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Sen. Bobby Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, speaks on the telephone in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 21, 2016, before the Senate voted to override Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of his bill that would decriminalize the possession of marijuana paraphernalia.

Maryland Lawmakers Override 5 of Hogan's Vetoes; Senate Delays on Felon Voting Rights

By RACHEL BLUTH
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Despite impassioned speeches from Republicans, the Democrat-controlled Maryland Senate voted Thursday to override three of Gov. Larry Hogan's vetoes from last session, and decided to postpone voting on a fourth.

Five pieces of legislation—funding an Annapolis hall;

seizure of assets by police; marijuana paraphernalia decriminalization; and two on hotel taxes—were approved by both the state House and Senate this week. Because both chambers approved the overrides, the bills became law immediately.

The Senate on Thursday morning voted 29 to 17—just making the 29 votes required for an override—on legislation to decriminalize the possession of marijuana

paraphernalia. Though possession of small amounts of marijuana are no longer a criminal offense in Maryland, the devices required to smoke it remain prohibited.

Hogan and other detractors worried that legalizing paraphernalia would make it harder to prosecute people who smoked while driving.

"This bill in no way legalizes, decriminalizes or makes OK someone getting behind the wheel

of a car and driving while high," said bill sponsor Sen. Robert Zirkin, D-Baltimore County.

Sen. Robert Cassilly, a Republican from Harford, said it sent a wrong message that driving with an open container of alcohol in the car is a misdemeanor, but driving with a joint—while not intoxicated—is only a civil fine.

See **OVERRIDE** Page A3

Council Chair Davis Announces Committee Assignments and Appointments for Legislative Year 2016

By Press Officer
PG County Government

The Prince George's County Council, led by Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, and Vice-Chair Dannielle Glaros (D) – District 3, is set to meet the challenges of the new Legislative Year with the announcement of 2016 Council committee assignments and appointments to County boards and commissions.

Council Member Karen R. Toles (D) – District 7, will chair

the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS). Council Member Deni L. Taveras (D) – District 2, will serve as committee vice-chair.

Among the agencies, institutions and issues of concern to HEHS: The Prince George's County Board of Education – Transfers and Budget Amendments; Prince George's Community College; Citizens Complaint Oversight Panel; Dimensions

See **COUNCIL 2016** Page A7

PGCPS Students Bring Home Top Prize at State-Wide Dance Showcase

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Five students from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) received top honors for their exceptional dance skills at the 27th Annual Maryland Public High School Dance Showcase on January 8 at Goucher College in Towson, MD.

Suitland High School seniors Mecca Corey, 17, of Fort Washington, Janae Snyder-Stewart, 17, of Fort Washington, Kameryn Trussell, 17, of Upper Marlboro, and Staci

Wilburn, 17, of Temple Hills were selected as "All-State Dancers." Northwestern High School sophomore, Joshua Gray, 15, of Mt. Rainier, received honorable mention.

"I was very excited about receiving the "All-State Dancers" award because it confirmed that I can do anything I set my mind to as long as I'm determined and work hard," said Corey. "It was a very demanding experience, and required complete focus from the beginning to the end."

See **TOP PRIZE** Page A5

"Surviving a Burning House"—PGFD Community Risk Reduction Video

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department's Office of Community Risk Reduction and Outreach (CRRO) has a new tool to help educate students, residents and citizens about safety measures to help escape a burning house.

The department is taking advantage of the popular "Burning House" song by country artist and songwriter, Cam, which describes a dream she had about a broken relationship. Permission to use "Burning House" was obtained from Sony Music—Nashville, who is allowing the department to use the song and video only in Prince George's County.

The department's video *Surviving a Burning House* plays the song in the background as images of burning houses and fire apparatus ap-

pear in the video. Fire safety messages appear at intervals, promoting working smoke alarms, planning and practicing an exit drill in your home, and encouraging staying out of a burning house once you are out.

CRRO staff has used the video during school fire safety and injury prevention visits and has received an overwhelming positive response.

"When you receive dozens of questions from students and staff after viewing the video, it indicates the video evoked emotion and interest," said Teresa Crisman, CRRO coordinator.

The *'Surviving a Burning House* video uses real images of real fires that recently occurred in Prince George's County while playing the "Burning House" song, which appears to highly interest view-

See **VIDEO** Page A3

Mikulski Meets With Food and Drug Administration Employees at White Oak to Announce Increase Federal Funds for FDA to Protect Food, Drug and Medicine Safety in America

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Barbara Mikulski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on Monday met with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) leaders and employees at the agency's White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, Maryland. Senator Mikulski was joined by FDA Acting Commissioner Dr. Stephen Ostroff to announce the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, recently passed by Congress and signed into law, includes increased federal funding for the agencies' food safety activities and to better protect our medical supply chain.

"I fought hard for this federal funding to support FDA and its critical mission that makes our nation safer and our economy stronger," Senator Mikulski said. "In recent years, we've increased

the FDA's responsibility to ensure the safety of our food supply. And in this increasingly global market, we've relied on FDA more than ever to make sure the drugs and medical devices we depend upon are safe and effective. We've also asked FDA to help protect Americans from unsafe tobacco products. With all these increased responsibilities must come increased resources."

"I want to personally thank Senator Mikulski for her longstanding and enthusiastic support of FDA and our mission to promote and protect the public health," said FDA Acting Commissioner Stephen Ostroff, M.D. "This year's additional funding will enable FDA to better serve the American people by improving the safety of the food supply and assuring the medical products used by so many people are safe and effective."

As Chairwoman and now Vice Chairwoman of the Senate



PHOTO COURTESY: OFFICE OF BARBARA MIKULSKI

On Monday, January 4, 2016, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) visited the Food and Drug Administration headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland to speak with employees and announce increased federal funding for the agencies' food safety activities and to better protect our medical supply chain.

Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski has been a strong supporter of the FDA, which supports more than 15,000 jobs in Maryland. The

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 includes \$2.7 billion. See **SAFETY** Page A5

INSIDE

Mikulski Announces NOAA Weather Supercomputer Online at Weather and Climate Prediction Center in College Park

As Chairwoman and now Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski has continued to fight to increase funding for NOAA, providing resources needed to carry out its important mission. **Community**, Page A3

Tuning Out: Why I Will Not Watch the Oscars

For the second straight year in a row, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences—the organization behind Hollywood's biggest and splashiest awards show—failed to nominate a single actor or actress of color in the lead and supporting acting categories. **Commentary**, Page A4

Washington Redskins Legend Larry Brown Coaches More Than 100 Local Businesses

Through persistent hard work and overcoming numerous injuries, Mr. Brown went to four consecutive Pro Bowls during his first four seasons, was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1972, and led the Redskins to their 1973 Super Bowl appearance. **Business**, Page A5

Movie Review: "In the Heart of the Sea"

Fierce storms and irritated whales eventually force the surviving crew members to take desperate measures—yet even then the film fails to find any drama or horror in their situation. And not to spoil anything, but their situation IS RIFE WITH DRAMA AND HORROR! **Out on the Town**, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
How are borderlands causing widespread environmental damage while splintering families and communities across the U.S. Southwest?
—Peter Jackson, Baltimore, MD

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

She called the numbers at the Morningside Fire Department Bingo

Selaine Ealey, 75, who, along with her husband James Ealey, designed the Glaubitz Circle memorial, died Dec. 19. She was retired as a supervisor and a receptionist at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now, Health and Human Services).

