

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 3 January 21—January 27, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Madan Joins Hospital in Dual Roles as Chief Medical Officer and Chief Population Health Officer

By PRESS OFFICER
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, MD—Doctors Community Hospital is pleased to announce that Sunil Madan, MD, CPE, FACEP, has joined its executive team as chief medical officer and chief population health officer. He replaced Dr. Gabriel Jaffe, who was the hospital's first chief medical officer and recently resigned from that position. Jaffe plans to continue practicing internal medicine at Metropolitan Medical Specialists in Lanham, Maryland.

As chief medical officer, Madan's primary roles will be to guide clinical strategies, physician engagement efforts as



PHOTO COURTESY DCH
Dr. Sunil I. Madan, MD

well as quality and safety delivery initiatives in collaboration with other hospital leaders. Combined with his passion for caring for patients, his leader-

See MADAN Page A5

Prince George's County Prepares for Snow Season—Residents and Businesses Take Note

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Although recent Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area weather has had some residents questioning whether they live in Florida or not, there is still a very real chance that this area might actually experience snow and ice this winter. In the event that the area actually does face inclement weather, the Depart-

ment of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) wants to remind Prince George's County residents that owners, tenants and managers of residential and commercial properties with paved sidewalks adjacent to their properties are responsible for ensuring that sidewalks are treated and cleared of snow and ice.

See SNOW Page A5



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JESSICA CAMPISI
U.S. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md. is in the Maryland State House on the first day of the Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis on January 13, 2016.

Maryland General Assembly Kicks Off 2016 Session With Education, Police, Vetoes Atop the Agenda

By RACHEL BLUTH
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Amid a sea of Maryland state-flag neckties and toddlers in suits, legislators of the Maryland General Assembly gavelled in for the first day of the 2016 session.

Both houses of the Assembly concerned themselves with the

formalities of opening day. Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr. and House Speaker Michael Busch, both Democrats, were reinstated in their leadership positions.

Miller formally recognized the senators' guests, including family members, interns and county executives who populated the crowded gallery section way above the Senate floor.

Miller described the Senate as a family, presenting baby gifts to Minority Leader J.B. Jennings, R-Baltimore County, and Sen. Justin Ready, R-Carroll, who have a newborn girl and boy, respectively.

"Republicans may not be able to produce bills, but they do something else," Miller joked.

The General Assembly may choose to override six of the

bills Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, vetoed last year. The Senate scheduled a vote on the vetoes for Jan. 20.

Wednesday morning at Annapolis Summit, a legislative conference sponsored by news, academic and other Maryland organizations, Hogan, a Repub-

See 2016 SESSION Page A7

Firefighter Rescued After Fall Through Roof of Burning House—Old Marlboro Pike

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

Prince George's County Fire Fighter/Medic Captain Donny Fletcher knows the feeling of falling through a burnt out section of a house and holding on for your life waiting for someone to rescue you. Fletcher fell through a burnt out stairwell in July of 2015 and required rescue by another firefighter. Today, he heard the Incident Commander transmit a firefighter had fallen through the roof of a burning house and he knew he had to help.

Around 1:00 pm, January 5, Public Safety Communications received at least two 911 calls stating a house was on fire in the 9300 block of Old Marlboro Pike in Upper Marlboro. Firefighters arrived to find smoke coming from a 1-story single family home and initiated a search for an unaccounted occupant. Firefighters stretched hose lines into the house and started to knock the fire down. All searches for occupants were negative and firefighters continued with the firefight. The fire



PHOTO BY FIREFIGHTER KRYSTAL BROOKST
Firefighter is out of attic and back on roof being helped to ladder (firefighter in full PPE in front of ladder with Captain Fletcher (black PPE) reaching out to him).

extended up into a large attic area as firefighters from Truck 837, Ritchie Fire Station, started to open up the roof to relieve

the interior of high heat and thick smoke conditions.

Incident Commanders, Battalion Chief 3 Denny Chatel and

Executive Officer Assistant Fire Chief Alan Doubleday, observed two firefighters operating on the roof just as one of those firefighters fell through a weakened portion into the attic. The firefighter fell through up to his shoulders and was enveloped in a sudden rush of high heat and thick smoke coming up from the attic.

Having observed the fall Battalion Chief 3 transmitted that a firefighter needed assistance and activated the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to assist. The other firefighter from Ritchie, Volunteer Assistant Chief William Cunningham Jr., immediately went to aid his fellow crew-member and was able to support him from falling further into the attic but required help in lifting him out of hole.

Additional assistance arrived with Captain Fletcher and Lieutenant Chris Blackstone and Fire Fighter William Philpott from the RIT team. Members of the RIT were from the Upper

See RESCUE Page A3

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Warms Hearts and Hands of Local Students

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union wrapped up its annual Warming Hearts and Hands campaign with over 1,000 new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves collected for students in need. The winter accessories were delivered to the Student Service Offices in the following counties: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot.

Educational Systems FCU has sponsored the Warming Hearts and Hands campaign for the past two years. This year, Credit Union employees raised nearly \$4,000 to help purchase items. In addition, members of Educational Systems FCU were invited to drop off new winter accessories at the Credit Union's branches.

"Our core purpose is serving the education community," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We started Warm-



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU
Teleta Johnson (left) and Denise Ross (right), employees of Prince George's County Public Schools Department of Homeless Education, received the Warming Hearts and Hands donations from Educational Systems FCU. They distributed the items to students in need before Winter Break.

ing Hearts and Hands because the school systems and community colleges we serve told us that their students needed cold weather items to help

See ESFCU Page A3

INSIDE

Prince George's Library Introduces Children's Museum-Like Discovery Centers

A bridge crosses a carpet moat in Beltsville Branch's Discovery Castle area; a teddy-bear astronaut sits in a spaceship in Fairmount Heights Branch's Discovery Space; and a child-size circus tent stands in Hillcrest Heights Branch's Discovery Circus.

Community, Page A3

Headline

Body Copy
Commentary, Page A4

Prince George's County EDC Rescues Union Market Wholesalers

When the Economic Development Team learned that several developers had purchased property surrounding the Union Market and had given notice to the wholesale tenants that their leases would not be renewed, the Team went to Union Market to talk with its wholesalers about their relocation plans.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: *The Revenant*

The Revenant is an immersive and visceral cinematic experience capturing one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit. In an expedition of the uncharted American wilderness, legendary explorer Hugh Glass is brutally attacked by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What do green groups think about the outcome of the recent Paris climate talks?

—Jackie Lupinacci,
Pittsburgh, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Tony Mammano, McNamara '82 and Football All-American, dies

Anthony "Tony" Mammano, a member of the Bishop McNamara High School 1981 championship football team where he finished as the Pigskin Player of the Year and a high school All-American, died at his home Nov. 21. He graduated from McNamara in 1982.

He had a career with the Prince George's Police Department before retiring a few years ago. Throughout his career Tony remained a coach at McNamara with the football team and the women's softball team. He was a recipient of McNamara's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Tony Grew up in Berkshire, the son of Frank and the late Judy Mammano, and brother of Rose, Joe, Vince, Angie, Frank, Nick, and the late Michael Mammano, all of whom attended McNamara or the old La Reine High School.

Tony's wife Sandy currently works in the Advancement Office at McNamara and two of their three children, Victoria and Celena, have graduated from McNamara. Tony Jr. will attend in the future.

Tony's Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie.

Remembering the 1st Teacher in Space 30 years later

On January 28, 1986, at 10:39 a.m. the space shuttle Challenger exploded, 73 seconds into its flight over the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida. It took the lives of six astronauts and the First Teacher in Space, Sharon Christa McAuliffe, who had been selected from among ten teacher finalists.

Christa McAuliffe (as she was generally known) had completed her master's in education at Bowie State and taught English and social studies for seven years in Prince George's County. Her first teaching position was at Benjamin D. Foulis Middle School, from 1971 to 1973. At that time her husband Steve was a law clerk for then State Senator Steny Hoyer.

That was thirty years ago, and I reflect on those students throughout the country—especially at Christa's school in New Hampshire—who were watching this tragedy unfold on television.

Neighbors

Over the past month or so Morningside has lost three long-time residents: Selaine Ealey, a resident since 1976; Martha Kline, who lived for years on Marianne Drive; and 34-year-old Jim Nichols, former resident and grandson of the late Mary and Lawrence Nichols, among the founders of Morningside. I will pay tribute to each of them over the next few columns.

