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PG County 2015 Maryland General Assembly Priorities

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro, MD – Last Wednesday, January 14, the Maryland General Assembly opened its 2015 legislative session. County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, joined the Prince George's County Council and the Prince George's County House and Senate Delegations on opening day to begin promoting the County's legislative priorities to state legislators. To view pictures from the First Day of the 2015 General Assembly Session, please click here. County Executive Baker was

also interviewed on NewsChannel 8's "NewsTalk with Bruce DePuyt" about the legislative priorities of Prince George's County - that interview can be viewed here.

"Prince George's County is in a very strong position to be the economic engine of Maryland," said County Executive Baker. "With its available land inventory and transit-oriented development nodes throughout our jurisdiction, Prince George's County is poised to turn these assets into revenue generation and job creation

See PRIORITIES Page A3

County Executive Baker on the Inauguration of Gov. Hogan and Lt. Gov. Rutherford

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro, MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following the inauguration of Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan, Jr. and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford.

"On behalf of the residents of Prince George's County, I would like to congratulate Governor Lawrence J. Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford on their inauguration as the state's highest elected officials. I wish both

of them, and their families, the best as they take the reins of leadership for our great State of Maryland. As Maryland's 62nd Governor, he assumes this new role at a critical moment in our state's history. I look forward to working with the Hogan/Rutherford Administration over the next four years as Prince George's County's continues its remarkable renaissance with unprecedented economic development, historic crime decreases, and improvements

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN.

Maryland Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Governor Larry Hogan and Comptroller Peter Franchot listen to an appeal at a Board of Public Works meeting in the State House in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

Hogan, Franchot Share Concerns Over Procurement, School Maintenance at Governor's First Public Works meeting

By BRIAN MARRON AND
ANJALI SHASTRY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — At his first Board of Public Works meeting, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan found an ally in Comptroller Peter Franchot, who supported the governor's increased focus on school maintenance over replacement, and

reforming the state's contract-award process.

Seventeen school districts and the Maryland School for the Blind presented funding requests to repair or rebuild existing schools.

Hogan said he is disgruntled by efforts to rebuild schools entirely, saying that maintenance should keep buildings function-

ing and they should not have to "build a new school every 15 or 20 years."

Franchot also blasted some jurisdictions for their "icy indifference" toward school maintenance, which can leave buildings too rundown to use.

Among the requests were Baltimore County asking for funding to do basic upkeep on

schools, such as providing heating and air conditioning; Cecil County requesting funding regarding water leakage in an elementary school; and Charles County asking for a new elementary school due to overcrowding in existing schools.

See HOGAN Page A5

Unit Citation Awarded to Crews for Freeing Child's Hand from Escalator

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

Prince George's County Firefighter/Medics, career and volunteer, and members of the Departments Technical Rescue Team were recognized for their efforts that resulted in the safe removal of a child's hand entangled in an escalator mechanism. Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor bestowed a seldom presented and highly prestigious Unit Citation to 24 personnel in a ceremony held at the Silver Hill Fire/EMS Station on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

The Unit Citation was awarded for an incident occurring on the evening of Tuesday, April 17, 2014, when fire/EMS units from Silver Hill Fire/EMS Station 829, Morningside Fire/EMS Station 827 and the Technical Rescue Team from the Fort Washington Fire/EMS Station 847 responded to Iverson Mall for the report of a child's hand trapped in an escalator. Deputy Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale, Assistant Fire

Chief Paul Gomez and Battalion Commander Warren Hughes also responded to the incident based on the severity of the incident.

Crews arrived to find a young boy whose hand was pinned between a metal kick plate and the rubber grab-rail at the bottom of the escalator. It soon became apparent that crews were facing two challenges: the victim's position and dismantling the escalator, which was necessary to ascertain the true depth of entrapment. Due to the age and poor condition of the device, a more unconventional technique was required to free his hand. Several attempts were made to lubricate the boy's hand and gently slide it out; however, his response of intense pain made this the least favorable option. After considerable cutting and prying, it was determined that slicing through the rubber grab rail and employing a jack to lift and remove the drive wheel was the best alternative. Taking extreme precaution to avoid further harming the child, chains were used to



PHOTO COURTESY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT
A plaque was presented that included incident details and all the members recognized. This plaque will be on display on the Silver Hill Fire/EMS Station.

alleviate the weight of the drive wheel and pop the pin that held it in place. With some assistance, he was able to remove his fingers from the escalator. The patient was transported to the hospital and placed in the care of emergency room staff. Following a brief stay in the hospital, he was released in good condition.

Despite a stressful and lengthy extrication process, the

child's hand was successfully removed from the device. In making the presentation Fire Chief Bashoor stated, "Due to the dedication, expertise, and excellent teamwork demonstrated on this incident, the child's injuries were minimal. For your outstanding perform-

See CITATION Page A7

Franklin on the Passing of Former PG County Council Member Marvin F. Wilson

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

The members of the Prince George's County Council and the citizens we are privileged to serve are deeply saddened to hear of yesterday's passing of the Honorable Marvin F. Wilson, former Council Member representing the communities of District 5. Our thoughts and prayers are for his family, especially his wife Verley, their daughters Tonya and Donna, and their grandchildren, at this most difficult time.

For more than 40 years, Marvin Wilson served the people of Prince George's County, tirelessly advocating for citizens young and old, and such quality of life issues as economic development, education, housing, public safety and recreation.

Marvin Wilson served two terms on the County Council. First appointed to the Council in July 1994 to fill the unexpired term of the late James

C. Fletcher, Jr., Council Member Wilson was elected to his first full term in the November 1994 General Election, and re-elected to a second term in 1998.

Council Member Marvin Wilson's achievements were numerous; however we are continuously reminded of his dedicated service to the people of this County, especially those in his beloved District 5 community, upon every visit to the Marvin F. Wilson Stadium at the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex in Prince George's County, which honors his tenacity and leadership in achieving a vision of Olympic proportions.

Today, we mourn a champion for the residents of District 5 and across the entire County; but we also celebrate his deep commitment, relentless advocacy and compassion, and we offer our sincere appreciation for the devoted service of Marvin Wilson.

Forever remembered, he will be truly missed.

INSIDE

O'Malley 'Seriously Thinking' About Running For President

Mileah Kromer, a political scientist who oversees the Goucher poll and a professor at Goucher College, said O'Malley's record, such as abolishing the death penalty and legalizing gay marriage, will play well with the Democratic primary electorate, but he will likely be unsuccessful in his bid for the presidency. **Community, Page A3**

It's Time for Hollywood to Act Like Diversity Matters

How can it be that the top one percent of Americans enjoy more of the nation's wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined and that millions of children are hungry and homeless and poorly educated? **Commentary, Page A4**

Cardin, Mikulski Oppose Obama Plan to Allow Offshore Drilling in Atlantic

The administration's proposal would allow leasing of areas offshore of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia as part of the nation's Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. **Business, Page A5**

Movie Review: "Taken 3"

Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, Bryan Mills goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. Mills must use his "particular set of skills," to track down the real killers, exact his unique brand of justice, and protect the only thing that matters to him now - his daughter. **Out on the Town, Page A6**

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is being done to safeguard grizzly bears now? I heard that their numbers are dwindling and they could vanish from the Lower 48 if we don't protect them.

— Jim Meth,
Akron, OH

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Morningside VFD names Michael Mavaddat "Top Performer of the Year"

The 2014 Award Winners of the year were announced at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's annual banquet on Jan. 24. Awards were presented to the following:

Top Performer, Michael Mavaddat; Rookie of the Year, Seth Astwood; Firefighter/EMT of the Year, Michael O'Brien; Firefighter of the Year, Timothy Cordero; Line Officer of the Year, Michael Stout, Associate Member of the Year, Jamie Hansen; Fire Chief's Award, Tommy "Thumper" Groom; President's Award, Stephanie Miller; President's Award, Brian Padgett.

From their website: "As we continue to roll-on, another annual banquet has come and gone. The past year was undoubtedly one for the record books and an opportunity for the membership to come together is always a blessing."

Tragic accident in Morningside

A woman was killed after being pinned between her van door and a tree at the corner of Randolph and Allies roads in Morningside on Jan. 24. Morningside police chief Amos Darnon identified her as Lori Knox, 62, of Morningside.

Chief Darnon said the investigation by both the town police and the county police, indicate the victim was driving her Ford Windstar when the van went into reverse and she was apparently stepping out of the van and got trapped between the door and a tree. The police interviewed neighbors but no one had witnessed the accident which probably happened about 6:30 a.m.

The Morningside Fire Department responded to the scene and later their Rescue Squad was called on to free the body for the medical examiner.

I hope to learn more about Lori Knox, who is a longtime Morningside resident. I'll pay tribute to her in a future column.

Changing landscape

Parkside at Westphalia, a new residential development near Route 4 (Pennsylvania

Ave.), Suitland Parkway, Joint Base Andrews and the Beltway, has opened on 757 acres, which was once the Smith Home Farm. It features townhouses and single-family homes in prices that range from \$315,000 to \$575,000.