She was born in Key West and attended Washington Union Academy and graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala. She met her husband, an Army man, and they were married in San Antonio on July 15, 1959. Among their assignments was Fort Dix in New Jersey.

They settled in Morningside in October 1976 and immediately became involved in the activities of the town. Jim ran for a seat on the Town Council, won, and served several terms, most as vice-mayor. Selaine was a Boy Scout den mother, called the Bingo numbers for the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, and served as treasurer for the Morningside Seniors. Selaine and Jim designed the memorial to Morningside's long-serving mayor, Gerald Glaubitz. It was dedicated on Sept. 12, 2004.

Selaine is survived by her husband of 56 years, James Ealey; daughter Linda Ealey and son and daughter-in-law James and Mylinda Ealey; and many other relatives and friends. Memorial service was at the Dupont Park Seventh Day Adventist Church in Washington.

Commerce Dept. agency moving to Suitland Federal Center

Nearly 600 federal workers will be relocating from Washington to Prince George's in June when the Bureau of Economic Analysis—an agency of the Commerce Department—moves to the Suitland Federal Center.

The BEA will join five other federal agencies, among them: the Census Bureau, Naval Maritime Intelligence, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's satellite operations.

Applause

Jessica Bell, of Skyline, graduated from Bowie State Univer-

sity on Dec. 20 with a degree in Criminal Justice. She is the daughter of Deborah Bell.

Dr. Constance Iloh, a 2005 graduate of Oxon Hill High School, has been recognized by *Forbes* magazine as one of "30 Under 30" in the education category. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, has a master's from Wake Forest and a PhD from the University of Southern California. She will be an assistant professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Education, in the fall.

There were several Powerball winners in Maryland, for the \$1 million prizes. One ticket was sold in Capitol Heights. I never heard who it was, but it's nice to know we have another millionaire in Prince George's.

Changing landscape

Nice & Tight BBQ has opened at 8919 Branch Avenue in Clinton. A reviewer declared the ribs "Top Notch, the pulled pork tender and juicy, and the brisket takes me back to growing up in Memphis." For hours, call (202) 420-1556.

Piscataway Drive in Fort Washington opened to traffic and pedestrians on Dec. 22, for the first time since it was damaged in a landslide, which led to the evacuation of 28 homes in the Piscataway Hills community. Officials said the slope failure was the county's most expensive natural disaster to date—it cost about \$15 million to repair.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This year Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, comes on Feb. 10. The day before is traditionally known as Shrove Tuesday. You are invited to St. Philip's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. The fees are: Adults, \$6; ages 5 to 12, \$3; family, \$20; 4 & younger, free. For information or tickets, call Theresa Roberson, 301-868-2652, or Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

Morningside memories: 1986

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department held its annual Banquet & Installation of Officers Jan. 20 at the Suitland Moose Lodge. Tommy Groom was installed as Chief. Other of-

ficers were: Mark Hendley, Rickey Riley, Tommy Warren and Ronnie Oliver. Jerry Glaubitz was elected President. Ronnie Oliver responded to the most calls with 928 runs.

On another note: Christmas 1985 Decorating Awards were announced. Winners in various categories were: C.P. Torres, Woodland Rd.; Mike & Cathy Miller, Woodland Rd.; Ronald & Nellie Downs, Suitland Rd.; and Vera & Larry Bauer, Morgan Rd. Phil King and Walt Sienkiewicz were judges.

She could speak six languages

Elisabeth Beatrez, 84, who was active in the American Scandinavian Association, the Sons of Norway and the Drott Lodge Vasa Order of America where she organized the annual Sankta Lucia Festival, died Jan. 9. She was born in Denmark and was nine years old when the Nazis invaded and occupied Denmark in 1940.

After the war, her family moved to California and she attended UC/Berkeley where she met her future husband, Robert Beatrez. His work as a Navy engineer eventually brought them to Washington. They settled in Temple Hills and were active and sang in the choir at three parishes, Holy Family, St. Ignatius and, most recently, at St. Philip's. Elisabeth was active with the American Lung Association and Right to Life, and was proficient in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, German, French and Spanish. She utilized her language skills as a volunteer interpreter at the area airports, by phone.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Robert Beatrez; seven children, Teresa, Hilary, Michael, Veronica, Juanita Maria, Luisa and Vincent; and 12 grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Sister Zion and Lisa Call, Jan. 29; David Call and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30; Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; Skyline Citizens President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; and Ashley Lee, Feb. 3.

Happy 66th anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on Feb. 4.

ing the classes to help individuals to learn to manage money God's way, getting out of debt, saving money, investing for the future and outrageous generosity in a way that is scripturally-based, practical, and proven. The classes are 90 minutes each, once a week for 9 consecutive weeks. If you are interested in enrolling in these finance classes please register on line at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1009945>.

SHOW PLACE ARENA

Join us at the Show Place Arena dancing and singing the night away with Urban Vibe Entertainments' Valentines Love Jam Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM. Invite that very special someone to be serenaded by the smooth sounds of Bobby Brown, Mint Condition, Ginuwine, and 112. Cost of tickets are \$59-\$95, plus service charges. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, Ticketmaster.com and Phonecharge. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on President Obama's Executive Orders to Reduce Gun Violence

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding President Obama's announcement on the use of executive orders to address gun violence.

"Gun violence is at epidemic levels throughout the United States. Whether from mass shootings, armed robbery, domestic violence, accidents, or suicide, hundreds of Americans are killed or injured every day, destroying families in communities across this country. Too many Members of Congress value the support of the National Rifle Association's organized gun lobby more than doing what's right for American families. As a result, any attempt to pass legislation to curb gun violence has been met with fierce opposition and defeated.

"The limited actions announced by President Obama seek to address loopholes and carve outs by the National Rifle Association and their friends in Congress who have weakened our nation's firearm laws over the past thirty years, and put more lives in danger. For example, the Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986 narrowed the definition of those 'engaged in the business' of dealing in firearms and therefore required a federal firearms license. By updating this vague term and clarifying that no matter where you operate your business you must have a license and conduct background checks, we will enhance the public safety. Additionally, by making substantial improvements to the current National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and closing loopholes that allow certain gun purchasers to avoid background checks altogether, we can prevent more of the criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill from getting firearms.

"Faced with the sad reality that Congress refuses to act, I applaud President Obama's actions. By no means does this absolve Congress from taking comprehensive legislative action and providing increased funding for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to carry out their duties fully. While the President's actions alone will not end gun violence, they are a step forward in keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals and will help make our communities safer and save lives."

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces New Director for Chesapeake Life Center and Belcher Institute

PASADENA, MD—Hospice of the Chesapeake recently announced Laurie Harrison of Pasadena has joined the organization as Director for Chesapeake Life Center and the John & Cathy Belcher Institute for Complex Illness Care.

Harrison brings to the non-profit hospice and palliative care organization a background in health care and philanthropy including three years with major gifts at Anne



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Arundel Community College and most recently as Executive Director at Meritus Healthcare Foundation, Inc., in Hagerstown, MD, a position she held for five years.

Harrison recognizes the complexity of the dual position she is undertaking by serving as director for the grief counseling and educational programs of the well-established and respected Chesapeake Life Center as well as for the relatively young Belcher Institute.