Yvette Johnson-Threat, MD is the new Vice President, Medical Affairs at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

Marcus Thornton, a 2011 graduate of McNamara High School, has become the first McNamara alumnus in the school's 50-year history to be drafted into the NBA. He's playing for the Boston Celtics.

Changing landscape

The consignment shop at 6901 Alexander Ferry Road was apparently not doing well. It is now a Thrift Store, open Wed. through Sat., 9 to 5.

Take a tour of the Surratt House

The Surratt House Museum in Clinton reopened for public tours on Jan. 13. Guided tours are Wed., Thurs. and Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., noon to 4 p.m.; last tours beginning one-half hour before closing. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2 for students, 5 & under, free. There are reduced rates for group tours and children's programs. For information, call 301-868-1121.

The Surratt Courier newsletter reports that from August 1 through December 31, they had visitors from 45 states and 10 foreign countries, including such nations as Nigeria and Dubai.

Morningside memories

On Feb. 13, 1961, X-ray and Diabetes test units were set up at the Skyline Shopping Center, particularly at Clinton Oil Company, one of the shops in the

center. "The response was wonderful and gratifying," wrote Joy C. Koscher in the Morning-Side-Lines. She also extended thanks to the volunteers: Vivian Ramsey, Catherine Nicely, June Stocklinski, Helen Hooper, Thelma Schaub, Arletta Jennings, Lorraine Tuttle and Dallas Bragunier.

May they rest in peace

Florence King, who taught history years ago at Suitland High School, died Jan. 6 in Fredericksburg, Va., one day after her 80th birthday. She went on to become famous for her writings on feminism and the South.

Mary Frances Hurlock, widow of Brig. Gen. Bernard W. Hurlock, USAF retired, died New Year's Day. They were the parents of Michael, Mark, Kathy, Deborah and the late Arlene. Survivors include 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at the Most Holy Rosary Church in Rosaryville. Burial will follow at Cheltenham.

William Robert Dixon, 84, retired Assistant Chief of the Metropolitan Police Dept., died Nov. 25. He served with the MPD from 1954 through 1986. He was predeceased by his wife Clarisse, brother Jack, and two grandchildren. Survivors include four children, Deborah, Margaret, Mary and Linda; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister, Margaret Kathryn Solorzano. Services were at St. Patrick's in Washington, with burial at Fort Lincoln Cemetery. A reception was held at FOP Lodge 89 in Upper Marlboro.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27.

Happy anniversary to Ernest and Margaret Vilky who were married 45 years ago on Jan. 23, 1971, at St. Thomas More Church.

Ann (301) 233-3136, Vivian (301) 292-6037 and/or Henrietta (301)-868-3781. Benefit St. Philip's Church.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The 7th Annual Black History Month High School Step Show Challenge will be Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at Bowie Town Center for the Performing Arts. The Center is located at 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Telephone number is 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544. This event is for all ages. Fee is \$15 for adults; \$10 for 13 and under.

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTERS

Residents who are 60 and older can enjoy many social activities in the county. There are six senior activity centers in the county that offers a variety of programs and services. These activities include health and wellness programs, trips, classes, crafts, movies, games and many more activities.

Transportation and hot lunches are provided by the Prince George's County Department of Family Services Agency

Aging Services Division at these centers. Visit www.pgparcs.com and click on "Things to Do> seniors," or send an e-mail to seniors@pgparcs.com.

WIDOW'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON

Join us Saturday February 13th 1:00 PM at a luncheon with the objective/purpose to encourage, motivate, and strengthen new/season widows as they journey through this new phase in their lives. Cost is free. Please call 301-372-6036 to reserve your seat. The location is Union Bethel Church at 6810 Floral Park Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Call 301-877-4553 for volunteer opportunities at MED-STAR Southern Maryland Hospital Center. Volunteers make a difference every day helping to support the health of our community.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings are offered every Thursday from noon to 4:00 PM in the Hospital Solarium. Call 301-374-9098 for additional information.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on the Armed Takeover of a Federal Building in Oregon

LANHAM, MD—Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) released the following statement today on the armed takeover of a federal building in Oregon.

"I am deeply troubled by the media portrayal of the events in Oregon and the armed takeover of a federal wildlife refuge.

Since the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement, activists protesting the deaths of an unarmed 18-year-old on a city street or the tragic death of a 25-year-old in the back of a police van, have been referred to variously as "thugs," "criminals," and "drug users." To the contrary,

most of these protests and protesters have been peaceful, and organizers have sought and obtained permission to peacefully assemble in exercise of their Constitutional rights. But in Oregon, a group of armed men illegally occupying a federal building have been referred to as an "armed militia," or simply "occupiers," as though that behavior is acceptable in a nation of laws. What is happening in Oregon is not protest sanctioned by the Constitution, it is lawbreaking.

Our nation's press has a long history of shining a light on tough truths and asking tough questions. At this moment, the media have a responsibility to avoid language that paints these armed militants in a positive light. They are breaking the law. Moreover, the media do great injustice to our Constitution by equating that lawlessness with the legitimate exercise of Constitutional rights by unarmed citizens who have come together to peacefully protest an end to violence in cities like Ferguson, Baltimore, and elsewhere. One could not imagine a group of armed black men taking over an unoccupied federal building in one of our nation's cities as they have in Oregon. It is time to tell that tough truth.

These moments cry out for leadership — by political leaders, the media, and the public. It is time for those of us who value our Constitution to end that silence."

BGE Awards \$325,000 to 65 Nonprofit Emergency Response and Public Safety Organizations

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric announced that it is awarding \$325,000 in emergency response and safety grants to 65 nonprofit emergency response and public safety organizations in 10 Maryland counties and Baltimore City as part of its Emergency Response and Safety Grant program. There were 19 first-time award recipients. BGE will hold an event in early 2016 to formally recognize all of the organizations being awarded grant funding.

"BGE is proud to once again give back to nonprofit public safety and emergency response organizations who selflessly give their time and energy to maintain safety in the communities that we serve," said Valencia A. McClure, Director of Communications and Corporate Relations for BGE. "This grant funding will allow these agencies to purchase equipment,



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

and support programs, and services that are vital to their preparedness and the overall safety of our community."

One notable first time recipient is the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department in Calvert County who will be creating real-time GPS fire hydrant mapping. In addition to this first time recipient, Chesapeake Search Dogs will be purchasing GPS technology for their radios and wearable GPS tracking devices for their search dogs.

"GPS tracking technology will enable search managers to know the areas covered by both the handlers and their K-9 partners," said Sheli Engles, Public Relations Director for Chesapeake Search Dogs. "This technology will also provide the exact location of the search team should the deployment of medical staff be necessary for either the search team or the missing subject."

BGE's Emergency Response and Safety Grant program, now in its fourth year, is an integral part of BGE's continued commitment to supporting safety and reliability while also enhancing the communities it serves. It supports nonprofit emergency response and public safety organizations by providing funding that is vital to their success. Some of this year's grants will assist agencies in purchasing items such as thermal imaging cameras, GPS systems, smoke alarms, portable radios and funding emergency preparedness drills and equipment. To date, BGE has provided over \$1 million to 194 emergency response organizations, who share BGE's commitment to the safety of central Maryland residents.

