission

The Maryland Health Care Commission is a 15-member independent regulatory agency whose mission is to plan for health system needs, pro-

mote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public. The 15 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. The Commission's vision for Maryland is to ensure that informed consumers hold the health care system accountable and have access to affordable and appropriate health care services through programs that serve as models for the nation.

For Additional Information about the Hospital Guide, contact: Theresa Lee, Director, Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting at 410-764-3328

USDA Announces \$9.7 Million in Dedicated Outreach and Technical Assistance to Diversify American Agriculture

Additional Funds Support Broadband and Infrastructure Development in Indian Country

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

WASHINGTON — Today, US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced \$9.7 million in grants to 62 community-based and non-profit organizations, and educational institutions to conduct training, outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged (including tribal) and veteran farmers and ranchers. These awards are distributed through the Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program, also known as the "2501 Program".

"Our nation's farmers and ranchers are diverse in experience, background and knowledge, giving us the tools we need to build a resilient agricultural system," said Secretary Vilsack. "Today's announcement is part of our ongoing commitment to identify, recruit and train a vibrant next generation of farmers and ranchers who can carry American agriculture into the future. It is also part of our pledge to assist military veterans find economic opportunity as they return to civilian life."

Secretary Vilsack made today's announcement at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference, a gathering of leaders from the

country's 566 federally recognized Tribes. The 2501 Program primarily partners with Historically Black Land Grant Universities (1890 Land Grant Institutions), Native American Land Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities (1994 Land Grant Institutions), Hispanic-Serving Institutions of higher education, and community-based and non-profit organizations that work with minority and veteran farmers and ranchers.

The 2501 Program has distributed more than \$66 million to 250 partners since 2010. The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the program and expanded assistance to include military veterans. The program is administered by the USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

Of today's announced grants, 31 (50 percent) will support efforts in states participating in USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative, an effort to direct USDA support and services to underserved rural areas experiencing chronic poverty. Twenty-five (39 percent) of the grants will go to partnerships directly targeting veterans interested in farming and are part of USDA's enhanced commitment to expanding services to veterans in agriculture. Twelve grants (20 percent) will directly benefit tribal and native communities.

This year's awards will be distributed in 34 states, Puerto Rico and the Federated States of Micronesia and are part of USDA's efforts to support new and beginning farmers.

During his remarks at the Tribal Nations Conference, the Secretary announced additional support to Native communities including:

- A \$5.4 million loan to upgrade broadband service for residents of New Mexico's Mescalero Apache Reservation. This is the first telecommunications loan USDA has made under the Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA) provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. Congress implemented SUTA to help USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) improve Tribal infrastructure including offering Tribal borrowers lower interest rates and extended payment terms for RUS loans. It also waives some requirements that applicants provide matching funds for approved projects.

- 28 loans and grants totaling \$4.1 million to 1994 Land Grant Tribal Colleges through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program. This program provides loans and grants to construct, enlarge or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and public services.

- Partnerships between USDA and three Tribal Colleges (Oglala

Lakota College, Kyle, S.D.; Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, N.M.; United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, N.D.) to provide grant writing assistance and other services to help traditionally underserved communities access federal resources as appropriate.

USDA has made significant investments in economic development, housing and infrastructure projects benefiting American Indians and Alaska Natives. More information is available at www.usda.gov/tribalrelations.

Today's 2501 announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DSNI SHAE THOMPSON.
Robert Rehrmann, a policy analyst from the Department of Legislative Services, addresses the Tax Credit Evaluation Committee at the Maryland General Assembly on December 2, 2014.

tax credit will have to be made by the General Assembly by July 1 and could be influenced by Gov.-elect Larry J. Hogan Jr.

"We'll take a look at (the report) and have something to talk about later ... there's one governor at a time," Hogan said Tuesday.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1”

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1
Grade: B+

Rated PG-13, several point-blank executions, people being mowed down by gunfire, etc., but very little blood is shown
2 hrs., 3 min

Having survived back-to-back trips to the arena in *The Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire*, fearless Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) graduates to real-life struggles in *Mockingjay*, applying what she has learned about war, propaganda, and public relations to the growing rebellion against Panem's oppressive government.