"Chesapeake Life Center has a tremendous reputation in the community," Harrison said, adding that she is fortunate to have the support of a staff with decades of experience in their field to guide her. At the same time, Harrison is very excited to be a leader for the Belcher Institute. Part of this new position will be to build on the vision of John and Cathy Belcher to establish the institute, which Hospice of the Chesapeake seeks to make a national leader in the positive and transformational change in the fields of advanced complex illness and end-of-life care.

"Laurie's experience managing and growing the philanthropic support programs of a regional hospital serving over 200,000 patients a year is a huge asset to our organization," Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Ben Marcantonio said. "Her passion for serving and expertise as a strategist is exactly what we need to continue to advance Chesapeake Life Center and to establish the Belcher Institute as a premier program."

Carla A. Reid Begins Tenure as New General Manager of WSSC

LAUREL, MD—Carla A. Reid began her tenure as WSSC's new General Manager/CEO today. She becomes the first woman to head the Commission in its 97-year history.

In a video message broadcast to WSSC's 1,500-plus employees, she stated, "My leadership will be firmly based on the principles of excellence, fairness and open communication. I look forward to meeting with employees and stakeholders over the next several months and will use their input to create a strategic vision that will help move this agency forward."

Many employees got a preview of these sentiments last week when Reid toured a number of WSSC facilities. She was able to meet with hundreds of employees in dozens of casual and impromptu encounters throughout the day.

Reid began her career at WSSC, serving for 20 years before retiring in 2006 as the Deputy General Manager. She then served as Director of Permitting Services in Montgomery County Government under County Executive Isiah Leggett and as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Office of the County Executive in Prince George's County under Rushern Baker.

In addition to Deputy General Manager at WSSC, Reid also served as Chief of Mission Support, Chief of Customer Care, Meter Services Division Manager, Northern Meter Operations Section Head, Meter Maintenance Head, Field Operations Supervisor and Civil Engineer. She replaces Jerry N. Johnson who retired after six years in the position.

Rep. Donna Edwards Questions Why Armed White Men are Called "Militias" While Black Lives Matter Protesters are "Thugs"

Statement from Rep. Donna Edwards, candidate for Maryland Senate, 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."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

VISITATION, GRIEVING, HEALING WORKSHOP

The New Hope Fellowship cordially invites everyone to attend a visitation, grieving and healing workshop Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM at our Family Life Center/Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church. The address is 15601 Brooks Church road, Upper Marlboro 20772.

Rev. Constance C. Smith is their Senior Pastor. Church email: NMUMC@MSN.COM. Church phone number is 301-888-2171. For additional information please contact Cary F. Montgomery at Cman7fall@verizon.net.

POSSE SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to nine Prince Georges County Public School Seniors who have been named 2015 Posse Scholars and will receive four year, full-tuition college scholarships from colleges and universities who partner with The Posse Foundation.

Prince George's County students joined 52 other students in the region for the Posse Foundation annual awards ceremony on January 6 at the Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C.

GREATER BADEN MEDICAL SERVICE, INC.

Services available at the Community Health Center in Brandywine, Maryland are dental services, mental health, family health, pregnancy, diagnostic services, primary health care and immunizations.

The Center operates year-round and primarily serves the rural population in Brandywine and surrounding cities. The address is 7450 Albert road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-3035. Phone number is (301) 599-0460. Website is www.gbms.org.

FREE DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The free Diabetics Support Group meets in the Hospital Library (ground floor) at Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital Center the fourth Thursday of every month. The hours are from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Financial Peace University (FPU) is coming to Clinton UMC starting February 13, 2016, from 1:00 PM-2:30 PM on Saturdays. The church will be host-

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

A Year-Round College-Planning Calendar for Parents and Prospective Students

Preparing your kids for college isn't just about the money you've put aside for tuition, room and board. It's about making deadlines, making the right choices and making sure your teen has the proper life and money skills to make college a success.

Consider a college-planning calendar you and your university-bound student can follow. Here are some seasonal activities to consider adding to yours:



Winter

No matter how you've prepared financially for your teen's college education, kick off the year with a visit to a qualified financial and tax professional. You might also consider paying for a separate advisory session for your teen so they know how to handle money before they leave for college. January is also a good month to learn about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as the FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>), as it's best to fill out the form right after Jan. 1 to avoid missing out on available federal and state (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>) aid going into your teen's freshman year. That first FAFSA filing will give you an idea of what your Effective Family Contribution (EFC) (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/collegeaid>) will be.

Consult trusted friends and family members for their advice on affording college and strategies to secure grants and scholarships. Resources like FinAid.org and Edvisors.com are good resources for ways to afford college, but it also helps to have face-to-face expertise.

Start evaluating potential schools with your teen. The U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center (<http://collegecost.ed.gov>) features a range of calculators and resources to help you narrow down school choices with the chance for your teen to secure the most scholarships and grants—money that doesn't have to be paid back.

Spring

Springtime is a good season to start talking about summer jobs and internships (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summerjob>) that will make for a more attractive college application. Internship application periods may be year-round with many deadlines happening in the fall. If you are expecting your teen to contribute some part of their earnings or savings for future college costs, it's worthwhile to review earning, spending, budgeting, tax and savings fundamentals they'll need to manage money in school.

Also, if your teen hasn't been exposed to banking on a regular basis, it's time. Work with them to compare fees and services on various checking and savings accounts and consider whether it might be wise for you to bank with the same institution to allow for easier transfer of necessary funds from your account to theirs. Also encourage them to find an organized way of keeping track of their finances on paper, on computer or online (<https://www.mint.com>).

Summer

Summer is a time for fun, but it's also a good time to research potential schools and scholarship programs and even take a quick campus tour. The U.S. Department of Education's scholarship site (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>) offers basic guidance in finding such money and local companies and organizations—including places where your teen can work or intern—may offer local awards.

If your teen is heading into their senior year, the fall is going to be busy. Get admissions test dates and college admissions deadlines down on your calendar as soon as possible. Also budget for college application fees as well as fees for admissions prep tests and the main SAT or ACT tests (more on that below) which may cost well in excess of \$50 based on which test—or tests—your teen needs to take.

Fall

Fall is the season for college admissions tests, but for students with extra time before graduation, it's also the season for test prep (<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/test-prep>). Higher-scoring students on such achievement tests generally are in a better position for admissions or certain types of financial aid. High-school sophomores take the PSAT as a primary qualification for National Merit Scholarships, but it also gives an early indication of how students may do during their junior year on their ACT or SAT test, whichever they are encouraged to take. Get your student to check directly with the colleges of their choice to see which tests they require.

Finally, the closer your teen gets to freshman year, the more specific the dates on the calendar become. For college-bound seniors, fall is the time for narrowing down college choices after visits, interviews or auditions so applications can be sent. Once acceptance letters arrive, it's time for parents and teens to evaluate financial aid packages.

Bottom line: Creating a college-planning calendar can help you and your teen target desired schools, learn about money management and break down funding obstacles. Set it up as early as possible.

Mikulski Announces NOAA Weather Supercomputer Online at Weather and Climate Prediction Center in College Park

Senator Secured Federal Funding for New NOAA Supercomputer, Which Means Agency Will Be Able to Provide Weather and Water Warnings—Saving Lives and Property

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Barbara Mikulski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee, visited the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park, Maryland. Senator Mikulski was joined by NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan and NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services Dr. Louis Uccellini to announce that NOAA's enhanced weather supercomputer is now online and will be able to provide earlier and more accurate weather warnings to save lives and property.