The following is a list of the organizations awarded with a 2015 BGE Emergency Response and Safety Grant:

Anne Arundel County:

- Arnold Volunteer Fire Department—Fire Prevention and Education
- Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Tool
- Glen Burnie Volunteer Fire Department—New Portable Radio
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation—Smoke Alarms (Prince George's County as well)
- Odenton Volunteer Fire Company—Station Renovation
- Orchard Beach Volunteer Fire Department—Thermal Imaging Camera & Meter
- Southern Police Reserves Foundation—Office Safety and Equipment

Baltimore City:

- American Red Cross—Greater Chesapeake Region—Home Fire Prevention Campaign

- Baltimore Urban Debate — Public Debates on Body Cameras
- Johns Hopkins University—Purchase of Defibrillator
- Loyola College—Two-Way Radios
- Maryland Food Bank—Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) for Emergency Preparedness
- 2-1-1 Maryland—First Responder Outreach Project
- The Salvation Army—Disaster Relief / Feed More Program
- The William Baer School—Emergency Support

Baltimore County:

- Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department—Equipment Upgrades
- Arcadia Volunteer Fire Company—Turnout Gear and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Meter
- Chesapeake Search Dogs—GPS System
- Chestnut Ridge Volunteer Fire Company—Thermal Imaging Camera / Vests
- Civil Air Patrol—Search and Rescue Equipment
- Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Company—CPR Machine
- Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Company—Medical Vehicle Replacement
- Hereford Volunteer Ambulance—Power Load Cot System
- Hereford Volunteer Fire Company—Headset Communication Tool
- Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company—AED Purchase and Training
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)—MEMA Symposium
- Maryland Line Fire Protection Association—Upgrade Building
- Middle River Volunteer Ambulance Rescue—Readiness Improvement
- Middle River Volunteer Fire Company—AED Replacement
- Owings Mills Volunteer Fire Company—Emergency Light for Vehicle
- Rosedale Volunteer Fire Company—Electronic Community Sign
- Towson University—Emergency Preparedness Drill
- White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company—Boot Replacement
- Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company—Emergency Operational Readiness
- Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Company—CPR Training

Calvert County:

- North Beach Volunteer Fire Department—GIS Mapping System

Carroll County:

- Carroll County Amateur Radio Club—Emergency Communications Update
- Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association—AED Replacement
- Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company—Replacement Vent Saws
- Manchester Fire Engine and Hook and Ladder Company—Turnout Gear Locker Replacement

See AWARDS Page A3

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Come and dine with us at Darnall's Chance House Museum Saturday January 30, 2016 from 6:00 PM—8:00 PM. You will experience the flavor and atmosphere of one of Scotland's oldest and most cherished traditions. Celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet. Program includes music, poetry bagpipes, dinner, history and fun. Advance reservation and payment are required. Ages 21 & up/ Fee: Resident \$45; Non-Resident \$54. Telephone number 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544.

SUPPER BOWL SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish will be hosting a "Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner" on Sunday, February 7, 2016, immediately following worship Service. Dinner cost will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children (12 years and under). Dinners will include homemade spaghetti, tossed salad, french bread and a desert.

Pre-orders and payments are greatly appreciated. POC's regarding this matter are Shirley Ann (302) 690-4260, Doretha

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

5 Ways to be Charitable on a Budget

If you've ever wondered if you can be charitable with only a few extra dollars in your wallet or a little bit of free time, the answer is yes. You just have to get a little creative.

In the Chronicle of Philanthropy's latest analysis of charitable giving, it appears people who earned less were giving more. Based on state-by-state tax data, the nonprofit industry trade publication reported that between 2006 to 2012, Americans earning more than \$200,000 gave a smaller percentage of their income to charity while those earning less than \$100,000 actually gave more during the same period.

Wherever you stand on the income scale, stretching charitable dollars or time should begin with a little planning. Here are five steps to consider.

- **Check your finances first.** Helping others is a worthwhile lifetime habit. However, before you start writing checks or handing out cash to various individuals or groups, check your budget to determine whether you actually have extra money to spare for charitable donations in any form. If you itemize, check the IRS rules (www.irs.gov) on charitable giving or consult with a qualified tax professional to see if there are charitable giving options that fit your circumstances.

- **Screen charities you're considering.** It's never been easier to evaluate a potential charity or nonprofit organization. Leading online databases like CharityNavigator.org, CharityWatch.org and Guidestar.org provide extensive data on thousands of national, state and local charities and nonprofit organizations. The Better Business Bureau also operates Give.org, a national charity database that accredits and notes complaints. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission's Charity Scams website offers breaking news on illegal fundraising activities and best practices for evaluating charities and nonprofits year-round. What else can you do? Play reporter. Even if an organization checks out through these reputable sources, do an online search of news media just to make sure no unsavory developments have occurred that might discourage your donation.

- **Research what's needed.** If the charity in question accepts physical items or volunteer work, see if you're interested in providing help that way. Check with the charity either online or by phone to determine what they will and will not accept—donating the wrong items simply wastes staff and volunteer time. If you would like to volunteer, ask about opportunities and make sure that volunteer assignment fits you before you commit. Remember, charities really count on their volunteers and your enthusiasm for an assignment can help them keep their turnover to a minimum. Some organizations may also have travel-based service missions that can provide charitable travel opportunities that allow you to help while seeing the world.

- **Ask if your employer will match your donation.** Even if your cash donation is modest, some employers can make your contribution go farther if they have a matching gifts program. Check with your human resources department or benefits manager. Also, many nonprofits, universities and charitable organizations keep their own online databases of employer matching gift programs.

- **Go micro.** If you can only find a few dollars to give, don't let that discourage you. Organize like-minded friends and family members to pool funds, attend events or volunteer time for a cause, or consider a particular nonprofit's organized crowdfunding (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/crowdfunding-nonprofits>) efforts that will allow you to make an impact with only a few dollars. Still short on cash and want to help? Pick up the phone or email the charity and ask if they accept small items or in-kind services. Some ideas might include gift cards (including ones with unused balances), office supplies, stamps, catering for events or board meetings or help with writing, fundraising or technology.

Bottom line: Making a difference in the world doesn't always require big bucks, but big know-how helps. Check your finances first, research charities you're interested in and investigate how small donations of time, money and physical items can make an impact.

Rescue from A1

Marlboro Fire/EMS Station 820. The four firefighters lifted the firefighter up and out of attic and back onto the roof where other firefighters assisted him down a ladder to awaiting medics.

Firefighters were careful not to overload an already compromised roof as some stood by near the roofline and ladders to assist the injured firefighter down to ground level.

Fortunately, the firefighter that fell was wearing his full personal protective gear including his self-contained breathing apparatus with face piece on



and breathing air. This firefighter was able to walk away from this "near miss" without injury, in large part, due to his donning full protective gear and using SCBA during roof operations. After a medic assessed the firefighter appeared to be in good shape and remained on the fire ground.

Firefighters extinguished the remaining fire within 30 minutes of arrival. One dog was found inside the burning house with firefighters attempting resuscitative measures before pronouncing the dog deceased.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. There were no injuries reported.

Prince George's Library Introduces Children's Museum-Like Discovery Centers

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Memorial Library System is rolling out themed children's areas called Discovery Centers throughout the county. The Discovery Centers—which each have different themes, such as castles or space—promote literacy by encouraging learning through creative play.

"As we renovate library branches, we're designing and building colorful Discovery Centers that appeal to children much like children's museums," said Michael Gannon, chief operating officer of the library system. "They're destinations for families where children can visit with their parents and grandparents."

Prince George's County Memorial Library System of-

fers six Discovery Centers with two more under construction and three more in development. All are free as part of the library system.

The Discover Centers feature colorful carpeting and walls, props and displays and child-friendly reading spaces. A bridge crosses a carpet moat in Beltsville Branch's Discovery Castle area; a teddy-bear astronaut sits in a spaceship in Fairmount Heights Branch's Discovery Space; and a child-size circus tent stands in Hillcrest Heights Branch's Discovery Circus.

Other Discovery Centers include Discovery Treehouse at the Glenarden Branch, Discovery Glen at the South Bowie Branch and Discovery Farm at the Spauldings Branch.

In addition, the library system is building Discovery Reef at the New Carrollton Branch, sched-



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

South Bowie Branch Library children's area.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

Spauldings Branch Library children's area.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

Fairmount Heights Branch Library children's area.

uled for completion in late 2016 or early 2017, and Discovery Island at the Laurel Branch. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2016, Discovery Island will include lighted dinosaur footprints, a glass floor exposing a full-size velociraptor skeleton

replica and two children's seating areas, one within a large dinosaur rib cage and the other decorated with volcano lava and light effects.

See **LIBRARY** Page A12

Awards from A2

- Maryland Military Auxiliary Radio—MARS Portable Communications Kit
- New Windsor Fire & Hose Company—Rescue Tool Power Unit
- North Carroll Auxiliary Police—Vehicle Replacement
- Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department—Cellular Booster / Repeater
- Water Witch Fire Company—Equipment Upgrade
- Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company—LUCAS chest compression device

Cecil County:

- Community Fire Company of Rising Sun—Thermal Imaging Camera
- Singler Fire Company—Rescue Equipment Replacement

Frederick County:

- New Market District Volunteer Fire Department—Water Rescue Equipment

- Western Maryland K-9 Search & Rescue—Operational Support

Harford County:

- Abingdon Fire Company—Zodiac Motor Replacement
- Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company—Body Armor
- Community Fire Company of Perryville—Hazardous Gas Response
- Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company—Utility Vehicle Renovation
- Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Struts
- Level Volunteer Fire Company—Public Fire Safety Education
- Maryland D.A.R.E. Officers Association (MDOA)—SORAT
- Mason-Dixon Rescue Dogs—Training and Operation

Howard County:

- International Critical Incident Stress Foundation—Crisis Intervention

- West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department—Fire and Rescue Equipment
- Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company—High Lift Air Bag

Montgomery County:

- Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department—Volunteer Training

Prince George's County:

- Disaster Aid USA—Emergency Response Trailer
- Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad—Thermal Imaging Camera
- Kentland Volunteer Fire Company—Gas Detectors / Ventilation Fans

BGE encourages eligible 501c3 organizations that respond to the community's needs during emergencies to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 each. Grant applications are available online at bge.com/emergencyrespondergrant each September through the end of October.