Yes, the last installment in Suzanne Collins' book trilogy (split into two movies for maximum financial impact) brings the tale to its socio-political conclusion, defying readers who assumed the whole enterprise was nothing more than an excuse to have teenagers kill each other (not that this would be a bad thing for it to have been).

The film versions have further defied expectations by being serious-minded and intense, aimed at young people but made as if for adults. *Mockingjay — Part 1* (again directed by *Catching Fire*'s Francis Lawrence) is the best yet, a heady action drama that minimizes the dull romantic triangle and forsakes the titular Games altogether without seeming like it has wandered from its original purpose. Indeed, as becomes clear in this movie and will presumably be driven home in the final one, this — the fight for liberty and justice — has been the point all along.

Katniss is now in District 13 — or more precisely beneath it, in a vast underground bunker to which residents fled when the Capitol bombed them some years ago. A people's government has sprung up here, with noble President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) leading the 13 ers as they strategize, gather resources, and plan the overthrow of President Snow's (Donald Sutherland) illegitimate regime.

On the advice of Capitol traitor Plutarch Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman), Pres. Coin asks Katniss to be the face of the rebellion by appearing in recruitment videos that 13's tech



ROTTENTOMATOES

The Hunger Games continues to set the world on fire with *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*, which finds Katniss Everdeen in District 13 after she literally shatters the games forever. Under the leadership of President Coin and the advice of her trusted friends, Katniss spreads her wings as she fights to save Peeta and a nation moved by her courage. *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1* is directed by Francis Lawrence from a screenplay by Danny Strong and Peter Craig and produced by Nina Jacobson's Color Force in tandem with producer Jon Kilik. The novel on which the film is based is the third in a trilogy written by Suzanne Collins that has over 65 million copies in print in the U.S. alone. (c) Lionsgate

wizards (like Beetee, played by Jeffrey Wright) will send to all of Panem via pirated TV signals. But Katniss, furious that she was saved while Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) remains in the Capitol's clutches, refuses to participate unless a rescue mission is planned. This becomes politically unpopular in District 13 when Peeta appears on Capitol TV urging the rebels to put down their arms and join Pres. Snow, but Katniss and Finnick (Sam Claflin) and Gale (Liam Hemsworth) are sure Peeta didn't mean it. If the Capitol is going to use Peeta as a propaganda tool, well, you better believe the rebellion will use Katniss.

As any Hunger Games winner knows, it's not your talents that earn you the hearts and minds of the people, it's your image. One of the most fascinating aspects of this series is the way it frankly acknowledges the primacy of style over substance when it comes to winning P.R. battles, its savviness about the importance of an indelible image. (It's also rather disquieting to think that even in a future dystopia, everything will still be decided

by who looks better on TV.) With a subdued but still game Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks) on hand to coach her, Katniss tries to inspire patriotism in a commercial shot on the District 13 sound stages, but finds she can't do it. She's too authentic, man. She can't fake it. The only solution: send her to an actual battleground and film her being awesome in her natural environment.

“And if you're killed?” asks Pres. Coin.

“Make sure you get it on camera,” Katniss replies.

Since the Games themselves have never felt like the focus of the story, it's no loss that they don't have an equivalent in this chapter. There's plenty of other life-or-death action, from thrilling uprisings in the districts to a tense extraction operation that recalls, of all things, *Zero Dark Thirty*. And despite only being “Part 1,” the film has enough satisfying story movement to stand as a complete chapter. There's obviously more to come, but we don't feel like we've been short-changed.

The character work is good, too. Lawrence continues to

prove invaluable as Katniss, delivering stirring emotion every time it's called for (which is often); Woody Harrelson shines in his few scenes as a newly sober Haymitch, giving useful counsel to his protegee; Elizabeth Banks and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman both shine whenever they are onscreen; and Julianne Moore gets to say things like “When you fired your arrow at the forcefield, you electrified the nation!” without rolling her eyes.