"I fought to put these funds in the federal checkbook to bring NOAA's most advanced weather supercomputer up to date and up to speed," Senator Mikulski said. "This is about more than a better five-day forecast. Severe storms can be deadly, and weather prediction helps us protect property and people. Investing in advanced weather computing means we will have the earliest and most accurate predictions ever, so we can give communities more notice and save more lives."

Senator Mikulski worked to secure the \$35 million in federal funding for NOAA's weather supercomputer. Federal funding for the new supercomputer means NOAA computing capacity will

be nearly four times larger, allowing the agency to provide earlier and more accurate weather and water warnings, helping to save lives and property.

Prior to the announcement, Senator Mikulski took a brief tour of the NOAA Weather and Climate Prediction Center to see first-hand how advances with the new weather supercomputer will better support the work being done to track weather systems and save lives.

As Chairwoman and now Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski has continued to fight to increase funding for NOAA, providing resources needed to carry out its important mission. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 includes \$5.76 billion for NOAA, the highest funding level ever for NOAA, and an increase of more than \$300 million over the FY15 enacted level for the agency to carry out its mission across the country.

NOAA's Weather and Climate Prediction Center, located in College Park, Maryland, houses more than 800 meteorologists, scientists, data managers and researchers who provide the nation with weather and climate forecasts. Forecasts range from weeks in advance to predictions for an entire season, including the number of hurricanes for the year and are provided to news and weather organizations across the country. The agency is a major employer in Maryland, supporting over 3,000 jobs.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI
On Monday, January 04, 2016, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) toured the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center with NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan and NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services Dr. Louis Uccellini to see first-hand how advances with the new weather supercomputer will better support the work being done to track weather systems and save lives.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI
On Monday, January 04, 2016, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's enhanced weather supercomputer, which she fought to fund on the Senate Appropriations Committee, is now online and will be able to provide earlier and more accurate weather warnings to save lives and property.

Video from A1

ers, and when we interject our safety messages, it really becomes a powerful teaching instrument," added Crisman.

The department reached out to singer Cam by way of Twitter and wrote, "Hey @camcountry Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS Department produced a fire safety video w/Burning House. Has been very effective in schools. We would like you to see it & know you are helping to save lives." Cam responded

tweeting, "@PGFDPIO how amazing!!!! That makes me beyond happy!!!"

A copy of the *Surviving a Burning House* video was forwarded to her to watch.

The department's *Surviving a Burning House* video will not be available on the Internet or social media per agreement with Sony Music—Nashville. The video can be viewed only in Prince George's County, Maryland.

The video can be seen on Prince George's County Pub-

lic Safety access channels as well as on digital signage monitors located in most county buildings. Verizon channel 39 is up and running and Comcast/XFINITY channel 69 will start airing soon.

The department will also make the video available, upon request, to any group in Prince George's County including schools, town hall meetings and at community events. Please call the CRRO office at 301-883-5250 for further details.

The Prince George's County Public Safety Access channel is available 24 hours a day and provides safety and prevention tips from all of your public safety agencies.

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department encourages you and your entire family to tune in to your cable providers Verizon, channel 39, and Comcast/XFINITY, channel 69 to watch the entire video and to learn the proper safety procedures should you ever find yourself amongst a burning house.

Override from A1

"And oh by the way, if you don't have the funds to pay that civil penalty, you can take those citations and use them to roll your marijuana cigarettes, because you're pretty much immune," Cassilly said.

"I find it ironic that the governor wants to invest money in Baltimore to help Baltimore but yet at the same time recriminalize marijuana so a large number of minority youths—African Americans as well as white people—will have a criminal record," said Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's. "On one hand, we're investing in buildings, but we're going to invest criminal attributes to young people who might make a mistake. I find it a little hypocritical."

Later Thursday, the House of Delegates voted 86 to 55 to also override Hogan's veto of the paraphernalia bill.

The Senate voted 30 to 16 to override a veto on SB 190, which requires hotel-booking sites, like Travelocity, to give the state the full tax that customers pay.

Now, sites keep a part of the tax as a service fee, instead of re-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JOSH MAGNESS
Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Calvert, consults his notes before the Senate considers overriding multiple vetoes from Gov. Larry Hogan in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 21, 2016.

mitting the full amount to the State of Maryland.

Republicans, including Hogan, wanted to wait until litigation in tax court between Comptroller Peter Franchot and Travelocity was finished, but the bill's sponsor, Sen. Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, said that the Senate couldn't wait.

"I would remind the body that we have been in court now for close to five years with just one company ... it is up to us as the legislative branch to set the policy for this state, and not to delegate that authority to the judicial branch," Madaleno said.

Sen. Andrew Serafini said that this legislation would amount to

triple taxation, between the state, the county and corporate income tax.

"Let's make no mistake, this is a new tax," Serafini, R-Washington, said.

On Wednesday, the House of Delegates overrode a similar

See **VERRIDE** Page A5

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Calls on Congress to Join President Obama in Taking Action to Stem Gun Violence

"The President should not have to go it alone."

"It should be without question that Congress should do all it can to save the lives of Americans."

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding President Barack Obama's remarks on gun reform.

"I support President Obama's actions to combat gun violence and protect our neighborhoods. The president should not have to go it alone. We have an epidemic in America and all of us need to deal with it in a sensible and commonsense way. Inaction is not an option; it only fuels those who think partisan gridlock is a reasonable way to respond to what each year is killing 30,000 Americans—children and far too many citizens simply going about their daily lives. I do not accept gun violence as normal. None of us should.

"The vast majority of Americans, including gun owners, support requiring background checks for all gun buyers. We can and must do

more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill, including giving additional resources to our law enforcement agencies that enforce our gun laws.

"We can protect the constitutional right of Americans to own guns while simultaneously recognizing that this right is not unlimited. The Supreme Court has upheld the authority of Congress and the states to enact reasonable regulations on the possession and use of firearms.

"I have and continue to stand ready to do my part, and I call on my colleagues in Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis to enact commonsense legislation to further reduce gun violence and save lives. President Obama is doing all he legally can do to try to make a difference and save lives. It should be without question that Congress should do all it can to save the lives of Americans, too."



The Prince George's Ballroom

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S BALLROOM

The Prince George's Ballroom features a grand art deco ballroom and a large brick patio with breathtaking views of the adjoining golf course and distant hills. The Ballroom, with its spectacular wood floors, brass chandeliers and french doors leading to a contemporary sun porch, is an excellent venue for weddings, receptions, and corporate meetings and seminars. The peaceful atmosphere, gorgeous sunsets over the adjoining hills, and lush surrounding woodlands offer the perfect setting for any event. Amenities include tables and chairs, a large commercial warming kitchen, ample free parking, and wheelchair accessibility. Licensed and insured caterers accepted. For fees and availability, please call 301-341-7439.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Keeping Children Healthy, in School, and Learning

Brandon, a six-year-old in the Houston Independent School District, had two working parents until his father was laid off. Brandon lost his health insurance when his father lost his job. Brandon's mother quickly scrambled to try to enroll her son who has asthma in new coverage, but met some obstacles and didn't know where to turn. Then the school district, which had been working with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and AASA (The School Superintendents Association), through a partnership supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, stepped in and helped her find coverage for Brandon under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). With his new health coverage, doctors discovered Brandon also had high blood pressure and prescribed medicine to control it. Now the school nurse monitors his blood pressure every day and Brandon is healthy and happy to be in school learning.