BGE presented \$310,000 to last year's 48 grant recipients. A number of grant recipients spoke about how they use the grants in this brief video. In addition to supporting the emergency responder community in Maryland, BGE provides training for fire, police, 911 centers and emergency management organizations who routinely work around utility equipment. BGE is recognized for its own emergency response record, ranking among the top utilities in the nation for rapid response to gas emergency calls and in working to prevent damages to energy equipment.

BGE plays an integral role in working with Maryland communities to address economic development, public safety, civic issues and other initiatives that help enhance our neighborhoods. Through the use of shareholder dollars, BGE supports programs that deliver measurable and sustainable impact in areas of education, environment, community development and arts and culture.

ESFCU from A1

them stay warm in the winter. We are pleased that our members and employees generously donated to Warming Hearts and Hands, which helped a record number of students this holiday season."

"Thank you very much for the donation of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for our students," said Catherine Krivitzky, Homeless Liaison for the Department of Students Services in Calvert County. "What a wonderful, large selection. I was especially excited that so many were the perfect size for our high school students. We greatly appreciate the generosity of Educational Systems FCU Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With \$800 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU

Chris Conway, President/CEO and Rosemary Brinkley, Board of Directors Chair for Educational Systems FCU, pause for a photo as they donate new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to the Warming Hearts and Hands campaign.

members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arun-

del, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

The Prince George's Post

Your Newspaper of Legal Record

CALL



Brenda Boice
301 627 0900

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen: Denying Women Access to Affordable Care is GOP's Top Priority in 2016

"Disturbing, shameful, sad that this is the way we're starting the new year."

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, led the debate on the House floor against the Republican budget reconciliation bill that would repeal the Affordable Care Act and defund women's health programs. A transcript of his opening remarks is below:

"It may be a new year, Mr. Speaker, but here we go again. We're in this Congress on the floor of this House for the 62nd time with this effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. And to add insult to injury, to deny millions of women access to health care choices by targeting Planned Parenthood.

"So while the calendar has changed, the Tea Party Republican agenda remains the same. Despite all the pressing issues we face in this country at home and abroad, the only thing and the first thing our Republican colleagues decide to bring to the floor of the House—as the most pressing business to start 2016—was to take away access to affordable care to 22 million Americans and deny access to affordable care for millions of American women.

"That 22 million figure, Mr. Speaker—that's not my figure. That's the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office that has looked at this legislation and concluded that as a result of this

bill, 22 million Americans will lose access to their affordable health insurance. So it will be the freedom to be uninsured—the freedom to not have any opportunity to have coverage when your family has health care needs.

"Mr. Speaker, if you look at this chart, you can see that the Affordable Care Act has already made a dramatic difference in bringing down the number of uninsured in the United States of America. And yet here we are in a new year, and the first act of this Republican Congress will be to turn back the clock and change that figure.

"So I really hope, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues will begin to focus on more important issues in the days ahead. Everybody knows that this will take about a nanosecond for the President of the United States to veto, because the President of the United States is not going to allow 22 million Americans to lose their access to affordable health insurance. And the President is not going to allow millions of Americans, and millions of American women, to lose access to reproductive choice and a range of health care options here in the United States.

"So it's disturbing, shameful, sad that this is the way we're starting the new year. I hope we get on to more important business, Mr. Speaker."

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Gospel of Action

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
American Civil Rights Activist

There is no shortage of words in the English language to describe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By now—over five decades after his fiery delivery of the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.—you may feel as though you have heard them all: leader, hero, visionary, champion, inspiration, pacifist, orator and preacher, to name a few. Of all the possible descriptions and titles that have been assigned to Dr. King, history has proven that his legacy endures in our collective American imagination and our national politics not because of what he was, or who he was, but because of what he did. Dr. King changed our society with action. Soaring rhetoric may move our hearts and imagination, but it is action that translates our seemingly impossible dreams into reality.

Dr. King's all-too-short life was a monumental one that moved our nation to enact large-scale, course-correcting policies like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act, and genuinely contemplate a day when we would "transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood," but he departed from this earth with unfinished business.

Our nation has made undeniable progress since Dr. King described his dream of an America set free from the bondage of racial animosity, injustice and economic inequality. Today, people of color are achieving milestones that would have been impossible without the decades-long accumulation of constant acts of courage to make change happen. But Dr. King did not dedicate himself to a life of action only to create wealth and opportunity for a privileged few, to diversify the palette of America's

corporate offices, or even the White House. While Dr. King would have likely been proud to live in a country that judged an African-American not on the color of his skin, but the content of his character, and elected him president, he would be disheartened to witness the mounting rollbacks in voting rights, disappointed to stand at the cusp of the ever-widening chasm of economic inequality, and disillusioned at the loss of Black lives at the hands of law enforcement. Progress must not grow into passivity. Complacency will only serve to erode the gains our nation have made and can make under the constant vigilance and activism of its citizenry.

In his last State of the Union address to Congress, President Barack Obama acknowledged the necessity of every day acts of courage and quiet citizenship to move our nation closer to fulfilling its founding promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all its people. "What I'm asking for is hard. It's easier to be cynical; to accept that change isn't possible, and politics is hopeless, and to believe that our voices and actions don't matter. But if we give up now, then we forsake a better future."

That better future is what Dr. King saw on the mountaintop. He did not live to get there with us, but his clarion call to justice lives on. We, as the heirs of the change he sought, can make this holiday a more meaningful one by engaging in civic, community and service projects. We can spend the day doing what Dr. King did for a lifetime: serving others. But this is about more than a day. Full, unfettered access to voting will not be restored in one day. Police brutality in communities of color will not end in one day. Economic inequality will not be resolved in one day. It will take days, years, decades and perhaps generations, but if we are wedded to the idea of a more perfect union, it is imperative that we continue Dr. King's long and worthy climb to the mountaintop.



The Prince George's Sports & Learning Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING CENTER

This exciting complex integrates a learning theme with a state-of-the-art athletic training and competition venue for area athletes, and caters to the recreational needs of area residents. The centerpiece of the complex is an extensive indoor sports and learning facility. A central atrium, offering a food concession area, common core facilities, and a "Main Street" environment serves as the primary circulation space and links the venues. Facilities in the complex include a field house, fitness center, gymnastics center, aquatic center, and learning center. Complex is located at 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, on 80 acres of land adjacent to FedEx Field. General hours are Monday–Friday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. For more information and calendar of events, visit www.pgspportsandlearn.com

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Guns Lethalize Anger and Despair

"Every single year, more than 30,000 Americans have their lives cut short by guns—30,000. Suicides. Domestic violence. Gang shootouts. Accidents. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost brothers and sisters, or buried their own children. Many have had to learn to live with a disability, or learned to live without the love of their life."

President Obama spoke movingly about the lives shattered by America's gun violence epidemic on January 5 as he announced a series of new executive actions to reduce gun violence. These new measures will not prevent every shooting that snuffs out the lives of nearly seven children to gun violence daily; they will save many lives and help staunch the relentless plague of gun violence that terrorizes our nation's homes, schools and communities.

The President's executive actions clarify that for purposes of requiring background checks a person does not need to sell guns in a traditional storefront to be "engaged in the business" of selling guns. Some of those who conduct sales over the Internet or at gun shows will now be required to obtain a license and run background checks on potential purchasers or face stiff penalties. These steps, coupled with greater efficiency and effectiveness in our background check system, enforcement of existing gun laws, and new investments in mental health treatment and research into gun safety technologies, are long overdue. Legislative action to strengthen huge weaknesses in our nation's gun laws is still required but the President's common-sense executive actions move us in the right direction.