Charles County has opened its seventh high school, St. Charles High School in Waldorf, near Regency Furniture Stadium.

A Sweet Valentine on February 14

Enjoy a romantic afternoon at Darnall's Chance House Museum with your "Sweetie" and learn about the history of chocolate, on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2-4 p.m.

The First half of the program is a PowerPoint presentation by food historian Joyce White. The second half of the program is chocolate tasting—17th century hot chocolate, 18th century chocolate tart, 19th century chocolate cake, 20th century chocolate truffle, and the latest 21st century incarnation. Also included, champagne or tea.

Admission is \$28/resident; \$34/non-resident. For reservations, call 301-952-8010 or email darnallschance@pgparks.com. Darnall's Chance is in Upper Marlboro, overlooking School House Pond.

News about Morningside's 1st First Family

I received this most welcome email from Jan Stocklinski Doyon who reads my column in North Carolina:

"My mom June Tappan Stocklinski was the first Mayor of Morningside, in 1949 I believe. I grew up there at 318 Woodland Road, - attended Suitland High School - Frostburg - and worked in the county school system 'til 1998. I have a sister and a brother who also grew up there though my parents retired to Front Royal, Va., on the Shenandoah River when my brother was in high school. They enjoyed canoeing the Shenandoah for years. Dad died in 1979 (heart attack) and mom passed in 2010 when she was living here in North Carolina with us."

May they rest in peace

Ambrose D. "Tom" Collins, 92, formerly of Temple Hills and a lifetime member of VFW

Post 9619, in Morningside, died Jan. 9 at the home of his daughter Ellen in Louisville, Ky. He graduated from Anacostia High before joining the Navy during WWII. He was aboard ship during the Normandy Invasion on D-Day at Omaha beach and on a warship in Tokyo Bay during the Japanese surrender. After leaving the Navy, he served four years in the Merchant Marines. His wife Evelyn died in 1963. The family plans a memorial at a later date in Washington.

Dorothy Elizabeth Daniels, 54, who lived in Skyline for several years, died Jan. 24. During her time in Skyline she was a resident in the assisted-living home operated lovingly by the Daughters of St. Anne. Dorothy was born in Washington, the only daughter of Richard and Mary Daniels. The family moved to Bradbury Heights and later to Bel Alton. After graduating from La Plata High School, she was a secretary with the Federal Access Board. Survivors include her brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Karen Daniels, Walter and Cheryl Daniels and J. David Daniels; and her aunt, Marjorie Daniels. Mass of Christian Burial was at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Waldorf.

Margaret M. Bradley, a native of Ireland and a 40-year resident of Suitland, died Nov. 16, 2014. She and her husband Dave celebrated their 50th anniversary last Sept. 5. He survives her as well as three daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. Bernardine's.

Robert Paul Bearden Jr., 65, of Lusby, a Suitland High School graduate, died Dec. 27, 2014. He served in the Army, attended Prince George's Community College and had a career as a home-improvement contractor.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter, Feb. 8; my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Connie Waby and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9; Alma Richardson, Feb. 10; Ginny Call, Dawn Witherow and David Chambers, Feb. 11.

PRINCE GEORGES COMMUNITY COLLEGE...

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare will be on stage April 30 at 8:00 PM, May 1 at 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM, May 2, 8:00 PM and May 4, 2015 at 10:00 AM. The tragic love story is reimagined in an energetic dynamic stage production for all ages. Tickets visit www.pgcc.edu/go/theatre. The address is Hallam Theatre Queen Anne Fine Arts, 301 Large Road, Largo, Maryland.

SEE THE FRUITS, INC.

Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One, a dynamic one-woman show that brings the courageous Harriet Tubman to life. Be mesmerized as you follow Ms. Tubman on the Underground Railroad. Rosa Parks: Such a Time is a marvelous woman performance celebrating the quiet spirit of Rosa Parks. She was the eye of the storm in the Civil Rights Movement Gwendolyn Briley-Strand (SAG-AFTRA) at www.seethefruits.com for additional information or call 301-292-1616.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement On President Obama's State Of The Union Address

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the below statement regarding President Barack Obama's sixth State of the Union address delivered to a joint session of Congress. Rep. Edwards' guest at tonight's address was Prince George's County Police Chief Mark Magaw.

"Since 2008, the U.S. economy created 11.2 million private sector jobs. In 2014 alone, we saw job growth of nearly three million jobs, the highest growth rate since 1999. In tonight's State of the Union address, President Obama outlined several concrete steps to ensure all Americans share in this economic growth. I support President Obama's calls to increase the federal minimum wage, provide paid sick leave and affordable childcare, make community college tuition free, improve mortgage rates, and ensure a fairer tax code. These are straightforward policies proven to strengthen the middle class, move our country forward and ensure that when women succeed, America succeeds.

"I stand with the President in announcing that tonight we turn the page after a difficult start to the 21st Century, and focus on ensuring a promising future for America's working families. If we are to realize the resolve of the American people, we can no longer allow ideology to get in the way of sound public policy. Tonight, the President outlined a number of policies that expand economic opportunities for all Americans, not just the wealthy few. I look forward to working with him in that effort."

BGE Presents \$30,000 to Eleven Schools Across Central Maryland

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and recognize students for creativity, teamwork and the highest number of online votes

BALTIMORE – Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is pleased to announce that it has awarded \$30,000 in funding for school enrichment projects to 11 elementary schools in its central Maryland service area as part of the third annual BGE Wires Down Video Challenge. The eleven winning schools and their videos were selected from a field of 26 videos from 24 participating elementary schools.

"BGE congratulates all of the winning schools in our third annual Wires Down Video Challenge and applauds the efforts of the students and teachers at each of the schools that participated," said Stephen J. Woerner, president and chief operating officer for BGE. "We commend the students for their hard work, creativity and commitment to learning about the importance of electric safety. BGE launched our Wires Down Video Challenge, which was based off our original 'Wires Down' commercial, to help educate customers about the dangers associated with downed power lines, especially children who may be unaware of the safety hazards. We are proud of the efforts these schools have made to help share this important message with their students, families and friends."



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Today, at a surprise all-school assembly with more than 250 students and teachers, BGE President and Chief Operating Officer Stephen J. Woerner presented a trophy and the \$10,000 grand prize, the Star Power Award, to Sarah M. Roach Elementary School in Baltimore City. At the assembly, BGE representatives praised the students for their creativity and the use of their talents in acting, music and choreography to create their rendition of the original BGE Wires Down commercial, helping the students stand out among the other videos submitted. The school plans to use the \$10,000 school enrichment award to purchase new laptop computers to start a technology club. To view the grand prize winning video from Sarah M. Roach Elementary School, visit bgevideochallenge.com. To view photos from today's event, visit BGE's Flickr site at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mybge>.

"Thank you, BGE, for this wonderful prize for a video that not only raises awareness about an important issue, but highlights the creative and talented staff and students at Sarah M. Roach Elementary School," said Dr. Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D., Baltimore City Public Schools. "Our students and staff worked hard on this, and we couldn't be more proud. We are also proud of our continuing partnership with BGE."

More than 77,000 votes were cast over a two week period in December to determine the winning videos. Below are each of the winning schools from the third annual BGE Wires Down Video Challenge:

- **Star Power Award (\$10,000)** – Sarah M. Roach Elementary School, Baltimore City, Md.

- **Spotlight Award* (\$5,000)** – Northwood Elementary School, Baltimore City, Md.

*Northwood Elementary School also received the Rock the Vote Award and received backpacks and safety gear in addition to the \$5,000 Spotlight Award.

- **Director's Cut Award (\$3,000)** – Empowerment Academy Elementary and Middle School, Baltimore City, Md.



PHOTO COURTESY BGE

At a surprise all-school assembly with more than 250 students and teachers, BGE President and Chief Operating Officer Stephen J. Woerner presented the BGE Wires Down Video Challenge \$10,000 grand prize to Sarah M. Roach Elementary School in Baltimore City.

- **Golden Pipes Award (\$3,000)** – Monarch Global Academy, Laurel, Md.

- **Cast N Crew Award (\$3,000)** – Perry Hall Christian School, Perry Hall, Md.

- **Rock the Vote Award* (backpacks and safety gear)** – Northwood Elementary School, Baltimore City, Md.

- **Baltimore County Award (\$1,000)** – Krieger Schechter Day School, Pikesville, Md.

- **Baltimore City Award (\$1,000)** – The H.O.P.E. Academy, Baltimore City, Md.

- **Anne Arundel County Award (\$1,000)** – Edgewater Elementary School, Edgewater, Md.

- **Carroll County Award (\$1,000)** – St. John, Westminster, Md.

- **Harford County Award (\$1,000)** – Riverside Elementary School, Abingdon, Md.

- **Howard County Award (\$1,000)** – Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Ellicott City, Md.