This morning, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Acting Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield on behalf of HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell and Acting U.S. Department of Education Secretary John King spoke from Brandon's school district to encourage other districts across our country to take important steps to ensure children everywhere are in school each day healthy and ready to learn. They called on school districts to recognize the strong link between children's health and academic performance and to forge deeper connections between health and education for students and families by increasing access to health insurance coverage and health care, creating school environments with physical and mental health supports to help students succeed, and strengthening coordination between health and education systems at the local and state levels. The Secretaries urged state and local health and education entities to collaborate around five action items:

1. Helping eligible students and family members enroll in health insurance;
2. Providing and expanding Medicaid reimbursable health services in schools, including immunizations, health screenings and others;
3. Providing or expanding services that support at-risk students, including through Medicaid-funded case management;
4. Promoting healthy school practices through nutrition, physical activity, and health education; and
5. Building local partnerships and participating in hospital community needs assessments.

The Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have created a toolkit of existing resources to support real action in states and communities to strengthen the link between health and education. CDF and AASA's school-based child health outreach and enrollment model that links health enrollment to school enrollment is one the Secretaries highlight as a best practice to increase enrollment in health coverage for students and their families. After five years of piloting school-based child health outreach and enrollment in Texas, in 2007 CDF began working in partnership with AASA to introduce and expand health enrollment as a routine and ongoing part of school district operations. The model provides a basic question for districts to add to their school registration materials: "What type of medical insurance do you have for this child?" Parents who answer

"none" are noted and able to receive information from school district staff on Medicaid, CHIP or other health coverage options. But it doesn't stop there. Parents can receive help applying for or renewing coverage for their children and for themselves and are introduced to community partners who can help them successfully navigate the process.

CDF and AASA over the years have partnered with school districts in Texas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi including urban, rural and suburban school systems serving elementary through high schools and hundreds of thousands of Black, Latino, Asian and White students. This work has gotten many children health coverage and led to an increased awareness among school superintendents, staff and parents about the important and positive connection between health and academic success. Many now see a link between chronic absences, poor health and lack of health coverage. When children with chronic conditions like asthma have health insurance allowing them regular access to doctors and needed treatment, they come back to school healthier just as Brandon has.

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Tuning Out: Why I Will Not Watch the Oscars

"The Academy has a problem. It's a problem that needs to be solved ... For 20 opportunities to celebrate actors of color, actresses of color, to be missed last year is one thing; for that to happen again this year is unforgivable. This institution doesn't reflect its president ... I am an Academy member and it doesn't reflect me, and it doesn't reflect this nation."

—David Oyelowo, Actor, January 2016

It turns out that Hollywood does, in fact, love a sequel.

For the second straight year in a row, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences—the organization behind Hollywood's biggest and splashiest awards show—failed to nominate a single actor or actress of color in the lead and supporting acting categories. This year, when pay equity and gender equality were as much a Hollywood narrative as anything screened in local movie theaters, women earned more Oscar nominations (up almost 24 percent versus 21 percent in each of the last two years), but they were shut out from the best cinematography and best director categories—again. In a nation as diverse as ours, an Oscars ceremony that neither recognizes nor includes the vast artistic talent and contributions of women and people of color is a white-washed fiction that would better serve us as the premise of a sci-fi feature and not as a mirror of our multicultural reality.

While my role is not to question the cinematic credentials of the academy's 6,291 voting members, I do question how it is that in a season that produced critically-acclaimed films such as *Beasts of No Nation*, which stars Idris Elba as an African warlord; the N.W.A biopic *Straight Outta Compton*; and *Creed*, the latest installment in the iconic *Rocky* franchise, there were no Black screenwriters, directors, composers, cinematographers or actors to be found whose contributions deserved academy recognition. Ironically enough, two films helmed by either Black actors and/or directors—*Creed* and *Compton*—were recognized by the academy, but their sole nominations were denied to people of color, with Sylvester Stallone receiving a best supporting actor nod for his role in *Creed* and writers of *Compton* receiving a nomination for best original screenplay.

A lot of ink has been spilled citing the composition of the academy and its role in travesties like this year's cypocact lock out of talent from communities of color. A much-cited 2012 survey of the academy by the *Los Angeles Times* highlights the crux of the problem: the academy's members are 94 percent white, 77 percent male, and an average age of 63—hardly representative of the diversity we see in the streets and increasingly on our TV screens. There was a push for more inclusion after last year's infamous snub of the civil rights movie *Selma*, with a record 322 invitations sent to join the academy. The list of invitees included fewer than 20 new African-American members, close to 14 Asian and Pacific Islander members and a handful of Latin Americans, according to *The Wrap*, an industry-insider magazine. Here are a few more statistics you should also take into consideration. In its most recent study, the Bunche Center at UCLA found that film studio heads were 94 percent white and all male and that film studio senior management was 92 percent white and 83 percent male. The problem is two-fold.

The struggle to transform the academy into a diverse body that thoughtfully contemplates and recognizes the work of communities who do not fit the cookie cutter mold is one that must take place within the academy, but change will remain elusive if there is no transformation of white male dominated studio system that decides what gets made—and perhaps most importantly, what doesn't get made. Major studios are not green-lighting the projects that reflect our nation and the few movies that are produced end up on the cutting room floor of the nomination process.

Like so many others, I am scandalized by the shut out of people of color across most major awards categories for the second consecutive year. I will continue to add my voice to the public scrutiny necessary to keep this issue on Hollywood's front burner. And I will also be doing something else this year: I will not be watching the Oscars. I am not an Academy Award member. I do not green-light films, nor do I direct them. But I do control what does—or doesn't—appear on my television screen. If we want Hollywood to tune in to our legitimate concerns and issues, I, for one, will be tuning out.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Is Stress Affecting Your Child's Health?

We like to imagine that the lives of our children are relatively stress free. Oh sure, things like that upcoming math test or who to take to the prom may cause them stress, but it's not the same kind of stress we face at work or over financial issues ... or is it?

Actually, stress affects each of us, regardless of age. Stress is a combination of two things. The first is the "stressor," the situation that triggers the physical and emotional reactions we feel. For adults it can be anything from serious financial issues to something as temporary as this morning's traffic jam.

The second part of stress is our "stress response," our natural reaction to a stressor. Stress causes our bodies to release chemicals that increase our breathing, heart rate, alertness and muscle response. It's all a natural reaction that we inherited from our ancient ancestors. Back then, their survival meant reacting quickly to the threats they met.

That natural response happens to everyone, whether we're a 40-year old man facing a possible job loss, or a 10-year old boy facing that school bully coming toward him on the playground.

When the source of stress is a temporary situation, it usually isn't a big deal in terms of our overall health and well-being. But when someone faces stressful situations repeatedly, the result can be that the person feels constantly nervous or exhausted, and it can result in very real physical and emotional ailments.

How can you recognize if your child is facing high levels of stress? Often the warning signs will include changes in both behavior and physical well-being.

You may see stress-related behavioral changes such as anger or impatience over relatively minor things. Your child may seem constantly anxious, unable to relax and perhaps sleeping poorly or excessively. You might notice changes in eating behavior through either a loss of appetite or suddenly overeating. Frequent headaches or physical pain can also be stress-related.

Excessive stress is not a problem to be ignored. Try talking to your child in a non-judgmental way about what may be bothering him or her. Be kind but persistent if there is a reluctance to share information. Seeking help from an experienced professional is often needed to help the child. Your school counselor or a professional counselor specializing in children can often help address the underlying issues causing the stress.