Many books meant for teenagers get turned into movies that don't appeal to anyone else. And that's fine; there's nothing wrong with having a limited audience. But the Hunger Games series has been an invigorating surprise, offering something for every quadrant without pandering (too much) to any of them. As we approach the finale to this gut-wrenching dystopian saga, it's worth noting how rare it is to see such an engaging story told so well for such a sustained length of time. The only downside is that we're due for an epidemic of people naming their daughters Katniss, which I'm not sure a decent society should permit.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Beyond the Drug Raids: Why the Feds Are Fed Up With the NFL



Let's be clear: the recent raid on five NFL teams by the Drug Enforcement Agency to see if teams were doubling as illegal painkiller dispensaries has little to do with concerns about how our nation's Sunday heroes Novocain themselves for gridiron glory. The fact that the NFL and their teams of doctors and nurses give out prescription pills like Halloween candy and break out syringes to top off sessions of physical therapy has been public knowledge for over forty years. Player memoirs like the 1970s *Out of their League*, by Cardinal linebacker Dave Meggyesy, and Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Peter Gent's semi-autobiographical bestseller *North Dallas Forty*, addressed such things with a nonchalant frankness bordering on the blasé. These practices are also discussed by former players with a shrug as just the price they pay for keeping the trains—those same trains carrying billions of dollars in revenue—running on schedule. Players tend to come from poverty and play an average of just three and a half years on largely non-guaranteed contracts. They will do what they have to do to get out there on Sunday, and teams will be only too happy to oblige.

The real story here is that these raids happened at all. The NFL employs twenty-six full-time lobbyists and spends about \$1.5 million per election cycle to make sure that the feds leave the league alone and no one looks too closely at how the sausages are made. Pro football is supposed to be an entity that operates in a magical constitution-free zone of antitrust exemptions and tax breaks, with numbing opiates in every locker. But those days appear to be as dead as play-off hopes in Oakland.

A combination of the bumbling Clouseau-esque stewardship of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, public pressure and a never-ending cascade of scandals has created a relationship between the NFL and the federal government described to me by a hill lobbyist as “something south of toxic.” In September they hired democratic operative Cynthia Hogan to head their lobbying operation in an effort at making their relationship with this administration at least better than poisonous, but this is beyond Cynthia Hogan. Hell, this is beyond Olivia Pope. The federal government is out for a chunk of Roger Goodell's flesh and the evidence of this is there for anyone who cares to look.

Over the last three months, we have seen the Federal Communications Commission—a body appointed by the Obama administration—both rescind the decades-old NFL blackout rule and threaten to ban the dictionary-defined slur that brands the Washington football team from being uttered over broadcast television. We have seen rage by public officials over how the NFL and especially Roger Goodell has ignored or even covered up issues of violence against women. We have seen Goodell again and again, whether in the Ray Rice domestic violence case or in his recent ruling on Adrian Peterson's season-long suspension for hitting his child with a stick, careening from one crisis to the next, absent of a moral compass while thumbing his nose at the Players Association, public pressure or common sense. We have seen the open questioning on Capitol Hill of the NFL corporate office's tax-free status, something estimated to save the league \$10 million dollars a year—a move championed by now-retired Republican senator from Oklahoma Tom Coburn. We have also seen the unthinkable: senators asking the “Emperor has no clothes” question of why the NFL gets any special treatment at all.

When politicians see the once bullet-proof NFL shield, with all of its cultural capital, as a target for scoring easy political points, it speaks volumes all by itself. This humiliating DEA raid is really just a dash a salt on an already simmering stew. Goodell's league has long carried itself like the sporting equivalent of Goldman-Sachs; simply too big to fail. Those days of anti-accountability are over. Roger Goodell and the collection of owners that pull his string are failing at the most fundamental task of a league built on the broken bodies of its players: keeping people's attention firmly focused on the field. Now people—and politicians—are looking at what is behind the curtain and scrutiny does them no favors. It is perfectly understandable why many would see conflict between the federal government and the powers that be in the world of football as the Kang vs. Kodos of political battles. But this is a sport that is being victimized less by big government than by their own arrogance and negligence. Whether we are talking about the covered-up dangers of youth football, the plantation economy of the NCAA, or the corporate culture of the NFL, the feds are not done with the people who run this sport. Not by a longshot.?????