To date, BGE has presented nearly \$81,000 in to 27 elementary schools across central Maryland as part of the BGE Wires Down Video Challenge since 2012. To view the contest website, complete listing of winning schools and submitted video entries, go to bgevideochallenge.com.

In February, BGE will launch its second annual Captain Mercaptan Natural Gas Safety Hero Challenge. Elementary schools can submit drawings, created by their students, of BGE's natural gas safety hero, Captain Mercaptan, for the chance to win up to \$10,000 for their school. Entry kits are available online now and submissions will be accepted from Jan. 19 through March 15, 2015. For more information, visit BGE-gashero.com.

About the BGE Wires Down Video Challenge

This fall, BGE launched the second annual BGE Wires Down Video Challenge to all elementary schools in its central Maryland service area for a chance to win up to \$10,000 toward a school enrichment project. More than 41,000 votes were cast for the 22 videos that were submitted during an online voting phase in December. Elementary schools were encouraged to create their own adaption of BGE's popular "Wires Down" electric safety commercial for the chance to win up to \$10,000 to fund a school enrichment project. Originally produced in 2000, the Emmy Award-winning commercial with its "do not, do not, do not touch" refrain aims to help raise awareness of electricity hazards, especially among young children. For more information on the Wires Down Video Challenge and electrical safety, visit bge.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

MALE EDUCATORS SUMMIT

The Male Educators Summit "Empower and Motivate" is an event designed to empower and motivate the Male Educator of Prince George's County Public Schools. The primary goal is to recruit, retain and refine the Male Educators of Prince George's County Public Schools. The Summit is Saturday, February 21, 2015 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at Oxon Hill High School. The address is 6701 Leyte Drive Oxon Hill, Maryland, 20745. RSVP at 301-952-6117 or email aisha.berkeley@pgcps.org.

HORSE SHOW

The Show Place Arena will have a Horse Show, Friday, March 27, 2015 at 8:00 AM. This event is free for spectators. Address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Contact 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998.

THE WILD THANG

It's that time again for Wild Thang. This is the most popular annual men's only fellowship in Southern Maryland. Tickets are now on sale. Event will be Sat-

urday, February 21, 2015 from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM at Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine, Maryland. Please contact Kevin Carter at (240) 375-6108 for more information.

2015 SPRING SOCCER ACADEMY

Join the Opdea Soccer Club for seven sessions on Saturdays for the 2015 Spring Academy February 21-April 4, 2015. No residency requirements, all kids accepted. Interested participants recruited for 2015 County Teams.

Session locations are at Miller's Field (next to American Legion) 9110 1/2 Piscataway Road. Times are 9:00-11:00 AM for Academy A or 12:00 -2:00 PM for Academy B. Cost is \$110 players age 4-6 and \$125 players age 7-14. Fee includes 7 sessions, training, teams and referees, new 2015 Uniforms (jersey, shorts, and socks), 5 games, snacks and awards.

Registration payment is due on or before February 7, 2015 at registration meeting. Reserve your slot today for team playing. Register by submitting your form by email at OpdeaSoccerClub@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Financial Literacy and U.S. Teens: Global Study Offers Path for Improvement

A first-time global financial literacy study shows that the keys to successful personal finance education are student perseverance and an openness to problem solving.

That's one of the main findings in the inaugural financial literacy portion of the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) test (<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results-volume-vi.htm>), which evaluated the skills and knowledge of 29,000 15-year-olds in 18 countries and economies in 2012. Final results were released in September, and PISA officials announced that the assessment of financial literacy will be offered as an optional component in 2015 testing.

PISA was launched in 2000 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which promotes policies that support economic and social well-being around the world.

U.S. students earned an average score of 492 out of a possible 700, which ranks those teens between eighth and twelfth place among all 18 participating countries and economies, according to the PISA study. Other findings from the U.S. results:

□ About one in 10 U.S. students is a top performer — 9.4 percent, compared with 9.7 percent across OECD countries. The report said this means they can "look ahead to solve financial problems or make the kinds of financial decisions that will be only relevant to them in the future." It added that top performers "can take into account features of financial documents that are significant but unstated or not immediately evident, such as transaction costs, and can describe the potential outcomes of financial decisions."

□ More than one in six U.S. students — 17.8 percent, compared with 15.3 percent across OECD countries — do not reach the "baseline level of proficiency in financial literacy." The report explained that "at best, these students can recognize the difference between needs and wants, can make simple decisions on everyday spending and can recognize the purpose of everyday financial documents such as an invoice."

□ About 50 percent of all U.S. 15-year-olds said they had a bank account and were found to perform better than those who did not. But the report said the performance gap vanished after accounting for socioeconomic status; only 32 percent of students in the lowest quartile of socioeconomic status had accounts, while 70 percent of those in the highest quartile did.

Countries with students who scored better than their U.S. counterparts seem dedicated to a nationwide, mandatory personal finance curriculum, though most programs have not been in place for very long.

The top scorer, Shanghai-China, has a history of placing financial education topics in its national curriculum that dates back to the 1970s, according to the report. It added that beginning in 2009, the Shanghai-China system has introduced "regular training on finance" throughout its "primary and lower secondary schools."

In the Czech Republic, a working group for the nation's ministry of finance developed financial literacy standards in 2007, defining lesson content and outcomes for education in topics ranging from "money and household budget management to financial products and consumer rights."

Furthermore, in Australia, the nation's education authorities "have endorsed three iterations" of the country's National Consumer and Financial Literacy Framework since 2005. According to the PISA report, Australia's framework helps structure consumer and financial education throughout the country's educational system and the program has worked with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to create MoneySmart Teaching a resource portal for K-12 educators.

In America, more teens could improve their financial literacy if states chose to require mandatory personal finance training as a requirement for high school graduation. The Council for Economic Education reported that as of 2014, only 17 states required students to take a high school course in personal finance or that personal finance be included in an economics or civics course as a graduation requirement (<http://www.councilforeconed.org/news-information/survey-of-the-states/>). That's compared to 13 states in 2011. However, only six states (Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Michigan and Texas) required testing of that material last year. The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy reported that only four states (Missouri, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia) require at least a one-semester course devoted to personal finance.

Bottom line: The results from the first-ever global high school financial literacy test show that organized and systemwide personal finance training helps students excel at money management.



O'Malley 'Seriously Thinking' About Running For President

By Anjali Shastry
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- Outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is "seriously thinking about" running for president, he said Friday at a news conference in the Maryland State House, despite the recent blow of his lieutenant governor not being elected to Maryland's highest office.

O'Malley's future includes joining the lecture circuit and working as a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business, where, he said, he would be taking part in modules of classes they offer and teaching about how to apply business principles to public policy and government.

After he leaves office, O'Malley said he is "psyched" that he and his family will settle down as private citizens in their hometown of Baltimore.

But it is safe to say that he is not yet done with elective office.

At his final news conference as the governor of Maryland, O'Malley answered questions about the biggest issues the state and country face, as well as fielded questions his potential presidential run.

"I'm very seriously considering running in 2016," he said, taking questions in the Governor's Reception Room.

This decision has been complicated by the fact that his lieutenant governor, Anthony G. Brown, lost the governor's race to Republican Larry Hogan, and that former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton may run and is considered a favorite for the Democratic nomination. O'Malley said he has not made a decision yet, but is not taking Clinton's campaign decision into consideration.

Despite the fact that O'Malley disagreed with the tactical

decisions Brown's campaign made, he praised Brown for never jumping ship or betraying that he had any reservations about O'Malley's political decisions while they were in office.

"As you all know, there were no popular choices to be made in keeping this ship moving forward and keeping it from taking on water," he said.

Todd Eberly, a professor of political science at St. Mary's College of Maryland "O'Malley fatigue" probably played a role in Brown's loss, he said, which might hurt O'Malley's chances in the 2016 election.

"Brown ran a horrible campaign. But at the same time, Brown attached himself to O'Malley's hip and didn't distance himself," Eberly said. "He basically ran as a third term for O'Malley. If Brown ran a better campaign, maybe he could've balanced out O'Malley."

Mileah Kromer, a political scientist who oversees the Goucher poll and a professor at Goucher College, said O'Malley's record, such as abolishing the death penalty and legalizing gay marriage, will play well with the Democratic primary electorate, but he will likely be unsuccessful in his bid for the presidency.

"He has all these really great talking points, which don't matter until we figure out what Hillary Clinton is doing," Kromer said. "This is the battle he faces, and what every other Democratic contender faces right now."

O'Malley also highlighted education and the economy as the biggest issues the state and country face.

"The problem we need to solve is how to make the economy work for all of us again," he said, pointing to Maryland as the state with the highest median



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRIAN MARRON
Gov. Martin O'Malley laughs as he prepares to address the media at the Governor's Reception Room at the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland, January 16, 2015.

income in America and the Pew Foundation's ranking of the state as top three for upward economic mobility.

As proud as he is of the way Maryland's economy has begun to bounce back from the recession, O'Malley said, he is still concerned about the ripple effects of the government shutdown and sequester on the state's economy.