Several measures highlight one of the key components of our gun violence crisis: that much gun violence begins at home. So many wrongly believe that gun violence happens mostly "out on the streets" and others believe owning a gun will protect their family from gun violence. The opposite is true: A gun in the home increases the risk of homicide, suicide, and accidental death.

Guns lethalyze anger, domestic disputes, mental illness and despair. A gun in the home

makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher, suicide three to five times higher, and accidental death four times higher. The pro-gun lobby has created the fantasy of a gun as a homeowner's perfect protection against a mythical intruder. In reality, each time a gun in the home injures or kills in self-defense, there are four unintentional shooting deaths or injuries, seven criminal assaults and homicides with a gun, and 11 completed or attempted gun suicides.

Suicides are the leading cause of gun deaths in America. In 2014, 21,334 adults, children and teens committed suicide with a gun compared to 10,945 gun homicides. Whites are most likely to die by gun suicide followed by American Indians and Alaska Natives. Whites were more than three times as likely as Blacks and nearly five times as likely as Hispanics to commit suicide by guns. In 2014, 929 children and teens committed suicide with a gun and 1,455 children and teens died in gun homicides.

Guns lethalyze suicide attempts. Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Means Matter suicide prevention campaign explains, "Every study that has examined the issue to date has found that within the

U.S., access to firearms is associated with increased suicide risk." People who die by suicide are more likely to live in homes with guns. States with high gun ownership levels have higher suicide rates because they have more gun suicides while the non-firearm suicide rate is about equal across states. They sum it up simply: "What is it about guns? Guns are more lethal than other suicide means. They're quick. And they're irreversible. About 85 percent of attempts with a firearm are fatal; that's a much higher case fatality rate than for nearly every other method." Nine out of ten people who attempt suicide and survive do not go on to die of suicide later—but most people who use a gun for their first try do not get a second chance.

Guns can lethalyze domestic violence. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence notes the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide 500 percent. CDF noted in its Amicus Brief with the American Academy of Pediatrics in the U.S. Supreme Court case *U.S. v. Castleman*, that even when it

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2016, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Staff Writer Christina Williams
	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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

ADVERTISE WITH US!
The Prince George's Post
Call Brenda Boice 301 627 0900

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Let's Get Your Mind Back In Shape

It's the time of the year when many of us get serious about getting our bodies back in shape. After all those holiday treats, we may notice that our clothes are just a wee bit tighter and that we seem out of breath much more often.

But while getting and staying physically fit is a great goal, many of us ignore the idea that we also need to be mentally fit. And just as you can exercise your muscles to get in better physical shape, there are things you can do to reduce stress and get your feelings and attitudes into better shape.

One starting point for shaping up your mental health is simply to make some time for yourself. It's easy in today's busy world to find yourself buried in work, family issues and social obligations, leaving little or no time for yourself.

An easy fix to that is to create a daily schedule that includes a time slot for "you." Actually schedule a time each day when you can do one thing that you find relaxing or enjoyable, then stick to that schedule. When it's "you" time, pick up a book or take that walk and leave the stress behind.

You can also improve mental well-being by doing things outside yourself. When you give something back to others, it can offer a meaningful escape from your own problems while also providing a sense of fulfillment and self-worth that's essential for good mental health. Look for volunteer opportunities with community, civic or religious groups that will give you a chance to do some good for others.

And yes, staying physically active and fit also plays a role in improved mental health. Studies have found, for example, that exercise is a great way to fight depression. And as we get ourselves into better shape we begin to feel more confident about how we look and what we can do—feelings that add up to good mental health.

Just as those extra pounds from all those holiday cookies are not going to disappear like magic, reducing stress and eliminating problems also takes effort to keep those issues under control. But when you build a little relaxation into your life, reach out to help others, and stay physically fit, you'll find mental health improving, making it easier to cope with the challenges of everyday life.

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

Madan from A1

ship will help the hospital advance its commitment to the community. He stated, "As I learned about Doctors Community Hospital's tradition of providing high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care that the residents of Prince George's County have relied on for more than 40 years, I knew it was an organization where I could make a positive and meaningful contribution."

Prior to accepting the position, Madan toured Doctors Community Hospital with Paul Hagens, vice president of Human Resources. Hagens spoke to and knew the names of all the employees they passed. Madan highlighted that moment as one that reinforced his decision to join the hospital's family-like culture.

Population health is a major industry focus aimed at improving the health of the community by elevating efficiencies, increasing patient satisfaction and reducing costs. Madan will also serve as the hospital's chief population health officer to further such efforts. "We will be researching new ways and best practices to provide the right care at the right time in the right locations. By doing so, we can encourage long-term health management," he stated. He went on to emphasize that learning to genuinely and compassionately listen to patients is key to providing clear pathways to quality care. "That's what population health is all about."

Madan received his bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry as well as his medical doctorate at the University of Missouri. Afterwards, he completed his residency in emergency medicine at Emory Uni-

versity in Georgia—serving as its chief resident. In addition to having earned a certificate in medical management from Johns Hopkins University, he is board certified in emergency medicine and a certified physician executive. He also is a teaching faculty member and assistant professor in the emergency medicine residency programs at both Georgetown University and MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC). Prior to assuming his role at Doctors Community Hospital, Dr. Madan served for six years as the medical director and five years as the associate medical director in MWHC's Emergency Department.

"As healthcare models evolve, hospital leadership must be skilled at managing change and developing strong partnerships with stakeholders," shared Philip Down, chief executive officer and president at Doctors Community Hospital. "Dr. Madan's proven track record of cross-functional leadership, change management, information technology and process improvement make him perfectly suited for this role."

Madan and his family have lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. An avid Tar Heels fan, he currently resides in McLean, Virginia, with his wife and three children.

Doctors Community Hospital is a premier medical and surgical hospital located in Lanham, Maryland. With a mission of being dedicated to passionately caring for the health of patients and the community, the hospital has provided high-quality as well as comprehensive health care to residents of Prince George's County and the region for 40 years.

Prince George's County Since 1932

Prince George's County EDC Rescues Union Market Wholesalers

"For Every Business, There is a Solution in Prince George's County"
says EDC President Jim Coleman

By Lori C. Valentine
PGCounty EDC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Team held an urgent meeting with more than two dozen Union Market wholesalers that are eager to come to the promised land - Prince George's County. These companies were anxious to meet with EDC officials after 15 Union Market companies already expressed strong interest in moving to Prince George's County just last month. During the two hour meeting, EDC reps explained the cost savings of moving to Prince George's County, the ease of access to major highways, the low cost warehouse space and free business development matchmaking services the EDC provides to help them meet new customers.

"With the upcoming redevelopment of Union Market into high-end housing and office space, Prince George's County sees this as an outstanding opportunity to introduce the vibrancy of this historic market to our growing wholesale business community," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "We are delighted to be able to rescue these companies and de-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE; PG COUNTY EDC
Center: EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman.

liver them into the land of modern low cost warehouse space, unlimited parking and ease of access to a vast highway system. This is a classic 'Win/Win' scenario. We can't wait to get them moved in."

When the Economic Development Team learned that several developers had purchased property surrounding the Union Market and had given notice to the wholesale tenants that their leases would not be renewed, the Team went to Union Market before the holidays to talk with its wholesalers about their relocation plans. The Team met with 18 companies, and after Mr. Coleman told them about

his commitment to providing relocation support, lucrative workforce development and training support, access to financial incentives, and free business development matchmaking services, 15 of those companies expressed strong interest in moving to Prince George's County.

Gina Chen, the owner of Solid Gold, Inc. and the unofficial 'Mayor' of Union Market has already relocated her business to Prince George's County. She has been working with the EDC to encourage her colleagues to move as well.

"I like Prince George's County, because they have

land and big buildings," said Chen. "A while ago we considered moving to Virginia, but its locations are too small. I am hoping that we will all be able to find a place where we can move everybody there and establish a new Union Market, which would help us a lot."

Additionally, the wholesalers met commercial real estate brokers from Cushman Wakefield, NAI Michael and private building owners who reviewed specific sites in Hyattsville and Lanham with ready to lease space and scheduled one-on-one tours with the business owners.

"The EDC is working with real estate brokers in the County to provide for all of the wholesalers at Union Market to relocate into Prince George's County," said EDC Business Development Director John Mason. "It is important for us to ensure that these companies can continue to have access to their customer base, as well as find new customers in a less congested atmosphere."