More Than One-In-Five Crashes Involves Drowsy Drivers

AAA Foundation Research Finds Driver Fatigue To Be Serious, Underreported Impairment

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

More than one-in-five (21 percent) fatal crashes involve driver fatigue, according to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. These results help confirm what safety experts have long suspected: the prevalence of drowsy driving is much greater than official statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) currently indicate. As daylight saving time ends and evening commutes darken, AAA urges drivers to recognize warning signs of driver fatigue and take action to avoid tragedy during this holiday season.

“This new research further confirms that drowsy driving is a serious traffic safety problem,” warned Peter Kissinger,

President and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “Unfortunately, drivers often underestimate this risk and overestimate their ability to combat drowsiness behind the wheel.”

The report also found that drowsy driving crashes, a mainstay in recent headlines, are not without consequence. One third of crashes involving a drowsy driver result in injuries and more than 6,000 fatigue-related crashes each year result in at least one fatality.

“This study reveals a much greater prevalence of drowsy driving than the official statistics published by NHTSA suggest,” observed John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. “Like distraction, there are limitations in relying on crash-involved drivers to realize, re-

member and willfully report their level of impairment. This study leveraged findings from trained crash investigators, as opposed to police reports, as a source of data.”

Previous research from the AAA Foundation revealed that young adult drivers, ages 19-24, are the most likely to admit to driving while drowsy, with 33 percent reporting doing so in the last month. In contrast, the oldest drivers (ages 75+) and the youngest (ages 16-18) were the least likely to report the same offense.

“Despite the fact that 95 percent of Americans deem it ‘unacceptable’ to drive when they are so tired that they have a hard time keeping their eyes open, more than 28 percent admit to doing so in the last month,” continued Kissinger. “Like other impairments, driving while drowsy is not without risk.”

AAA urges drivers to understand the warning signs of drowsy driving:

- The inability to recall the last few miles traveled;
- Having disconnected or wandering thoughts;
- Having difficulty focusing or keeping your eyes open;
- Feeling as though your head is very heavy;
- Drifting out of your driving lane, perhaps driving on the rumble strips;
- Yawning repeatedly;
- Accidentally tailgating other vehicles;
- Missing traffic signs.

When faced with fatigue, AAA urges drivers to find a safe place to pull over if experiencing

Calendar of Events

December 11 — December 17, 2014

28th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Date and Time: Through Thursday, January 1, 2015, 5-9:30 pm
Description: Add a little sparkle to your holidays at the Annual Winter Festival of Lights. In its 28th year, this spectacular holiday drive-through event will delight all family members, with the array of twinkling lights on display. Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

Cost: \$5/cars & vans; \$15/mini-buses & limos; \$25/buses \$10/multi-visit passes for cars & vans.
The festival is FREE on Dec. 25.

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544;

Linea en Español: 301-445-4509

Xtreme Teens: Holiday Bingo

Date and Time: Friday, December 12, 2014 7-10 pm

Description: It's December, so why not play a game of bingo? This time there's a twist: you'll have the chance to create a personalized bingo card using the gifts you'd like for Christmas. Then have fun trying your luck to see if it's one of the gifts pulled.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Beltsville Community Center

3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705

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

Senior Movie at the Heights

Date and Time: Friday, December 12, 2014 11 am-1 pm

Description: Enjoy an afternoon watching the award-winning film, "Single Moms Club." Refreshments will be provided.

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

Ages: 55 & up

Location: Marlow Heights Community Center

2800 St. Clair Drive, Marlow Heights 20748

Contact: 301-423-0505; TTY 301-203-6030

Holiday Wine Tasting at Marietta House

Date and Time: Saturday December 13, 2014 5-8 pm

Description: Just in time for holiday shopping! Sample the wines from local Maryland wineries and purchase bottled wine as gifts. For your convenience, wines will be paired with cheeses or chocolate.

Cost: \$10/person

Ages: 21 & up (IDs are required)

Location: Marietta House Museum

5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale 20769

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

'Tis the Season

Date & Time: Saturday, December 13, 2014 12 noon-4 pm

Description: With the onset of winter, how did Southern Maryland families prepare for the season? Find out how they celebrate the holidays, while enduring the hardships of the Civil War. At this event, receive a holiday discount in the museum shop and sample cider and cookies. Regular tour admission.