In his last address to the General Assembly on Thursday, O'Malley emphasized bipartisanship as the key to keeping the government moving smoothly as the Democratic-majority legislature works with Republican Gov.-elect Hogan.

O'Malley on Friday described his own record of bipartisanship as positive with the Republicans in the General Assembly, and said that 70 percent of the legislative agenda his office submitted to the legislature was received positively by Republicans.

"The ones that make the news are the most contentious ones," he said.

Outgoing Delegate Kelly Schulz, who will take over as secretary of Labor, Licensing

and Regulation, said that the large items were not received well by the Republican members of the legislature.

"My assumption would be that it is somewhat less than 70 percent," Schulz said.

Seventy percent of the legislation could have been received positively by the Republicans, Eberly said, but only if you consider the entirety of a legislative agenda.

"The hot button issues are where you can gauge bipartisanship, and on these issues, he was a happy partisan," Eberly said.

"Most are mundane, routine stuff that receives bipartisan support, because that's not what really matters. Funds, same-sex marriage, gun control, that's where you learn if someone's interested in bipartisanship or just pursuing their own agenda. If he runs on the basis that he can be bipartisan, there's no record for that."

The last question, as he was preparing to leave his last press availability as governor: What about O'Malley's March, the governor's Celtic rock band? Will they go on tour?

"Maybe. If we get offers," he joked.

Priorities from A1

hubs that will significantly benefit the County and State of Maryland as well. Moreover, we are committing our own resources in partnership with the State to make those goals a reality. Therefore, for the overall health and future prosperity of the entire State, it is both logical and imperative that we continue to partner together to further our economic growth."

The County's top legislative priority is ensuring that the new Regional Medical Center (RMC) project in Largo is secured and that previously committed State funding remains in place. In addition to helping to reduce health disparities throughout Southern Maryland, this new facility would be a transit-oriented development that will also positively affect the State and County's fiscal health by creating jobs, tax revenue, and ultimately ending the years of dependency the existing hospital facilities have relied on from state and county taxpayer revenues. Last week, County Executive Baker sent a letter to Governor Hogan detailing the RMC's background, need, and return on investment for the state. To view that letter please click here.

"The Prince George's County Council is pleased to join with County Executive Baker and our Senate and House Delegations

to speak with one voice that what is good for Prince George's County is great for the State of Maryland," said Prince George's County Council Chairman Mel Franklin. "Whether it's supporting the State's commitments to invest in the new Regional Medical Center, protecting essential funding for our school children, strengthening Maryland's infrastructure by building the Purple Line, or supporting our historic reductions in crime, Prince George's County's 2015 Annapolis Agenda is a Jobs Agenda for the State of Maryland."

In addition to the Regional Medical Center, Prince George's County will also focus on ensuring appropriate formula funding from the State for the County's K-12 educational system (including the Geographic Cost of Education Index funding) as well as funding to address the significant number of older County schools that have been in use for 40 to 50 years. Repairs, construction, renovation and modernization projects are needed to ensure that children receive a 21st Century education, which is why County leaders are committed to working with legislators and the

Hogan Administration to find viable ways to provide funding to address this challenge.

"Over the past eight years we have made significant strides to provide increased education funding," said Senator Douglas J. J. Peters, Chairman of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation. "The goal of this legislative session is to protect our investment in education and to continue the improvements made in our county schools."

Prince George's County will also be looking to safeguard State funding for transportation infrastructure investments that are crucial to the County and State's efforts to create jobs and generate revenues. Construction of the Purple Line will have the multi-beneficial effect of spurring regional community revitalization, and creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic development growth. In addition to relieving congestion and positively affecting the region's environment, the transit-oriented nature of the resulting development will make our existing communities even more sustainable. The County will also work to protect state funding for other critical road projects, as well as funding for local road maintenance projects.

"Governor Hogan knows that he can rely on our support

for any policy that recognizes the unique challenges our county faces and builds responsibly for the prosperity of the region," said Delegate Jay Walker, Chairman of the Prince George's County House Delegation. "We are committed to reducing painful commutes, creating better education opportunities for all children to excel and addressing the medical needs of our population, all while working closely with our many allies to build a better Maryland."

Furthermore, the County will work to safeguard the State public safety funding that has contributed to the unprecedented drops in County crime, making our community a safer, more attractive place in which to live, work and visit, and in so doing, making the County an increasingly more robust contributor to the State's tax and revenue base. This includes funding from the disparity grant, police aid, and grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

More information and updates about the Prince George's County Legislative Priorities can be found on the County's website at <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/ExecutiveBranch/Services/legaff/Pages/default.aspx>.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, McCain Reintroduce Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act

"Visiting the United States and having access to our financial system, including U.S. dollars, are privileges that should not be extended to those who violate basic human rights and the rule of law."

WASHINGTON- U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.), both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have introduced their bill, S. 284 the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act that would ensure human rights abusers and corrupt officials are denied entry into the United States and barred from using our financial institutions. The legislation would expand the Russia-specific sanctions in the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act (Public Law 112-208) to apply globally, and would make significant acts of corruption a sanctionable offense. The bill introduced today is the same language that was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June 2014.

"Human rights abusers and corrupt officials around the world will hear loud and clear that the United States speaks with one voice when we say that we will fight corruption and human rights violations wherever they occur," said Senator Cardin. "This bipartisan bill will provide the current administration and future administrations powerful tools to deter gross rights violations and significant corruption, while also protecting America's financial system from those who would use it to launder or shelter ill-gotten gains. Once enacted, this bill will honor Sergei Magnitsky and other whistleblowers who gave their lives to ensure that corrupt officials who abuse their power will face justice for their crimes."

"Congress passed the Magnitsky Act in 2012 to place the United States firmly on the side of

those struggling for human rights and the rule of law in Russia," said Senator McCain. "This bipartisan legislation extends that effort, holding accountable those who commit gross violations of human rights across the world. Standing up for the rule of law and establishing clear consequences for abuses of fundamental human rights serves our nation's interests and reflects of deepest values, and I am proud to join Senator Cardin in this effort."

Cosponsors of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (S. 284) include U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.).

The case of Sergei Magnitsky has come to symbolize the rampant and often violent corruption plaguing the Russian state. Sergei, a 37-year-old tax lawyer, husband and father working for an American firm in Moscow, blew the whistle on the largest known tax fraud in Russian history. For that he was arrested in 2008 by those he accused, and he was imprisoned under torturous conditions for nearly a year. He was denied medical care and beaten by prison guards; he died alone in November 2009 in an isolation cell as doctors waited outside his door. These facts are accepted at the highest levels of Russia's government, yet those implicated in his death remain unpunished, in positions of authority. In a mockery of the rule of law, Magnitsky was tried and convicted posthumously. Magnitsky joins a heartbreaking list of heroes across the globe who lost their lives because they stood up for principle.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



It's Time for Hollywood to Act Like Diversity Matters

"Diversity is basically a description of independence. Diversity is what moves the ball for me, and I thought 'give people a chance that have different points of view. Let the audience decide whether they like it or not. But give those voices a chance to be seen and heard.'"

— Robert Redford, actor, director, and co-founder of Sundance Film Festival

Hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the 87th annual Academy Awards ceremony — better known as the Oscars — will either best be remembered for the uproar incited by this year's homogenous nominations, or as a seminal moment for change in the Academy's long, non-inclusive history.

For the first time since 1998, the stage has been set for our nation to celebrate its least diverse Oscars. In a year that saw Oscar-worthy turns from several actors of color, none were nominated in the acting categories, with all 20 acting nominations going to white actors. But the story doesn't end there. Not a single woman stood among the five directors and 14 screenwriters nominated in those categories.

In a nation where nearly 51 percent of the population is female, how can formidable directors like Ava DuVernay for Selma and Angelina Jolie for Unbroken find themselves on the cutting room floor of the nomination selection? In a nation where, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center survey, "Some 43% of Millennial adults are non-white, the highest share of any generation," how does the Academy's nominees not reflect Hollywood's audience base or the nation in which we live?

In response to the outcry surrounding this year's Oscar nominations, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the first African American and third female president of the Academy, spoke to the Associated Press and pointed to progress in the Academy's efforts to reflect our nation's diverse, movie-going audience. She noted, "In the last two years, we've made greater strides than we ever have in

the past toward becoming a more diverse and inclusive organization through admitting new members and more inclusive classes of members," adding, "I would love to see and look forward to see a greater cultural diversity among all our nominees in all of our categories." I share her vision, but the question remains of when those words will be put into a plan of action — and championed by the broader industry.

A much-cited 2012 survey of the Academy by the Los Angeles Times demonstrates the crux of the problem. According to the survey, the estimated 7,000 Academy members are 94 percent White, 77 percent male and have a median age of 62 — hardly a representative reflection of the nation.