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

Safety from A1

lion to support FDA's critical mission, an increase of more than \$100 million over fiscal year 2015 enacted levels. The bill provides \$5 million to complete an updated Master Plan for the consolidation of FDA at White Oak. The bill also includes \$1.5 billion for food safety by fully funding the Food Safety Modernization Act, which means FDA can keep screening imported food efficiently and effectively. The bill also includes \$5 million for FDA to review pharmaceutical drugs being imported from other countries, better protecting the safety of our nation's drugs.

The Food and Drug Administration oversees the safety of products accounting for 25 cents of every dollar spent by consumers including foods, drugs, biologics, medical devices and consumer goods. The more than 15,000 federal employees who work for the FDA in Maryland make sure drugs are safe and effective, ensure the safety of our food supply, and get important health and safety information to doctors, patients and consumers that can save lives and save money. The FDA's gold standard in upholding drug, device and food safety creates private sector jobs.

The FDA is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Top Prize from A1

Trussell added: "The showcase provided us with a great learning experience. I've danced for 14 years and receiving this recognition, alongside my classmates, made me extremely happy and very proud."

The Maryland Public High School Dance Showcase highlights excellence in public school dance education in Maryland. High schools submit audition materials, attend a full day of master classes, share with other dancers from around the state, and learn about college and university dance programs in Maryland. The showcase also celebrates student achievement with the presentation of the All-State Dance Awards and the Showcase Award for Professionalism and Performance.

This year, 560 students, from 37 public high schools in Maryland, participated in the showcase. Seventy-four students from PGCCPS attended, representing Potomac, Laurel, Dr.

Henry A. Wise, Jr., Northwestern, and Suitland high schools.

"It is extremely gratifying to see our students receive recognition when you know how hard they work to achieve their goals," said Janette Gillis, Center for Visual and Performing Arts Modern Dance Teacher, PGCCPS. "Our senior class is extremely devoted to their craft and their futures, and their daily approach to the rigors of dance serves as a model for the rest of the department."

"I couldn't be happier for all our dancers and their families," Gillis continued.

All-State nominees had to meet the following criteria: 3.0 cumulative GPA, professional appearance, leadership and dedication to dance, high personal standards, professional behavior throughout showcase, positive attitude, courtesy and consideration of others, excellent attendance and behavior in school, service to a local dance program, and no disciplinary problems at school or in dance.

Washington Redskins Legend Larry Brown Coaches More Than 100 Local Businesses to Build a Strong Team at 'Connections to Success' Forum

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce Series Brings Financing Experts to Local Companies

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCounty EDC

LARGO, MD—On January 11, more than 100 local small business owners in Prince George's County were treated to winning advice on growing a successful business from legendary Washington Redskins running back Larry Brown at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Prince George's Chamber of Commerce's (PGCC) 'Connections to Success' breakfast, presented by Old Line Bank. The morning breakfast was the second of a three-part series the EDC and PGCC are hosting to provide small businesses with tools and resources to grow their companies and create jobs. Attendees packed the conference room at EDC headquarters to learn, first-hand how a winning attitude and access to capital can be an unbeatable combination to make their small businesses, big businesses.

"My goal is to replicate what I experienced in my life through my ancestors purchase of a family farm more than 100 years ago," said EDC and CEO President Jim Coleman. "These forums are designed to equip small businesses with the resources they need to create the same type of generational wealth that sent me and my siblings to college. Prince George's County is brimming with prosperity. Our job is to ensure that our businesses and residents are partaking of this prosperity. There is no reason anyone should walk out of here today without a renewed sense of purpose."

Larry Brown, who spent his entire NFL career with the Washington Redskins, was drafted into the NFL in the eighth round in 1969. Through persistent hard work and overcoming numerous injuries, Mr. Brown went to four consecutive Pro Bowls during his first four seasons, was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1972, and led the Redskins to their 1973 Super Bowl appearance against the Miami Dolphins.

"Football and life have a lot of similarities. A wise business owner can learn from my life ex-



PHOTO BY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: Britta Vander Linden, EDC Chief of Staff; Les Hall, MD Dept. of Commerce Program Manager for Small Business Financing; Anthony Williams, Meridian Management Group Vice President; Sharon Jackson, Supplier Development Diversity Division Acting Executive Director; Ebony Stocks, EDC EDI Fund Manager; Diane Brown, Prince George's County Federal Community Credit Union COO; David Harrington, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; James Cornelsen, President and CEO; Larry Brown, NAI Michael Vice President and former Washington Redskins Running Back; Cheivelle Hill, MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development Senior Loan Underwriter, Business Lending Programs

periences," said Mr. Brown. "You must learn the playbook quickly, and work hard both on and off the field to achieve to your goals. You can't do it by yourself. Use every resource available to motivate, modify and develop your business into the winning team you want it to be."

Today's "Access to Capital" workshop is in line with the EDC's 'Activate Prosperity' initiative, a three-year plan focused on optimizing Prince George's County's prime assets for the betterment of its residents, businesses and workforce.

"The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce is pleased, once again to partner with the Prince George's Economic Development Corporation to co-host this Connections to Success Breakfast," said Chamber President & CEO David Harrington. "Takeaways from this Access to Capital portion of the series will be key in helping the County's Small Businesses continue to grow, thrive & create wealth!"

Experts provided attendees with specific programs and advice on how to take advantage of non-traditional funding sources and expand their businesses. Panelists included Les

Hall, Small Business Manager from the Maryland Department of Commerce, Cheivelle Hill, Senior Loan Underwriter, Business Lending Programs from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Shelley Gross Wade, President and CEO of the Financial Services Corporation (FSC First), Ebony Stocks, EDI Fund Manager from the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Anthony Williams, Vice President of the Meridian Management Group, and Sharon Jackson, Acting Executive Director from the Prince George's County Supplier Development Diversity Division.

"We are all about small business; that's what we do and how we grew this bank," said James Cornelsen, President and CEO of Old Line Bank. "Nine years ago, we moved our headquarters to Bowie. We believed there was great opportunity in the County and that it had been underserved by the banking community. We have grown tremendously since then."

In addition to Old Line Bank in Mitchellville, MD, the Financial Services Corporation (FSC First) in Largo, MD, Berman En-

terprises in Rockville, MD and Eight O'Clock Coffee in Landover, MD graciously sponsored today's breakfast and forum as part of their commitment to small businesses in Prince George's County.

"Today's event was a great opportunity to get access to capital through savvy means, outside of a bank," said small business owner Brenden Waters, CEO of Centers for Quality Care. "For those who have problems qualifying with a bank and are looking at other options, [today's] panel was very diverse. They provided great opportunity to learn and grow more."

The next 'Connections to Success' forum will be on March 14, 2016 and will address "Enhancing Relationships With Customers for Long Term Growth." It will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20772.

Admission and parking are free. Breakfast will be provided. Attendees must RSVP to Crystal Ballard (cballard@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Sangrea Watkins (Swatkins@co.pg.md.us) or 301-583-4619.

Override from A3

bill that only pertained to Howard County.

By a 32 to 14 vote, the Senate voted to override Hogan's veto of SB 528, which prohibits police from seizing assets of less than \$300 from those they arrest, which Hogan and police said would inhibit law enforcement from going after drug dealers.

Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, who sponsored the bill, said he chose the \$300 threshold because that is what he said an hour with an attorney in the state of Maryland would cost. He said the problem with civil forfeiture is that the burden of proof is on the person who was arrested to prove that their money was not being used for illegal purposes.