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

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Surratt House Museum 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton

Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

Breakfast with Santa

Date and Time: Saturday, December 13, 2014 10 am - 12 noon

Description: Families will enjoy a memorable morning with Kris Kringle complete with festive findings, from a catered breakfast to live entertainment and other surprises reserved for the day. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Photo with Santa costs \$3. Space is limited to first 100 registrants.

Pre-register by December 5, 2014.

Cost: Residents: \$8; Non-Residents: \$10

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Baden Community Center

13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine 20613

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

Holiday Trains and Planes

Date and Time: Saturday, December 13 -

Saturday, December 20, 2014

Description: During the holiday season College Park Aviation Museum gets ready for the festivities as miniature trains, villages, tunnels, and depots spark the imagination and bring history to life. The National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating and constantly moving display of model railroads to the Museum.

Cost: FREE with museum admission

Ages: All Ages

Location: College Park Aviation Museum

1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive

College Park, 20740

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

Deck The Halls

Date and Time: Saturday, December 13, 2014 1-4 pm

Description: Come out for a fun-filled afternoon with carols, live entertainment, refreshments, and a friendly wreath making competition. All wreaths made will be used to decorate the halls of a local Senior Living Facility.

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

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Temple Hills Community Center

5300 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills 20748

Contact: 301-894-6616; TTY 301-203-6030

15th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show

Date and Time: Friday-Sunday, December 12-December 14, 12 noon-5 pm

Description: For a sweet treat, come view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses! Although tempting, no nibbling allowed! You will have the opportunity to vote for best house in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition.

No reservations required.

Cost: \$1/person; Children 4 & under free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum

14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro

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

EARTH TALK ... Rooftop Solar Finally Cost Competitive with Grid in U.S.

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that the price of getting solar panels installed on a home is lower than ever, but has it gotten to the point anywhere in the U.S. where it's actually cheaper than traditional grid power yet?

— Lester Milstein,
Boston, MA

Rooftop solar panels on have always been the province of well-to-do, eco-friendly folks willing to shell out extra bucks to be green, but that is all starting to change. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the cost of putting solar panels on a typical American house has fallen by some 70 percent over the last decade and a half. And a recent report from Deutsche Bank shows that solar has already achieved so-called "price parity" with fossil fuel-based grid power in 10 U.S. states. Deutsche Bank goes on to say that solar electricity is on track to be as cheap or cheaper than average electricity-bill prices in all but three states by 2016—assuming, that is, that the federal government maintains the 30 percent solar investment tax credit it currently offers homeowners on installation and equipment costs.

But therein could lie the rub. The federal tax credit for residential solar installations expires in 2016, and it's any-

body's guess whether and to what extent the Republican-dominated Congress will renew it. Legislative analysts report that while Congress is unlikely to abandon the program entirely, big cutbacks could be on the way. But Deutsche Bank maintains that even if the credit is reduced to 10 percent, solar power would still achieve price parity with conventional electricity in some 36 states by 2016.

Meanwhile, homeowners in states where additional local incentives are available and there's lots of sunshine—such as across the Southwest—may in fact already be able to power their homes cheaper with the sun than from the grid. Homeowners looking to go solar should check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewable and Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online database of all the different state and local incentives for solar and other forms of renewable energy.

And prices for solar are expected to keep falling as technologies improve and financing becomes more affordable. Solar leasing has helped hundreds of thousands of Americans realize the dream of going solar without breaking the bank. The companies behind such programs—SolarCity, SunRun and others—take care of installation, maintenance and upgrades while the customer ends up paying about as much for clean, green power as for grid power from coal or other fossil fuels.

Waste from A1

308 in Largo, Maryland. During the Conference, information about the project including objectives, design, construction, operation, finance and ongoing maintenance of the facility will be discussed. Proposals must be submitted by March 12, 2015 for review and consideration.