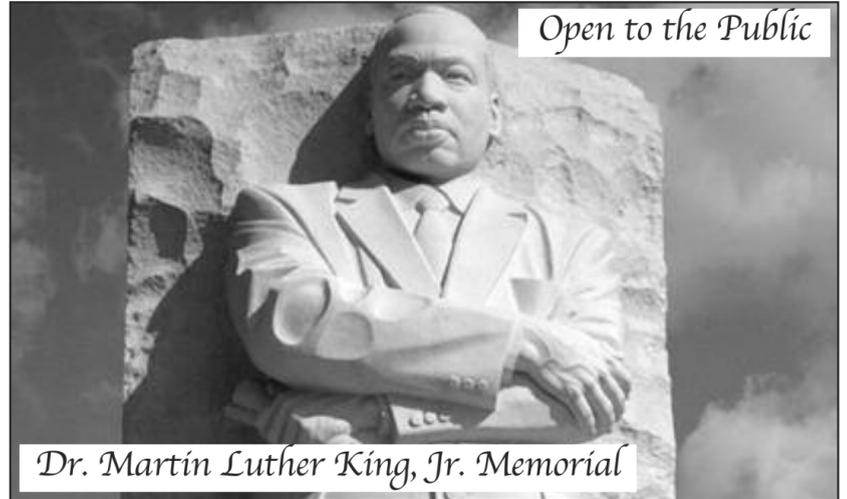
While my role is not to question the film credentials of the Academy's members, I do question the ability of such a homogenous body to reflect the perspectives, lives, and stories of a diverse pool of moviemakers — and moviegoers. I would also question the ability of the Academy to monitor itself and become a more inclusive body without the pressure of public scrutiny and advocacy.

Here are a few things to note about Academy membership: membership is "limited to film artists working in the production of theatrically-released motion pictures...The Academy's membership process is by sponsorship, not application. Candidates must be sponsored by two Academy members from the branch to which the candidate seeks admission. Additionally, Academy Award nominees are automatically considered for membership and do not require sponsors...The Board decides which individuals will receive invitations."

The Academy's membership requirements are both an indictment and call to action. When women and minorities are snubbed at the Oscars, it means much more than wounded gender or ethnic pride. It means that we, as a nation, have lost an opportunity to reflect our unique diversity via

See **Diversity**, Page A16

Open to the Public



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL

August 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of the groundbreaking March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom witnessed the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. It is fitting that on this date, reminiscent of the defining moment in Dr. King's leadership in the Civil Rights movement; in the form of solid granite, his legacy is further cemented in the tapestry of the American experience. His leadership in the drive for realization of the freedoms and liberties laid down in the foundation of the United States of America for all of its citizens, without regard to race, color, or creed is what introduced this young southern clergyman to the nation. The delivery of his message of love and tolerance through the means of his powerful gift of speech and eloquent writings inspire to this day, those who yearn for a gentler, kinder world. His inspiration broke the boundaries of intolerance and even national borders, as he became a symbol, recognized worldwide of the quest for civil rights of the citizens of the world.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Is America a Sheep or a Goat?

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory...all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'"

—Matthew 25:31-36

"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. Not too many years ago, Dr. Kirtley Mather, a Harvard geologist, wrote a book entitled Enough and to Spare. He set forth the basic theme that famine is wholly unnecessary in the modern world. Today, therefore, the question on the agenda must read: Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life?"

In January 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took a very rare "sabbatical" at an isolated house in Jamaica far away from telephones and the constant pressures of his life as a very public civil rights leader to write what would become his last book: Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? The excerpt above could have been written yesterday. Professor Mather's book arguing that mankind had achieved the ability to move beyond famine was published in 1944, yet in 2015, despite seventy more years of unparalleled advances in scientific and technological capability and global resources and wealth, hunger and want are still rampant — most shamefully in the United States with the world's largest economy. Hear again Dr. King: "There

is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will . . . The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for 'the least of these.'"

When Dr. King died in 1968 calling for a Poor People's Campaign, there were 25.4 million poor Americans, including 11 million poor children. Today there are more than 45.3 million poor Americans, including 14.7 million poor children, living in our boastfully rich nation. The question is why we allow poverty still to exist, especially among our children who are the poorest age group of Americans, and the answer remains the same: the deficit in human will and genuine commitment to a fair playing field for all by a critical mass of leaders and citizens in our morally anemic nation. How can it be that the

top one percent of Americans enjoy more of the nation's wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined and that millions of children are hungry and homeless and poorly educated? If the qualification for individual and national greatness is genuine concern for the 'least of these' as those of us who are Christians say we believe, and if nations and our concurrent role as members of nations and not just as individuals are accountable, then too many of our political, corporate, and faith leaders and citizens — all of us who live in America — are failing.

The national holiday celebrating Dr. King's birthday is over, but I hope we will heed and act on his 1967 declaration — "the time has come for an all-out world war against poverty" — and work to win the first victory right here at home in the biggest economy on earth and end the shame of 14.7 million children being the poorest Americans by ending child poverty now.

Dr. King's voice guides us if we are willing to hear and act on it and use it as a road

See **WATCH**, Page A5

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Tips For Getting The Kids To Do Their Part

You expect your children to actively help in family life, but they often don't. While there may be multiple requests, or even threats, often it can become such a hassle to get the kids to do what's asked that many parents just let it slip or do the chore themselves.

They shouldn't.

Getting kids to do assigned chores can be an important factor in helping them develop in positive ways. Chores are a way for a child to feel part of the family and to gain a sense of contributing toward the family good. They provide early life lessons that makes it easier for a person to feel like an active, contributing member of society later in life.

Chores are also a way to learn about responsibility and about meeting expectations, skills necessary for success in school and the workplace. While family chores may involve simple activities, like making a bed daily, helping with the family pet, or taking out the trash, the lessons derived from successfully completing such activities carry over into later life.

Getting chores completed successfully, however, does require planning and work on the part of parents. You want to assign chores that are appropriate for a child's age and abilities so that there's the opportunity for successful completion and a positive experience.

You also want to keep your expectations realistic. Act the perfectionist and find reason to criticize how every chore is completed and you're setting your child up for failure, unable to reach the bar you're setting. At the same time, letting your child get away with little or no effort only teaches him or her to have low expectations about his or her ability to perform.

Talk with your child about setting up a chore system. Make it clear what the child's responsibilities are and how to measure their successful completion. Develop a system of rewards for work well done. Then take the time to monitor chore activities and to offer honest praise when work is done well. Don't make the mistake of only offering criticism for efforts that fall short.

When a child can successfully complete chores and receive positive reinforcement for doing the work well, it helps to build self-esteem and self-confidence. Start your child early in life to accept and complete chores and the result will be a confident, responsible child with stronger life skills.

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

Child Watch from A4

As I ponder the miraculous progress sparked by ordinary citizens and people of grace and courage who risked limb and life to crumble the seemingly impenetrable fortresses of Jim Crow and unjust racial segregation in our land during the Civil Rights Movement, portrayed movingly in the film *Selma* which I hope every American, especially young people, will see, let it inspire us to put on new shoes of courage and will now to ensure that never again will our children and grandchildren have to fight those same battles as the forces of regression seek to turn our nation's racial and social progress backwards. African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian American youths need to be taught our history and remember that they can never take anything for granted in America – especially now as racial profiling, intolerance, and poverty resurge over our land. Some are as blatant as the disproportionate killing of Black males at the hands of law enforcement personnel entrusted to protect life, huge racial disparities in school discipline policies against Black males and children with special needs, unequal educational offerings for poor children of color, and a mass incarceration system fueled by a Cradle to Prison Pipeline™ which feeds 1 in 3 Black and 1 in 6 Latino boys born in 2001

Dr. King concluded: "In any social revolution there are times when the tail winds of triumph and fulfillment favor us, and other times when strong head winds of disappointment and setbacks beat against us relentlessly. We must not permit adverse winds to overwhelm us as we journey across life's mighty Atlantic; we must be sustained by our engines of courage in spite of the winds. This refusal to be stopped, this 'courage to be,' this determination to go on 'in spite of' is the hallmark of any great movement."

See WATCH, Page A16

Cardin, Mikulski Oppose Obama Plan to Allow Offshore Drilling in Atlantic

By TIM CURTIS AND
ALICIA MCELHANEY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration announced Tuesday plans to allow offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, drawing opposition from Sens. Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski and other Democratic senators from coastal northeastern states.

The administration's proposal would allow leasing of areas offshore of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia as part of the nation's Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. The proposal is open for public comment for 60 days.

"At this early stage in considering a lease sale in the Atlantic, we are looking to build up our understanding of resource potential, as well as risks to the environment and other uses," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell in a press release.

But Cardin, joined by Sens. Robert Menendez and Cory Booker of New Jersey and Sen. Edward Markey of Massachusetts at a press conference Tuesday afternoon, strongly opposed offshore drilling in the Atlantic, citing concerns about oil spills affecting fishing and tourism.

"My concern is about the environment, the risk factors and the impact it could have on the people of



PHOTO BY ALICIA MCELHANEY FOR CNS

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., second from left spoke Tuesday at a press conference with Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J. and Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., opposing offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean proposed by the Obama administration.