Companies interested in business relocation or expansion into Prince George's County should contact Pradeep Ganguly (pganguly@co.pg.md.us) or call 301-583-4650 today.

Franchot: Ending Alcohol Monopoly Would Add \$193.7 Million, 1,364 New Jobs to Local Economy

Comptroller Released New Study Conducted by State's Bureau of Revenue Estimates

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

Silver Spring, MD—Citing benefits to Montgomery County consumers and small businesses, Comptroller Peter Franchot announced the findings of a Bureau of Revenue Estimates study that examined the economic impact that private sector competition would have on sales and distribution of alcohol in Montgomery County during a press event this morning at Jackie's Restaurant in Silver Spring.

"This study provides empirical confirmation of what consumers and small businesses have been saying for years: that the County's alcohol monopoly is bad for consumers, for small businesses and for our local economy," Comptroller Franchot said. "It's long overdue that we leave this Prohibition-era system in the era of Prohibition, so we can bring this desperately-needed economic activity back into our communities, create quality jobs, and allow adult consumers, not politicians, to make their own decisions when it comes to purchasing alcohol."



PHOTO COURTESY COMPTROLLER OF MARYLAND
Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, center, held a press conference Tuesday morning at Jackie's Restaurant in Silver Spring to announce the findings of a Bureau of Revenue Estimates study that examined the economic impact private sector competition would have on sales and distribution of alcohol in Montgomery County. Joining the Comptroller was Delegate Bill Frick; Jackie Greenbaum, owner of Jackie's Restaurant; and Brian Vasile, owner of Brickside Restaurant in Bethesda.

The study found that removing the marketplace barriers that result from county control over retail sales of liquor and wholesale distribution of alcoholic products would generate an estimate \$193.7 million in new economic activity within the state, in addition to creating 1,364 jobs, and generating \$52.5 million in new wages. When fully imple-

mented, the new activity and income would generate an estimated \$22.8 million in state and local tax revenue.

Under current law, wholesale purchases of alcoholic beverages in Montgomery County can only be made through the Department of Liquor Control (DLC) and off-premise distilled spirits can be purchased at a retail store operated by the county

agency. The study found that over 40 percent of county residents work outside the county and, not coincidentally, consumption of alcohol in the county is 41 percent lower than the statewide average, reflecting the fact that Montgomery County consumers are purchasing their alcohol outside the county, most notably, in the District of Columbia.

Joining the Comptroller at the press event was Del. Bill Frick; Jackie Greenbaum, owner of Jackie's Restaurant; Brian Vasile, owner of Brickside Restaurant in Bethesda; Andrew Schaufele, director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates; Jane Redicker, president and CEO of Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce; Gianna Italiano, president and CEO of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce; and other business and civic leaders.

View the Economic Impact Analysis at http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Public_Services/Agency_Information/Office_of_the_Comptroller/Comptroller_Initiatives/BRE_Economic_Impact_Report_Moco_2015_.pdf

Snow from A1

Making sure that sidewalks are cleared and treated are important safety and accessibility considerations for pedestrians, especially those who have ambulatory disabilities, young children and students who walk to school, and seniors. The obligation for clearing snow and ice accumulation from sidewalks adjacent to residential and commercial properties in Prince George's County is based on Section 23-150 of the County Code.

The Code requires that responsible parties treat and re-

move accumulated snow and ice from abutting sidewalks within 48 hours after snow has fallen or ice has accumulated to a depth of 2 inches. Responsible persons who fail to clear the abutting sidewalks within 24 hours will be issued a Reminder Notice/Door Hanger by a DPIE inspector. After the 24-hour period, DPIE's inspector will conduct a re-inspection and if the responsible persons have failed to clear the abutting sidewalks within that time (total of 48 hours after the event), the inspector will issue a citation that carries with it a fine of \$100. Additional citations will

be issued for each subsequent 24-hour period that the snow and ice continues to obstruct the sidewalks. Also, the fine will continue to accumulate with each citation.

If the snow and ice are not removed or treated by the property owner or lessee in a timely manner, the County has the authority to hire a contractor to do so. The resulting contractor's costs will be added to the fine associated with the violation citations.

Areas of primary focus include sidewalks:

- Adjacent to commercial establishments and apartment complexes

- Along roadways within 1.5 miles of a school
- Along State designated highways
- Along County primary roadways
- Abutting major public gathering places — like churches, assembly halls, etc.
- Reported through public complaints (CountyClick 311 or <http://countyclick.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>)

Now is the best time to find that hidden shovel or purchase one from the local hardware store; and, while you are at it, remember to pick up something to treat ice.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review *The Revenant*

The Revenant
Grade: B

Rated R, abundant graphic violence and gory images, a little nudity, a sexual assault
2 hrs., 36 min

A revenant is someone who comes back as if from the dead, usually for vengeance. That makes the title of *The Revenant* a bit of a spoiler, since the person in question isn't even presumed dead till it's two-thirds over, and doesn't return till after that. I guess the filmmaker wanted us to know what we're in for. Revenge is inevitable, for the characters as well as for the viewers.

The filmmaker is Alejandro G. Iñárritu, whose metaphysical backstage comedy *Birdman* won the Oscar for Best Picture last year. The brutal, slow-moving *The Revenant* is about as different from *Birdman* as it could be, and it's a shift from the multi-character, interlocking plots of his earlier films *Amores Perros*, *21 Grams*, *Babel*, too. This time the story is simple, almost detrimentally so, with themes so uncomplicated you wonder why Iñárritu needed two and a half hours to convey them.

What a ride those two and a half hours are, though. Set in approximately the 1820s, the film is about a team of fur-trappers fighting for survival while being frequently attacked by Indians and Mother Nature. In particular, there is Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio), a leader in the company who becomes a liability after he's horrifically injured by a protective mama bear in a sequence from which the viewer will not recover anytime soon. Having already been decimated by a gruesome Indian ambush, the company must decide how much effort to expend in stretchering Glass home. The snowy journey is perilous for able-bodied men,



ROTTENTOMATOES

Inspired by true events, *The Revenant* is an immersive and visceral cinematic experience capturing one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit. In an expedition of the uncharted American wilderness, legendary explorer Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is brutally attacked by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team. In a quest to survive, Glass endures unimaginable grief as well as the betrayal of his confidant John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy). Guided by sheer will and the love of his family, Glass must navigate a vicious winter in a relentless pursuit to live and find redemption. *The Revenant* is directed and co-written by renowned filmmaker, Academy Award® winner Alejandro G. Iñárritu (*Birdman*, *Babel*). © Fox

let alone men barely clinging to life.

Tending to Glass are his half-Indian son, Hawk (Forrest Goodluck), a loyal young man named Jim Bridger (Will Poulter), and John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), a coldly practical veteran of this business who's been scalped by Indians before. Fitz will become Glass's primary antagonist, once Indians, bears, and ice are finished with him.

It's a very ordinary story (based very loosely on a novel by Michael Punke), but two things distinguish it. First, instead of treating it like a straightforward survivalist action movie, Iñárritu seems to channel Terrence Malick, with long, quiet

scenes that emphasize the silent beauty of nature. Make no mistake, the moments of violent action are as heart-stopping as you'd want them to be. But between those scenes there is much space for contemplation (which will turn to boredom for people who don't like the movie).

The other noteworthy element, related to the first one, is the way Iñárritu uses the camera to immerse us in the story. Working with Oscar-winning cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki (who shot *Birdman* and several Malick films), he favors long, unbroken takes in which the camera moves with unnatural steadiness through chaotic, hellish

scenes. We are witness to everything the trappers, the Indians, and Mother Nature do to each other, and the unhurried movement of the camera gives it an eerie, unblinking feel.

But what does it all add up to? Ah, there's the problem. "Revenge is in the Creator's hands," someone cautions early on. When the moment of revenge finally arrives, after so much pain, death, and running time, it almost can't help but seem like a letdown—if not to Hugh Glass then to us (and maybe to him, too). A profound sense of "Is that it?" permeates the last 10 minutes, bringing a gripping saga to a disappointing close.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

There Is No 'War on Football'



You would not have needed Jimmy the Greek to guess that December would see a cavalcade of pigskin pontificators defending their belief in the virile virtue of tackle football. The movie *Concussion* hits theaters on Christmas Day and will further expose for new audiences the National Football League's history of malignant neglect of both brain science and the safety of the people we cheer on the field. The NFL is already gearing up for a massive public-relations response to the film because they are nervous, and they should be. The film is going to shine a light not just on the league but also on the work of the film's protagonist, Dr. Bennett Omalu, played by Will Smith. Dr. Omalu is not waiting around to take advantage of this Hollywood-provided platform. He penned an op-ed in the *New York Times* Monday with the pithy title, "Don't Let Kids Play Football." He writes:

If a child who plays football is subjected to advanced radiological and neurocognitive studies during the season and several months after the season, there can be evidence of brain damage at the cellular level of brain functioning, even if there were no documented concussions or reported symptoms. If that child continues to play over many seasons, these cellular injuries accumulate to cause irreversible brain damage, which we know now by the name Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or C.T.E., a disease that I first diagnosed in 2002.