"I reject completely the claim that this disarms law enforcement," Raskin said.

He noted the if the police suspect distribution of an illegal substance, not merely possession, they are empowered to take all of the suspect's assets, even if it is less than \$300. The House of Delegates voted 90 to 51 to override that veto as well.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JOSH MAGNESS

Minutes before the Senate decided to override Gov. Hogan's veto of his hotel tax bill in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 21, 2016, Sen. Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, assured state residents they wouldn't see an increase in taxes for renting hotel rooms.

The Senate chose to postpone until Feb. 5 a bill granting voting rights to felons who are on parole or probation. The House of Delegates voted to override a similar bill Wednesday.

Karen Montgomery, D-Montgomery, resigned from the Senate last month. She was one of the 29 senators who voted in favor of the bill last session. Once the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee

nominates a replacement, Hogan has 15 days to approve the name, which means a new senator will likely be in office on Feb. 5.

"I think that's a bit disingenuous to the public, I think they expect us to come down here and do the work with the people that we have," said Senate Minority Whip Stephen Hershey, R-Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's. "We shouldn't

necessarily be playing games."

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., D-Calvert, said he simply wanted everyone to be present for the vote.

On Wednesday, the Maryland House of Delegates voted to override Hogan's veto on funding for Maryland Hall, a performing arts space in Annapolis. The Senate also approved that veto, and it became law immediately.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

In the Heart of the Sea

In the Heart of the Sea
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13, a little profanity,
some action violence
2 hrs., 1 min

How do you turn the story of a giant murderous whale into something disappointing and forgettable? You hire Ron Howard, that's how.

The pedestrian director brings his generically competent touch to *In the Heart of the Sea*, a maritime adventure based on the true story of the whaling ship *Essex* that ran afoul of an angry sperm whale in 1820. Where a more passionate filmmaker might have imbued this story with heroics and suspense, Howard is content to let it run on autopilot. Here's the boat; here's the whale; here's what happened; thanks for coming, drive home safely.

In real life, the disaster of the *Essex* was among the incidents that informed Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. In the movie, it's Melville's primary source, with an 1850 framing story showing him (played by Ben Whishaw) interviewing a survivor (Brendan Gleeson) about the event. At the end of the film, title cards tell us how great *Moby-Dick* turned out, as if Melville doing research was somehow the whole point of the story.

The actual story concerns Owen Chase (Chris Hemsworth), a Nantucket farmer-turned-whaler who is appointed first mate under captain George Pollard (Benjamin Walker). Chase has more experience than Pollard does, but Pollard is more the son of aristocrats



ROTTENTOMATOES

In the winter of 1820, the New England whaling ship *Essex* was assaulted by something no one could believe: a whale of mammoth size and will, and an almost human sense of vengeance. The real-life maritime disaster would inspire Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. But that told only half the story. *In the Heart of the Sea* reveals the encounter's harrowing aftermath, as the ship's surviving crew is pushed to their limits and forced to do the unthinkable to stay alive. Braving storms, starvation, panic and despair, the men will call into question their deepest beliefs, from the value of their lives to the morality of their trade, as their captain searches for direction on the open sea and his first mate still seeks to bring the great whale down. ©Warner Bros

than Chase is, so there you go. Capt. Pollard is cocky and arrogant, whereas Chase is a humble, hardy workingman with a pregnant wife waiting for him at home.

Chase and Pollard butt heads at sea, though it never turns into the "obsessed captain hunts whale" scenario that all the *Moby-Dick* buildup had led us to expect. (That aspect of Melville's novel apparently came from somewhere else.) What conflict there is in the story is more of the man-vs-nature variety, as enormous sea creatures wreak havoc on the *Essex* and her smaller whaleboats, just because the seamen

are trying to kill the whales and collect their oil.

Fierce storms and irritated whales eventually force the surviving crew members to take desperate measures—yet even then the film fails to find any drama or horror in their situation. And not to spoil anything, but their situation IS RIFE WITH DRAMA AND HORROR! Again, to take this material and turn it into something that barely arouses any emotion is almost an achievement in itself. The screenplay, adapted by Charles Leavitt (*K-PAX*, *The Express*) from Nathaniel Philbrick's nonfiction bestseller, sets up many relationships—

Chase and his wife (Charlotte Riley), Pollard and his crew-member cousin (Frank Dillane), even the old salt in 1850 and his wife (Michelle Fairley), who wants him to open up about his traumatic past—but doesn't explore any of them meaningfully.

For what it's worth, the movie looks terrific, and the whales (which must have been mostly computer-generated) are convincingly large and weighty. To be sure, there are exciting moments here and there in the narrative; if there were none, the movie would be bad, which it isn't. It's only mediocre and pointless. Ron Howard: a name you can trust.

PGCPS Receives Book Donations From Local Library System

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) recently received \$200,000 worth of donated books and furniture from the New Carrollton Public Library Branch—a generous gesture that will support the district's academic focus on literacy.

On January 5, Shari Blohm, Supervisor of Library Media

Services, PGCPS, and several of her colleagues collected over 15,000 books to distribute to five elementary and high schools. Columbia Park, Flintstone, and Cooper Lane elementary schools will each receive a third of the Children's Literature, while Oxon Hill and Suitland High schools will each receive half of the books from the Teen Section for their libraries.

"We are so thankful for the donation from the Prince

George's County Memorial Library System," said Blohm. "This donation gives our students access to a greater selection of reading materials that will help develop or strengthen their love for reading."

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Kevin Maxwell, added: "We know that in order for our students to succeed we have to promote literacy across all content areas. The donation puts additional books into our

schools and into the hands of our students."

The donated materials include fiction and nonfiction hardcover and paperback books. Tables and chairs, study carrels, early childhood displays, and shelving were also donated and will be distributed to the recently opened Kenmoor Early Childhood Center.

The New Carrollton Public Library Branch temporarily closed in December 2015 for renovation.

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is Now Accepting Applications for Professional Development Awards and Scholarships

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is now accepting applications for its 2016 professional development awards and student scholarships. The Credit Union will award a total of \$48,000 to educators and students in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties as well as the College of Southern Maryland, Montgomery College and Prince George's Community College.

For Educators:

The Credit Union will award eleven, \$1,000 Maurice Erly Professional Development Awards to help educators con-

tinue their education. The award can be used for workshop registration, certification fees and tuition. Applications are due on February 1, 2016.

For Community College Students:

The Credit Union will award three, \$3,000 Community College Scholarships to students who are currently enrolled at a community college served by the Credit Union and plan on returning for the 2016–2017 academic school year. Applications are due on March 21, 2016.

For High School Seniors:

The Credit Union will award eight, \$3,000 Dorothy Marvil Memorial Scholarships to high school seniors planning to attend college or a voca-

tional school in the fall of 2016. Applications are due on March 21, 2016.

The Credit Union will award eight, \$500 Business and Finance Scholarships to high school seniors who have successfully completed all Business and Finance Program coursework, and plan to attend a college or vocational school in the fall of 2016. Applications are due on April 11, 2016.

"Our core purpose is serving the education community," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We annually give scholarships to students and grant professional development awards to educators. For us, it's an honor to support education. It's who we are and what we do."