Maryland," Cardin said. "It's not worth it from a risk-reward perspective."

The Chesapeake Bay represents \$1 trillion of the Maryland economy, through fishing, tourism, property values and shipping activities, Cardin said.

Maryland's shore helps account for the \$14.9 billion tourism brought into the state, raising about \$2 billion in taxes, according to the Maryland Office of Tourism.

The big fear among the Democratic senators is that the drilling could spur an oil spill similar to the Deepwater Horizon spill that affected the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. In 70 percent of Atlantic offshore spills,

Cardin said, prevailing winds would blow the oil into the Chesapeake Bay.

"I am absolutely opposed to offshore drilling and always will be," Mikulski said in a statement. "As we saw after the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, when oil starts to leak it knows no boundaries. Drilling off the coast of Virginia and other states along the Eastern Seaboard could pose great risks to the coastal economy of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay."

But Rep. Andy Harris, Maryland's lone congressional Republican, whose district includes the Eastern Shore said, "I support any effort to make America energy independent

and to keep the cost of gas and diesel down, as long as we can do it safely."

Virginia's two Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine also expressed support for the plan in a joint statement. "This is a significant step in a multi-year process that should result in the safe, responsible development of energy resources off the Virginia and mid-Atlantic coasts."

The senators provided an alternative to offshore drilling that they say will produce two times the jobs and two times the energy that drilling would – wind power. Maryland is developing its own offshore wind power program, which is still in the planning stages.

Hogan from A1

Based on recommendations by the Public Schools Construction Program and the Interagency Committee on School Construction, school districts in Maryland request money from the Board of Public Works to fulfill funding gaps for school construction projects, from building a new school altogether to renovating existing ones.

Typically 200 to 300 projects receive approval each year, according to Executive Director of Public School Construction David Lever, who said Wednesday he was satisfied with Hogan's position on public school construction. The recommended projects will go through two more rounds of recommendations before the final state budget is completed, Lever said.

The school construction committee made a recommendation to the Board of Public Works for projects that would total \$187.5 million — 75 percent of former Gov. Martin O'Malley's preliminary figure

of \$250 million in funding for public school construction for fiscal year 2016, Lever said.

"He seems to be extremely supportive so far and it is reflected in the budget that he's submitted," Lever said.

Hogan's proposed 2016 fiscal year budget sets aside \$290.7 million for K-12 school construction projects.

Hogan and Franchot also jointly argued against a state culture that employs an "emergency" procurement process.

In the past, Franchot has criticized the procurement process for lack of competitive bids and for retroactive "emergency" payments. At his swearing in on Monday, Franchot called the system "broken."

In the retroactive approval process, the Board of Public Works, as a formality, has to approve any contracts for work a locality has deemed an emergency and solicited without the board's approval, said Roy McGrath, the governor's liaison to the Board of Public Works.

Hogan backed up Franchot's frustration and ab-

stained on a vote regarding a \$40,000 retroactive contract from the state's Department of Human Resources, which hired a PR firm to do a study about how Maryland should respond to an influx of unaccompanied minors last year.

"This is a small business, so they should get paid," Hogan said. But he did not believe this was an emergency or a good use of the retroactive contract approval process.

"If a pipe bursts and you have to fix it, that's an emergency," Hogan said. "Hiring a political firm to come in and give you PR advice is not an emergency."

Hogan also said that finding a vendor should be a competitive bidding process and asked for clarification on a few funding requests where that might not be the case.

In the morning session, Hogan, Franchot and Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp gave approval to a treasurer's office bond sale of up to \$1.2 billion, scheduled for March 4.

State bonds go on sale twice a year, in March and

July, and the treasurer's office asked to have the sale of \$750 million in refunded bonds and \$518 million in new bonds approved by the Board of Public Works. The settlement of the sale, estimated for mid-March, would replenish the bond funds, which will run out around mid-March as well, Nikki Griffith, the deputy director of debt management in the state treasurer's office, said.

Franchot, miffed that he was not given supplemental information on the sale until the last minute and said he could not review it, begrudgingly followed Kopp's and Hogan's lead and approved the March sale date with an approval he called a "cold yes."

The meeting began and ended on a light note, with Hogan beginning the meeting promptly at 10 a.m. and Franchot noting happily that it had been a long time since a Board of Public Works meeting started on time. Hogan also noted that they finished ahead of schedule, beaming at his efficiency and punctuality.

Inauguration from A1

in our healthcare system and public schools. We are excited to be an economic engine for the state and we are working diligently to expand our commercial tax base and increase the number of jobs within our borders.

From the MGM Resort being built at National Harbor to the two potential sites for the new FBI headquarters, Prince George's County is well positioned for exponential growth that is good for our citizens and good for Maryland. So much of our success over the years has resulted from a

strong collaboration between the state government and our county and municipal governments. Today, Maryland enjoys a reputation for having a strong education system with a growing economy. I am hopeful that the Hogan/Rutherford Administration will recognize Prince

George's County's contributions as we strive to make our state the best it can be. Prince George's County, like Maryland, is ready to fulfill its destiny. It is my hope that together, we can strengthen our economy, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for all Marylanders."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Taken 3"

Taken 3
Grade: C-
Rated PG-13, some
profanity, an F-bomb, a lot of
moderate action violence
1 hr., 49 min

Say what you will about Hollywood, those people are very good at making sequels that utterly fail to capture what people liked about the first one. It's almost a gift. Taken 2 had less energy, action, and butt-kicking than its predecessor, merely repeating what had happened before without raising the stakes or offering anything new (OK, except for using grenades and the speed of sound to triangulate someone's location, that was neat).

Now comes Taken 3 to force the franchise into being a trilogy, something it never asked for. Again directed by comically pseudonymed French goofus Olivier Megaton, with another dimwitted screenplay by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen, this lethargic entry has a plot that screams, "We didn't just want to kidnap the daughter again, but we didn't know what else to do! And we couldn't just, you know, not make a third one at all. We HAD to!" That, verbatim, is what the plot screams.

Forget the foreign adventures of yestermovie. This one's set entirely in Los Angeles, where Liam Neeson's particular-set-of-skills-having ex-government operative Bryan Mills is framed for murder. Yes, MURDER! Instead of rescuing someone, this time he must find the real killer and clear his own name. Presumably he was set up by the associates of one or more of the henchmen he slew in the first two movies, and there are indeed a number of lumpy-faced



Liam Neeson returns as ex-covert operative Bryan Mills, whose reconciliation with his ex-wife is tragically cut short when she is brutally murdered. Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, he goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. For one last time, Mills must use his "particular set of skills," to track down the real killers, exact his unique brand of justice, and protect the only thing that matters to him now - his daughter. (C) Fox

Europeans lurking around, popping into this scene or that.

Prior to the framing, though, there is obligatory scene-setting. Surely the reason you came to see Taken 3 was to learn what Bryan's family members have been up to. Bryan's ex-wife, Lenore (Famke Janssen), tells him she's having marital problems with her second husband, untrustworthy businessman Stuart St. John (Dougray Scott). Bryan also does the loving father-daughter thing with Kim (Maggie Grace), a college student with an acceptable boyfriend. Kim learns she's pregnant, and she's about to tell her dad over lunch, but then the movie does that thing where she's gearing up to tell him, and

there are some rowdy kids in the diner, and Bryan says something like, "Man, you should never have children!" And so then she doesn't tell him. You know, like on a sitcom.

THEN he gets framed for murder. It's a pretty ham-fisted framing, too, pretty easy to clear up. But rather than show the police all the evidence that exonerates him (including one instance where it's literally on a computer screen right in front of them), he goes on the lam, evading the cops while protecting Kim from within the shadows. Forest Whitaker plays a police detective who keeps one eye on Kim, the other on something in the opposite corner of the room.

Some of us laughed and shook our heads at how Taken and Taken 2 were both rated PG-13 despite being preposterously violent. Taken 3 is PG-13 again, only now the violence — again, one of the main things we came for — has been toned down. There isn't a lot of action. Neeson hardly even kills anyone! Nobody really gets taken, either, which seems like a serious betrayal of the audience's trust. You get a kick out of some of Mills' elaborate methods of hiding, surveilling, and manipulating, but that only takes you so far. Mostly, you get the sense that this intentionally superficial character and premise have been stretched out much further than they were ever meant to be stretched.

Maryland Casinos Generate \$85.6 Million in Revenue During December

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Gaming

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced December 2014 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos — Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. December 2014's combined statewide revenue totaled \$85,629,901.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$6,036,498 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$145.15 for slot machines, \$1,922.53 for banking table games and \$357.23 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's December 2014 revenue decreased by \$454,046, or 7%, from December 2013. Hollywood Casino Perryville

operates 1,158 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$22,909,698 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$152.12 for slot machines, \$2,732.56 for banking table games and \$1,013.61 for non-banking table games. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,500 slot machines and 147 (122 banking and 25 non-banking) table games. The casino opened to the public in August 2014.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$50,234,547 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$241.63 for slot machines, \$3,889.86 for banking table games and \$1,296.38 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's December 2014 revenue decreased by \$2,298,021, or 4.4%, from December 2013. Maryland Live Casino operates 4,222 slot machines and 189

(137 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$3,372,910 in December, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$136.00. Casino at Ocean Downs' December 2014 revenue decreased by \$16,732, or .5%, from December 2013. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$3,076,249 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$143.16 for slot machines, \$1,067.84 for banking table games, and \$306.13 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort's December 2014 revenue increased by \$449,689, or 17.1%, from December 2013. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 577 slot machines and 17 table games (15 banking and 2 non-banking).