Now the forces defending football are starting to amass. Dr. Julian Bailes, who was Omalu's mentor responded that he thinks football is safe for kids. He also said, "We don't know the prevalence of CTE. I have said and I believe that CTE is a risk in a minority of NFL players and hopefully in a group of players who are in a now bygone era, meaning that the reforms in the NFL that began in 2009, as a result of our work and others' work, has resulted in sweeping changes."

These debates are productive, and we should have more of them. We should also note the interests different debaters represent. Dr. Bailes is the medical director of Pop Warner football, which is tackle football for kids. In February, Debra Pyka sued Pop Warner on a wrongful death claim, after her son, Joseph Chernach, committed suicide at the age of 25. Chernach, who only played at the youth and high-school levels, was diagnosed with CTE during his autopsy. In a Boston University Study, 21 percent (four of 19) of brain autopsies on people who just played youth and high-school football, were found to have CTE. Dr. Bailes sharply critiqued the study on ESPN's *Outside the Lines*, saying, "There's absolutely no information on the number of concussions that the [study subjects] had in high school or college, or the severity of the concussions. I think what probably happened is lots of them get no concussions in youth, but three in high school, five in college and 10 in the NFL. They're trying to say it's the age of first exposure that is the problem, when it's more likely cumulative exposure."

Fine. Two scientists disagree. Dr. Bailes seems to have a rather blaring conflict of interest, but again, the more debate and more discussion about this issue, the better.

What is toxic—and what the NFL should pull the reins on right away—is this tweet from former backup quarterback and current ESPN national radio host Danny Kanell; a tweet that went viral and spawned an endless number of side discussions on social media. Kanell slammed the *New York Times* piece by Dr. Omalu and tweeted, "The war on football is real. Not sure source but concussion alarmists are loving it. Liberal media loves it. Doesn't matter. It's real."

This tweet also launched Kanell into a series of debates with others (including me), where he further expounded on the snarkiness of liberals, the left-wing nature of the media pumping this up, and the "war" on the game he loves. It's worth noting first off that Kanell is hardly breaking new ground with his view that there is a liberal "war on football." From Rush Limbaugh to an even deeper depths in the right-wing fever swamps, the idea that their football is under coordinated attack by forces whose goal is "the wussification" of young boys has been a trope for so long that it has morphed into cliché. Think the "War on Christmas" with jock itch. Yet this is the first time, according to my own research, that someone backed by the ESPN brand has actually ascribed a political red state/blue state motivation to this rising tide of scientific data and the ensuing public concern.

Let's not mince words: There is no war on football. There are individuals who have said the sport should be banned. But their words are drowned by a sport that has colonized our Sundays. It is like drawing the conclusion that there is a War on Christmas because you hear a store clerk say "Happy holidays." The danger of concussions is real enough that the NFL has upended the protocols of its league so the world knows it has to take it seriously. Announcers now speak in

Cold Weather Pooch Protection

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD —Cold weather can pose serious threats to the health of your four-legged family members, which is why it's highly recommended to keep your pets inside. But when you do take them out for a walk or the potty, the Prince George's County Animal Management Division encourages pet owners to closely monitor their pets' exposure to the winter elements and provides the following tips to help keep your pooch healthy and warm.

If your dog stays outdoors in cold weather, County law requires the following:

- A doghouse of proper size that is dry, draft free and raised off the ground;
- A wind flap attached to the doghouse to keep cold air out and warm air in;
- Bedding that is non-absorbent such as straw or wood shavings to help keep the dog warm; and
- Routinely check your pet's drinking water to make sure it is not frozen and use a secured container to prevent tipping.

Other cold weather safety tips include:

- Keep kittens and puppies under six months, and small or short-haired dogs inside.
- Increase the amount of their food; outdoor dogs need more calories in the winter to produce body heat.
- Never let your dog off their leash in the snow or ice; they can become disoriented and lost, even in a familiar place. Be sure your pet has an ID tag, microchip and sturdy leash.



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Dogs need protection from the cold too.

- Wipe your pet's paws after an outing with a wet cloth to remove any ice or chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks that can irritate their paws. Salt can irritate or burn, as well as cause vomiting and in some pets, can even cause seizures. Antifreeze has a sweet, attractive smell to pets and can be deadly if ingested.
- Keep your pets indoors during freezing temperatures. If left unattended outdoors they can get frostbite or become disoriented and freeze to death. Hypothermia can result from extended exposure to cold and is a life-threatening condition.
- Don't leave your pet in a closed car in the winter because it can be just as deadly as in the summer.

- If you have bunnies who live outside, make sure they have a warm, dry hutch with plenty of bedding that is out of the wind. Water is important too as is some extra food. Cover the hutch with a tarp.
- If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on your car hood before starting the engine to give them a chance to escape. Cats like to seek shelter from the cold and can be under the hood of your car.

For more information about pet care contact the Animal Services Facility at (301) 780-7200. To view the many homeless animals available for adoption, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

Calendar of Events

January 21—January 27, 2016

Black History Month Exhibition: "Narrative in Black Identity"

Date and Time: Through February 28, 2016, 10 am–5 pm (Daily);
Public Reception: Saturday, February 6, 1–3 pm
Description: Montpelier Arts Center is proud to honor Black History Month through this exhibition celebrating African American heritage and identity. Antonio McAfee, Tiffany Jones and Stephen Towns share their insights about identity through the media of painting and photography. Using historic photos, personal journeys and portraits, these Baltimore-based artists help the viewer understand the importance of history and identity in contemporary times.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Jewelry Making

Date and Time: Friday, January 22, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Tonight ladies will show off their fashion skills and create their own jewelry.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Girls Rock Climbing

Date and Time: Friday, January 22, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Travel with us to Climb Zone in Laurel for a night of rock climbing! We will depart by 6 pm and return by 9 pm. A signed specialized permission slip is required. Please RSVP by January 15, 2016.
Cost: Resident: \$30; Non-Resident: \$30
Ages: 10-17
Location: College Park Community Center
9916 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-345-4425; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Fun & Fitness Boot Camp

Date and Time: Friday, January 22, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Here's to a new year and a new you! Start your New Year with a night of fitness.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Opening Reception: Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here

Date and Time: Saturday, January 23, 2016, 5–8 pm
Description: This exhibition at the Brentwood Arts Exchange features artists' books, broadsides, and letterpress work created for related Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here festivals in San Francisco and Boston.
The art, related exhibits, programs, and events were inspired to commemorate the 2007 bombing of Baghdad's historic book-selling street by celebrating the free exchange of ideas and knowledge and standing in solidarity with people everywhere that free expression is threatened.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome.
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Martial Arts Tournament

Date & Time: Saturday, January 23, 2016, 9:30 am–5:30 pm
Description: Participants will compete in Under & Black Belt Forms, Under & Black Belt Fighting, One Step Sparring, Judo Newaza, and Cecil Ryu Taekwondo Fighting. Registration fee is free for competitors. To enter, please pick up a registration form at Upper Marlboro Community Center or Patuxent Community Center.
Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$5 (cost for spectators)
Ages: Competitors: 5 and older Spectators: All ages
Location: Patuxent Community Center
4410 Bishopmill Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-780-7577; TTY 301-699-2544

TR: Snow Tubing at Whitetail Ski Resort

Date & Time: Sunday, January 24, 2016, 8:30 am–5 pm
Description: Take the family to Whitetail Resort for a snow tubing adventure! Enjoy zooming down perfectly carved lanes and relax on the moving carpet as it takes you and your tube back to the top. Fee includes transportation, snow tubing rental and lunch voucher. This program is specifically designed for families that include individuals with disabilities who reside in Prince George's County.
Please note direct supervision/assistance is not provided for this special event.
Cost: Resident: \$60 (Residents only)
Ages: 5 yrs & up
Location: Executive Office Building
6611 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, MD
Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Snowday

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Description: What sounds like a band, but doesn't have instruments? Snowday! This dynamic quintet creates unique music using just their voices to delight audiences of all ages. Snowday's talented singers present upbeat songs and moving rhythms that trace the history of a cappella singing and demonstrate how to create its harmonic parts with a vocal drumming lesson with the audience.
Cost: \$8/person (general admission); \$6/groups of 20 or more
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... What Do Green Groups Think About the Outcome of the Recent Paris Climate Talks?