"This is an invitation for the new school to come into session here in Prince George's. We are changing the way we think about waste—that instead of it being a

useless material thrown away in a big pile, it is a valuable resource that can be recovered, utilized and sold as compost, recycling or energy. Through this initiative, we seek a long-term sustainable and environmentally friendly solution or family of solutions that will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels while advancing our use of technology to achieve the goal of zero waste in Prince George's County," said DoE Director Adam Ortiz.

Design options should include long-term, environmentally friendly, economic and



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The cost of electricity derived from residential rooftop solar panels could achieve "price parity" with fossil-fuel-based grid power in 47 U.S. states by 2016 according to a new report from Deutsche Bank.

Of course, solar is still a bit player in the scheme of things in terms of U.S. and global electricity production. But with costs coming down, we can expect to see a lot more solar panels going up on rooftops across the land in the coming decade. Environmentalists concerned about our changing climate say the sooner the better, as our dependency on coal and other fossil fuels for electricity is a big contributor to global warming.

Congress will definitely be considering whether or not to extend the solar investment tax credit when it reconvenes in 2015. If you're part of the silent majority of Americans who would like to see the

credit extended so that middle class Americans can continue to afford to convert to solar power, be sure to speak up and let your Congressional delegation know.

CONTACTS: Deutsche Bank, www.db.com; National Renewable Energy Laboratory, www.nrel.gov; SolarCity, www.solarcity.com; SunRun, www.sunrun.com.

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(www.emagazine.com).

Send questions to:

earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Chesapeake from A3

fire flow requirements for the East Prince Frederick Town Center. The project will provide increased capacity within the Prince Frederick Water System and will aid in achieving compliance with the state-mandated arsenic requirements.

Rising Sun Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project - Cecil County

Grants totaling \$2,798,620 -- a \$1,099,268 Bay Restoration Fund grant and a \$1,699,353 Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Project grant -- to the Town of Rising Sun will help fund the Rising Sun Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project. The project entails the planning, design and construction of Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal upgrades of the Rising Sun Wastewater Treatment Plant and expansion from 257,000 gallons per day to 500,000 gallons per day. After the upgrades, the facility will reduce its nitrogen discharge by 83 percent and its phosphorus discharge by 90 percent, significantly reducing the amount of nutrients discharged to Stone Run and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Excessive amounts of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus lead to lowered levels of oxygen needed to support aquatic life in waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay. Enhanced

Nutrient Removal upgrades of the state's major wastewater treatment plants are a critical component of Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan.

Sharptown Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project - Wicomico County

Grant and loan funding of \$647,332 -- a \$478,332 Water Supply Financial Assistance grant and a \$169,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund loan -- to the Town of Sharptown will help fund the Sharptown Water Treatment Facility Upgrade. The project entails the planning, design and construction of a water treatment upgrade along with new backup well construction at the existing Sharptown Water Treatment Facility. This project is

necessary to meet federal and State drinking water standards. The Town of Sharptown is under a consent order from MDE to take corrective measures to consistently lower Total Tri-halomethane levels.

Williamsport Water Tank and Solenoid Control Valve Project - Washington County

A \$160,000 Water Supply Financial Assistance grant to the Town of Williamsport will help fund the Williamsport Water Tank and Solenoid Control Valve project. The proposed project entails upgrades to the Town of Williamsport's elevated storage tank, which has been taken out of service. The upgrades include a new solenoid control valve and related work and painting required to get the tank back into service.

Crashes from A6

any of the drowsy driving symptoms. To remain alert and be safer behind the wheel, AAA suggests:

- Get plenty of sleep (at least seven hours), especially the night before a long drive;
- Drive at times when you are normally awake;
- Schedule a break every two hours or every 100 miles;
- Avoid heavy foods;
- Travel with an alert passenger and take turns driving;
- Avoid medications that cause drowsiness or other impairment; and
- Consult with a sleep specialist or other medical professional if you have trouble getting enough rest or are chronically fatigued.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's Prevalence of Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drowsy Drivers report is based on the analysis of a representative sample of 14,268 crashes that occurred in years 2009 - 2013 in which at least one vehicle was towed from the scene.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 54 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at AAA.com.



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