In a year-to-year comparison, December 2014 casino revenue increased from De-

December 2013 by \$20,590,588, or 31.7%. In a comparison excluding Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, which opened in August 2014, year-to-year revenue decreased from December 2013 by \$2,319,110, or 3.6%. See attached document (or click [HERE](#)) for a detailed breakdown of December 2014's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) is responsible for all matters relating to regulation of the state's casinos. In this regulatory role, the agency oversees all internal controls, auditing, security, surveillance, background investigation, licensing and accounting procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, the MLGCA posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, gaming.mdlottery.com.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

A Reality of Their Own: Jameis Winston, Rape and Seminole Fandom at Florida State

Before every Florida State Seminoles home game, mascot Chief Osceola rides out on his horse and throws a flaming spear, to the delight of fans. Never mind that the real Chief Osceola did not ride a horse into battle (leading the second Seminole war in the swampy Everglades was not an equestrian pursuit). But in Tallahassee, when it comes to the football program, reality is what you say it is to keep the trains stuffed with cash running on time. Seminole tribal leaders in Florida are paid handsomely to not care that Oklahoma's Seminole tribal councils find the mascot of their tribe disgusting and have called for it to be changed. They are paid to not notice that overwhelmingly white fans wear war paint to games, do the tomahawk chop and hold up signs calling for players to "scalp" their opponents. Similarly, we are now supposed to believe that star quarterback Jameis Winston is a model citizen, wrongly accused of sexual assault because the school's "code of conduct" kangaroo court cleared him of any wrong doing. In fact, local columnists believe it is time to "give Winston and FSU a break."

No one other than Winston, his accuser, and several of Winston's teammates—who were present at the alleged assault—know whether the Florida State quarterback is a rapist. But we now know enough to be appalled by how Florida State University and the city of Tallahassee handled this entire ordeal. We know that police refused to investigate the original accusation of rape for months and that the school did not interview Winston about the incident for over a year. We know that the police—eventually pressured by the press into investigating the incident—had financial ties as security workers for the Seminole Boosters club. We know that Jameis Winston did not testify at his own student conduct hearing to defend his own innocence except by issuing an appalling written statement where he called the accuser a liar, violated her confidentiality by stating her name repeatedly and posited that this was all happening because she was miffed that his door kept swinging open while they were having sex.

We also now know that Winston did finally talk in his student hearing after being cornered by retired Judge Major Harding. Harding turned directly to Winston and asked, "In what manner, verbally or physically" did he believe his accuser actually consented to sex? Winston's lawyer's said that their client did not have to respond, but Winston could not resist. The Heisman trophy winner said that his accuser supplied consent not by any affirmative statement but by "moaning." Meanwhile his accuser testified, "I remember being raped.... I remember pleading with him to stop clearly.... I remember one of his friends telling him to stop and saying, 'She is saying no clearly'.... I tried to struggle and resist him." A victim's advocate who met with the accuser the next day also testified that her mental state was consistent with someone suffering from the post-traumatic stress of a sexual assault.

Judge Harding said that the evidence was "insufficient to satisfy the burden of proof." But the hearing itself, as Jessica Luther at Vice Sports broke down, was a bumbling, incompetent exercise in jurisprudence. The hearing's legitimacy, or lack thereof, can be seen in the fact that his teammates who were witnesses that night—defensive end Chris Casher and defensive back Ronald Darb—were allowed to refuse to answer questions. As Juliet Macur of The New York Times wrote, "Some would call their silence obstructing justice. In Tallahassee, though, it's probably called teamwork."

This teamwork is also seen online, where hordes of #FSUtwitter fans have been quick to disseminate the name of Winston's accuser and attack any journalist, particularly female journalists, who would dare raise a stink about how this investigation was run. This process, and the kind of people who take part in it, was exposed last week when ESPN contributor Molly Knight received a tweet from a man named @d_cochran who said that she "might cry rape too you willing slut." ESPN's Michelle Beadle did a quick investigation into Mr. Cochran and found that he was a child molester and registered sex offender in the state of Florida. He quickly deleted his primary twitter account, and now is probably issuing his college football picks and rape threats through an egg avatar.

This child molesting FSU fan was being a foot soldier in a war with billions of dollars at stake. It's a war that coaches, Florida State officials and police officers fight every day: the war to discipline the media from reporting what an incestuous cesspool Tallahassee law enforcement and Florida State football have become. They are one team, organized from the police station to social media, to make everyone #fearthespear.

This "teamwork" pays dividends. Two days after Judge Harding "cleared" Winston, his coach Jimbo Fisher signed an eight-year contract extension with a raise that will put his salary at well over \$5 million a year. This is what the multibillion-dollar business of college football has produced. Conferences make billions. Coaches make millions. And players don't see a penny, trapped in the highly racialized institution of revenue-producing amateurism. But players at places like Florida State—and make no mistake, this is not just a Tallahassee issue—can be paid through the NCAA's gutter economy of being allowed to live a college life without off-field rules, without a student code of conduct, and without consequence.

Now Seminole Nation gets gear up for the inaugural college football playoff, living in their own reality where justice was done and the unbeaten star quarterback gets to lead his team. All is good in Tallahassee, a world where those with erasers write the history... and where Osceola rode a damn horse.

The Prince George's Post

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Calendar of Events

February 5 — February 11, 2015

African American History Tour & Excursion

Date and Time: Thursday, February 4, 2015 9 am-4 pm
Description: Travel with us as we explore some of the greatest landmarks in Prince George's County and Washington, D.C., including the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Afterwards, we'll stop at a local restaurant for lunch. Pre-registration is required
Cost: \$5/person (Fee includes transportation only; please bring extra money for lunch)
Ages: 17 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-583-2483

Xtreme Teens: Black History Month Trivia Fact

Date and Time: Friday February 6, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Celebrate Black History Month with us! Participate in the trivia fact competition, where you must bring one trivia fact about an HBCU to enter to win. The Xtreme teen with the most facts entered at the end of the month will win. The facts collected will be posted around the center all month and at the end of the month there will be a special competition for another chance to win.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-445-4512

Movie & Discussion: Hidden Colors

Date and Time: Friday, February 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2015 6-9 pm
Description: Join us for a viewing of the documentary series, Hidden Colors, directed by Tariq Nasheed. The series tells the real and untold history of people of color from around the globe. Moreover, the film covers the topics of race, racism and history in the United States. Make sure you stay after the premiere for an open discussion and for refreshments.
Cost: Free
Ages: 17 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

Black History Month High School Step Show Challenge

Date & Time: Saturday, February 7, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Join us for a Black History Month step show challenge featuring the best high school teams in the area. This year's theme is Harambee: Pulling All Together.
Cost: Resident or Non-Resident: \$10
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts
15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-218-6768

Arts in our Backyard

Date and Time: Saturday, February 7, 2015 10 am-1 pm
Description: Take a trip with us to the Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center. Participants will enjoy a tour of this fun, educational museum, while discovering the rich African American culture of Prince George's County. Registration is required by January 30.
Cost: Free
Ages: 13 & up
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Opening Reception & Exhibit: Black Artists of DC

Date and Time: Saturday, February 7, 2015 6:45 pm
Exhibit is ongoing until March 13, 2015
Description: Established in 1999, Black Artists of DC is comprised of artists at all stages of development. The work spans all media, subject matter, and style. Membership is inclusive of age, gender and ethnicity. The links between the artists is their African descent, love of art, a commitment to people, and an intuitive understanding that there can be a profoundly nurturing bond between artists of African descent through the Diaspora.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Alice Walker: American Icon

Date and Time: Monday, February 9, & 16, 2015 7 pm
Description: Join us for a three-week series exploring the life and works of Alice Walker; a special emphasis will be placed on her groundbreaking novel, The Color Purple. A multi-media approach to Ms. Walker's power and originality as a woman and writer includes the film, her poetry, and discussion of her novel. Sessions will be led by Dr. Karen Arnold.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Dr., Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-490-2329

Nature's Wings

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 7:30 pm
Description: These lectures are presented by Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club in conjunction with the Biological Flyers exhibition. Learn something new every month about the natural world flying around us.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Presented by Richard J. Dolesh, Vice President of Conservation and Parks, National Recreation and Park Association
Monarch butterflies are threatened by loss of habitat, herbicide and insecticide, disappearance of food and more, but steps can be taken to protect and restore their populations.
Cost: Free
Ages: 14 & up
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Safeguarding Grizzlies

Dear EarthTalk:

What is being done to safeguard grizzly bears now? I heard that their numbers are dwindling and they could vanish from the Lower 48 if we don't protect them.