Dear EarthTalk:

What do green groups think about the outcome of the recent Paris climate talks?

—Jackie Lupinacci,
Pittsburgh, PA

On December 12, 2015, 195 countries assembled at the COP21 Climate Conference in Paris produced a 32-page agreement outlining goals to phase out industrial carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. All countries agreed on "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

Each country submitted a voluntary pledge for cutting its CO₂ emissions, known as an "intended nationally determined contribution," or INDC. These pledges are not strong enough to achieve the two degree target, but countries involved are required to monitor and report their emissions data, which will be reviewed every five years, and are expected to update their emissions reductions over time.

"While the Paris commitments won't deliver all the emissions reductions that are needed, the agreement provides a framework to ratchet up ambition over time: a transparent system for reporting and review, regular assessments of progress, and strengthening of commitments

every five years beginning in 2020," said Fred Krupp, President of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). "The agreement relies on each nation to enact its own policies to reduce emissions while ensuring that their progress can be monitored by all. We look forward to each country's work to both meet and build on their pledges in order to finish the hard work of protecting future generations."

But distant promises standing in for present-day pledges adequate enough to achieve the agreement's temperature goals have left many green groups disappointed. In a statement issued shortly after the release of the final agreement, Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org, said: "Every government seems now to recognize the fossil fuel era must end, and soon. But the power of the fossil fuel industry is reflected in the text, which drags out the transition so far that endless climate damage will be done. Since pace is the crucial question now, activists must redouble our efforts to weaken that industry."

Kumi Naidoo, executive director of Greenpeace International, reflected post-Paris that a continued, unrelenting push for clean, renewable fuels by green groups is crucial. "When it comes to forcing real, meaningful action, Paris fails to meet the moment," Naidoo said. "We have a 1.5-degree wall to climb, but the ladder isn't long enough



CREDIT: YANN CARADEC, FLICKRCC

Green groups have mixed reactions to the outcome of the recent global climate talks in Paris, but hold out hope that the nations of the world will do more on their own than the agreement itself requires.

... To pull us free of fossil fuels we are going to need to mobilize in ever greater numbers ... We will push our beautifully simple solution to climate change—100 percent renewable energy for all—and make sure it is heard and embraced."

In addition to green group backlash, the Paris agreement was openly condemned in recent press and by former NASA scientist James Hansen, who called it "fraud," yet some remain optimistic that the conversion to sustain-

able energy is inevitable. Michael Burger, executive director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, told ThinkProgress: "The leaders of the world recognize that the consequences of noncompliance are disastrous. We are looking at the wholesale transformation of our global climate. The main incentive here for compliance is not the threat of some civil penalty—non-compliance would mean environmental disaster."

CONTACTS: EDF, www.edf.org; 350.org, www.350.org; Greenpeace International, www.greenpeace.org/international; Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, web.law.columbia.edu/climate-change.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

2016 Session from A1

lican, called discussion of legislative overrides "overdramatic."

But Democrats, who control both chambers of the General Assembly, were resolute.

"We want to restore some of these veto bills, especially as it relates to ex-felons," said Senate Majority Leader Catherine Pugh, D-Baltimore.

On the table is the decriminalization of smoking marijuana in public—as well as the legalization of pot-smoking paraphernalia—voting rights for felons on parole or probation, hotel booking taxes, room rental fees in Howard County and restrictions on police seizing assets of less than \$300.

Hogan chalked up some of these vetoes, like the bills on marijuana and police seizures, to minor issues with legislation that he hoped would eventually be ironed out in the General Assembly.

He said he was most concerned with the legislation allowing ex-felons to vote.

"Former felons can already vote in Maryland, it's a misrepresentation of the facts," Hogan said at the summit. "This is allowing CURRENT felons, who haven't yet served out their sentences, who are still on parole or probation, who haven't finalized their debt to society, whether we should allow them to vote. I disagree with it."

Hogan, a Republican, said that his proposed tax plan, which includes \$480 million in tax cuts, is something that Republicans and Democrats should both agree on.

Despite Hogan's hopes for bipartisan support, Miller and Busch told WEA radio host Marc Steiner they had not been consulted about the governor's tax plan.

"The problem is communication," Miller said. "It's the same problem between husbands and wives, if you want to stay married, you have to communicate."

Busch said that education funding is his main priority going into budget deliberations. The governor last year cut expected supplemental education funding — known as GCEI — to some jurisdictions, angering the Democratic establishment.

Hogan's tax plan, which he announced Tuesday, includes a 3 percent Earned Income Tax credit over one year, similar to a plan proposed by Sen. Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, in 2014.

"He's just trying to accelerate the bill that I passed two years ago, as far as getting the increase," Madaleno said. "I'm glad that the governor has gotten on with one of my priorities."

Beyond that, Madaleno was critical of Hogan's plan.

"He uses very big numbers, rounded up, over multiple years," Madaleno said.

While most lawmakers were greeting each other and readying for a noon start to the legislature, some spent the morning touting bills and issues they planned to support during the 2016 session.

Several state legislators held a news conference to call for quick action on the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which, according to the Maryland Climate Coalition, would mandate the state increase its minimum clean energy consumption to 25 percent by 2020.

"The bill is a win for the environment, a win for health and a win for the economy," Madaleno said.

The bill also includes a \$40 million plan to train and prepare more people in Maryland for careers in clean energy.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AMBER EBANKS

U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., addresses reporters at the Maryland State House on the opening day of the General Assembly's 2016 session in Annapolis on January 13, 2016.

Representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving also gathered Wednesday morning and called on the legislature to enact the All-DUI Offender Ignition Interlock Law. This law would require ignition interlocks for convicted drunken drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or greater. This device requires the driver to blow into a mouthpiece before starting the vehicle. If the driver is impaired, the device will prevent the engine from being started.

Montgomery County Police Department Traffic Division Director Capt. Tom Didone said he attended the news conference in honor of Officer Noah Leotta, 24, who was on DUI patrol in December when he was struck and killed. Police have charged a man with driving drunk in connection with Leotta's death.

"The reality of this is you look at this young man and you can't help but to see a bright promising person whose life was lost," said Didone. "This is a per-

son who's dedicated his life to protecting citizens and removing drunk drivers from the highway and who has his back?"

Other speakers included State Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, Delegate Ben Kramer, D-Montgomery, and MADD Maryland State Program Director Lisa Spicknall.

At the end of the morning summit, outgoing U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat, reflected on her long years of service.

She said that she was pleased that there is more minority and female participation in politics, and that technology has made it easier to reach people.

As far as her retirement plans go, she wants to continue working with state officials on issues like combating heroin.

"No golf, the nuns would never let me take up a sport where I had a club in my hands."

CNS Correspondents Connor Glowacki and Amber Ebanks contributed to this report.

Football from A6

hushed tones when there is a strong hit, like they are in the back pew of a funeral parlor. Players are quitting the game earlier so they can "remember the names" of their kids in 20 years. CTE is real, and the dangers of football are real. If the suicides of players like Dave Duerson, Junior Seau, and others haven't sufficiently grabbed our

attention, the ensuing autopsies and reams of research should. This is not a war on the game; it's a world adjusting to settled science and trying to figure out how to make a game that will never be safe safer for the people we cheer.

The worst thing that could happen would be a replica of how the right attacks environmental data and treats its belief in quack science as a bizarre

form of identity politics. If this happens to concussion research, we'll see parents ignoring the risks of youth football because they think that's just a way "libtards" control the "sheeple." We'll see high-school coaches sending players out on the field with preexisting cognitive issues because they are soldiers opposing "wussification," or maybe their school is in "Trump country." We need to defend the ex-

isting consensus about brain injury, concussions, and their connection to CTE, and we need to continue to push for more scientific data. To make this yet another tired partisan hot-potato does a disservice to everyone whose life has been hampered or destroyed by CTE, and gives undeserved cover to a league that for decades simply did not care, as their retired players suffered in silence.