— Jim Meth,
Akron, OH

Before European colonization of North America, upwards of 50,000 grizzly bears—also known as brown bears—roamed free across what is now the continental United States. But more than a century of commercial trapping, persecution, habitat loss and poorly regulated hunting have taken a heavy toll on grizzly populations.

Today fewer than 1,500 of the majestic omnivores are left in just five small pockets of wilderness—across less than two percent of their former range—on the northern fringes of Washington state, and scattered throughout the Northern Rockies around Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. The grizzlies' "threatened" status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act has allowed these remnant populations to start to rebound in recent years, but conservationists report the fierce bears (their scientific name is *Ursus arctos horribilis*) aren't out of the woods yet, so to speak.

Wildlife biologists consider grizzlies to be an "umbrella" species, meaning that the health of their populations indicates how healthy hundreds of other native plant and animal species may be

across the same habitat range. Grizzlies thrive in large uninterrupted wilderness areas, so environmental groups are working hard to connect up existing protected areas to allow for the bears to move into new territory and continue to rebound.

"Protecting the habitats that allow the bear the freedom to roam and thrive also benefits mule deer, wolverines, elk and mountain goats, and many more wildlife," reports Conservation Northwest, a regional environmental group championing efforts to expand wilderness designations and so-called "wildlife corridors"—protected habitat pathways between larger swaths of wilderness—in Northwest Washington State for the sake of grizzlies and other wildlife down the forest food chain. "Protecting the roadless watersheds that nurture the grizzly bear helps ensure clean water, solitude and recreational opportunities for everyone."

Another leading conservation organization working to secure a better future for grizzlies in the lower 48 is Defenders of Wildlife. The group supports and promotes projects to help reduce human-grizzly conflicts and increase community tolerance for having the bears as neighbors. One such program involves assisting homeowners with funding for the installation of bear-resistant electric fencing, which has proven to be a safe and accepted way to deter bears from accepting human food resources. Defenders reasons that training the bears not to access human food gives them a better



CREDIT: JIM PEACO, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FLICKR CC

The grizzly population of Yellowstone National Park was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007 as federal officials decided the bears' numbers had rebounded sufficiently. But two years later a judge in federal district court in Montana overturned the delisting, citing concerns about how global warming-related declines in Whitebark Pine (a key food source for grizzlies) were affecting the bears.

chance for survival as they cannot become dependent on a resource bound to get them in trouble.

Yet another big advocate for grizzlies is the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The group's Adopt-a-Wildfire-Acre program uses funds raised from members and other concerned donors to acquire land outside of Yellowstone National Park to give the region's iconic grizzly population room to roam beyond the confines of the park borders. NWF also works the halls of Congress, lobbying on behalf of grizzlies and other iconic American wildlife species suffering at the hands of progress.

Environmentalists are optimistic that better planning and more focus on conservation will

allow the grizzly population of the Lower 48 to continue rebounding to the point where the bears can be removed from threatened species protection. As Conservation Northwest puts it, "What's good for bears is good for people."

CONTACTS: Conservation Northwest, www.conservationnw.org; Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org; NWF, www.nwf.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Prepare for Consecutive Days of Frigid Temperatures and Save Energy During Extremely Cold Weather

By PRESS OFFICER
BGE

BALTIMORE — As temperatures dip and an arctic weather system moves into central Maryland this week, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) provides customers with energy saving tips to help ease the sting of the frigid temperatures. Just as BGE prepares for the colder winter months, the company encourages customers to ensure they are prepared for winter weather by having a winter emergency plan and supplies in place, before bad weather arrives. The forecasted weather system may bring high wind and wind gusts, which has the potential to bring tree limbs down onto power lines and electric delivery equipment. Customers are reminded to stay away from downed wires and to report both downed wires and power outages by calling BGE at 877.778.2222. Customers may also report power outages via mobile phones and devices at bge.com.

Customers are encouraged to visit bge.com/WinterReady for tips and information on saving energy, even on the coldest days. Customers can also find information about "winterizing" their homes and preparing their families for the winter heating season. BGE offers customers a variety of low-to-no-cost ways to make their homes more energy efficient, saving energy and money.

"During the colder months, heating systems typically account for more than 40 percent of customers' energy bills because extreme weather generally triggers

significant increases in energy use at home," said Carol Dodson, vice president and chief customer officer for BGE. "Although BGE commodity prices remain stable, the forecasted low temperatures will likely cause energy usage to increase, even for customers who leave their thermostats at a set temperature, as heating systems must work harder and longer to maintain the set temperatures. Without taking steps to save energy during these times, energy bills will reflect additional usage and will likely be higher than in months when temperatures are more moderate. We encourage all customers to think about simple steps they can take in their home to save energy each day, no matter the temperature outside."

Customers who heat with older model electric heat pumps are especially vulnerable to sharp increases in usage when auxiliary heating is activated during cold weather. Customers are encouraged to set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower, if health allows. For every degree below 73 during the colder months, customers may save two to four percent on heating costs. Customers who heat with natural gas should consider setting the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 65 degrees at night.

"Although colder temperatures are the primary driver for increased energy use during the heating season, there are many other contributing factors, some of which may not be as obvious," said Dodson. "When it's bitter cold outside, many families spend more time at home, cooking, watching television, and using

computers and other electronics. While we can't control the weather, customers can control how they use energy, even during periods of extreme temperatures."

The WinterReady section on bge.com is specifically designed to help customers weather the cold temperatures that affect central Maryland each year. The following are steps that all customers can take to reduce energy consumption and lower heating bills:

Manage your thermostat.

During the winter, for systems other than heat pumps, set thermostats at 68 degrees F, if health allows. This can help customers see a 3-4 percent decrease in energy use.

Customers who heat their homes with a heat pump should follow manufacturer's instructions for optimal energy efficiency.

Natural gas customers should consider setting the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 65 degrees at night, if health allows.

• **Take advantage of natural sunlight.** Open curtains and drapes during the day, to let the sun warm your home, and close them at night for insulation.

• **Do not heat unused spaces.** Close the vents in unused rooms and shut doors to unused rooms, closets and basements.

• **Change the furnace filter regularly.** A dirty filter forces the furnace to work harder.

• **Inspect your Furnace.** Have the furnace checked by a licensed professional to be sure it is operating efficiently and seal any leaks in furnace ducts. BGE offers re-

fers for these and other home efficiency improvements through the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program®.

• **Insulate your water heater.** Install an approved insulation blanket around the water heater and insulate the first three feet of water pipe (keep insulation at least 6 inches from the flue on gas water heaters).

• **Lower the temperature on your water heater** to 120 degrees F and conserve hot water when you can. Heating water is the second largest energy user in your home in the winter months.

• **Caulk and weather strip windows and doors** to keep cold air out.

• **Check/add attic insulation** to reach a level of R-38 or 12".

• **Wash clothes in cold or warm water** and rinse in cold water to reduce water heater usage.

• **Replace inefficient lighting:** Replace your old standard incandescent bulbs with new compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) or light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. CFLs and LEDs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, and they last up to 10 times longer.

• **Schedule a BGE Quick Home Energy Check-up** or make your home more efficient with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®.

• **Look for energy-efficient appliances:** When shopping for appliances such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners, look for the ENERGY STAR label. Newer, more energy-efficient models lower monthly operating costs.

Citation from A1

ance on the scene of this rescue, you are hereby awarded a Fire/EMS Department Unit Citation. Your actions reflect well on you both personally and professionally, as well as exemplify the caliber of service the Fire/EMS Department strives to provide to the citizens of Prince George's County."

A plaque was presented that included incident details and all the members recognized. This plaque will be on display on the Silver Hill Fire/EMS Station.

UNIT CITATION

Awarded to

Deputy Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale
Assistant Chief Paul A. Gomez
Acting Battalion Chief Warren A. Hughes
Fire Captain Robert G. Bilko, 829
Volunteer Captain Michael Williams, 827
Fire Lieutenant Christopher M. Whittington, 847
Volunteer Lieutenant Michael Mavaddat, 827
FF/M Technician David P. Ramdial, 829
FF/M Christie L. Becker, 829
FF/M Jarren T. Hall, 829
FF/M Michael R. Jefferson, 847

FF/M Thomas R. Joachim, 847
FF/M Joseph B. Quade, 847
Volunteer FF/EMT Ryan Kelly, 827
Volunteer FF/EMT Jonathan Slack, 827
FF Tervel I. Butler, 829
FF Daryl R. Dunston, 829
FF Lincoln M. Johnsen, 829
FF Adam P. Metzbower, 829
FF Andrew G. Morrow, 829
FF David W. Smart, 829
Volunteer FF Donald Belfield, 827
Volunteer FF Timothy Collins, 827
Volunteer FF William McCool, 827