Members of Educational Systems FCU who are college-bound high school seniors or students currently enrolled in a college or trade school can also apply for one of 12, \$1,000 scholarships offered by the MD/DC Credit Union Foundation. For an application and to review a list of qualifications, visit The Foundation's application portal.

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 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

'Plantation Politics': Racist Legislation Stalks the Mizzou Football Team



The Missouri Tigers football team, in an act of unparalleled audacity, refused to take the field last November unless the university system president, Tim Wolfe, resigned and, sure enough, within 36 hours he was gone. The team should be lauded for its bravery. Instead, the right-wing Missouri state legislature, lash in hand, wants it to pay a price for its disobedience.

The players were striking against the suffocating, deeply rooted racist atmosphere on campus. They were standing with their fellow students, including one putting his life in peril on a hunger strike. They were risking their scholarships and their futures. They were showing what leadership and character in the realm of sports look like when unmoored from athletic cliché. They were also demonstrating that college athletes have actual power. Not merely moral power, but the social and economic power to stall a system dependent on their labor and compliance. This inspired so many disgusted with the status quo in college sports.

But for some in the Jefferson City, Missouri, Capitol building, it was not an inspiration. It was a crime.

Missouri's elected officials want legislation to ensure that any scholarship athlete who exercises their collective voice, is rewarded with a flayed future. In the newly proposed House Bill 1743, State Representative Rick Brattin, is bringing the phrase "shut up and play" to the level of a law that calls for "any scholarship athlete who refuses to play for a reason unrelated to health, shall have his or her scholarship revoked." In other words, future actions like the ones of the Mizzou players will be criminalized.

This legislation is a craven, blaringly anti-democratic gesture, openly aimed at the football team. One of its sponsors, Representative Kurt Bahr, commented to the Columbia Missourian that the legislation was "obviously in reaction to the athletes who were saying they weren't going to play to what they considered to be social issues on campus." Make no mistake about it. Given that it is targeting and punishing an entity that is 69 percent black, it is also racist: aimed at silencing black voices and diminishing black lives on campus.

One player texted me, "We joke about the NCAA plantation politics but this wild. What's next? We lose scholarships if we go to a protest, or if we speak in class?"

But before unpacking why this is so utterly awful, it is worth knowing something about the twisted sadist proposing it. In recent months, the 35-year-old Brattin has introduced a legislation that seems conjured from a coked-up weekend in Tijuana with Rush Limbaugh. He proposed making abortions unattainable without the written consent of the father (vividly citing in great detail his own vasectomy as inspiration for the bill); a law preventing food-stamp recipients from buying "cookies, chips, energy drinks, soft drinks, seafood, or steak," and—showing that he is of the moment—to keep Syrian refugees from settling in the state. But the coup de grâce was when this sick puppy attempted to introduce legislation that would force Planned Parenthood to erect a memorial to aborted fetuses. Seriously. He said, "I think maybe requiring that Planned Parenthood set up some type of memorial, like a Vietnam Wall type. I know that sounds crazy, but by state law [fetuses are] given human status, so should there be a human memorial attached to that human life?" (Quick response to Brattin: Yes, it sounds crazy.)

I spoke with Missouri English professor Sam Cohen. He said, "We're getting used to grandstanding legislators in our state house, but Rick Brattin has outdone himself. We're proud of and inspired by these players and the student protests that changed our campus for the better this fall and Brattin's absurd proposal can't change that ... It's not just that the bill would violate athlete's rights, it's that it is so blatantly directed against Mizzou's football players because of their role in protests this fall—and by extension against the protests themselves."

But Brattin, Bahr, and their minions will not get this done without a fight. I spoke with the NFL Players Association, who called the law "deplorable" and said, "The NFLPA will alert their executive committee and player reps of this and we stand against it."

I also spoke with Missouri women's gender studies professor Dr. Rebecca Martinez, who said, "Representative Brattin is clearly stating with the introduction of this leg-

Calendar of Events

January 28—February 3, 2016

Seniors: The Classic Funky Blue Soul Country Concert

Date & Time: Thursday, January 28, 2016, 1–2 pm
Description: If you love blues, funk, soul, and country with a classical twist, you won't want to miss an afternoon with the Matt Daniel Band! It is the ultimate eclectic experience.

This duo most recently performed at the South Hampton Summer Festival and the 2013 Humanitarian Awards ceremony, celebrating the 68th Anniversary of the United Nations.

This is a FREE event. However, pre-registration is required. Register at the front desk.

Cost: Free
Ages: 60 and better
Location: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-206-3350; TTY 301-699-2544

"The Burroughs Diaries and the Secretary Desk" Lecture

Date and Time: Thursday, January 28, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: The Burroughs Diaries cover the early years of the Civil War. This lecture is presented in conjunction with the Prince George's County Historical Society and will be given by Society members Susan Pearl and Lynn Roberts.

Reservations are required.
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: Ages 14 and up
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Winter Hand Dance

Date and Time: Friday, January 29, 2016, 8 pm–12 midnight
Description: Bring your dancing feet on down for the Harmony Hall's Winter Hand Dance.

Cost: Residents \$15; Non-Residents \$20
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

Burns Night Supper

Date and Time: Saturday, January 30, 2016, 6–8 pm
Description: You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy our Burns Night Supper, just come for a smashing good time! Dine and experience the atmosphere and flavor of one of Scotland's oldest and most cherished traditions. Celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet. Program includes dinner, music, poetry, bagpipes, history and fun!

Reservation & payment required in advance.
Cost: Resident \$45; Non-resident \$54
Ages: Ages 21 & up
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,
Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Pajama Party Fashion Show

Date and Time: Saturday, January 30, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Ladies enjoy a night of fun and fashion with a pajama fashion show!

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart

Date & Time: Sunday, January 31, 2016, 4 pm
Description: Acclaimed actor and playwright Mike Wiley has spent the last decade fulfilling his mission to bring educational theatre to young audiences and communities across the country.

In *Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart*, he presents a one-man drama that contrasts Jackie Robinson, the baseball star, against the struggles of an African-American coping with legislated racism in segregated post-war America.

Cost: \$10/person (general admission);
\$8/person (groups of 20 or more)
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center
5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Annual Bridal Showcase

Date & Time: Sunday, January 31, 2016, 1–4 pm
Description: Join us for the Newton White Mansion annual bridal showcase. With a variety of vendors, including caterers, coordinators, florists and more, you'll have access to all vendors needed to plan a successful event.

Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$8
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Newton White Mansion
2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD
Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-699-2544

Opening Reception: Black History Month Exhibition

Date & Time: Sunday, January 31, 2016, 12 noon–2 pm
Description: Guests are invited to attend the opening reception of the 2016 Black History Month celebration entitled What Remains: The Archaeological Discoveries of African American Life in Prince George's County. This exhibition focuses on African American life in Prince George's County from the late 1600s to early 1900s.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... What's the Link Between Border Barriers and Environmental Destruction?

Dear EarthTalk:

How are borderlands causing widespread environmental damage while splintering families and communities across the U.S. Southwest?

—Peter Jackson,
Baltimore, MD

Today, over 650 miles of border walls and barriers have been constructed in all four southern Border States: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The Sierra Club Borderlands campaign has spoken up against the substantial border wall construction, arguing that it has had dire consequences for vast expanses of pristine wild lands, including wildlife refuges, wilderness areas and national forest lands, among other areas. Additionally, several species of wildlife have been observed and photographed stranded by the border wall, the group states, suggesting that many threatened and endangered species are suffering from border wall development as well.

In their short films, *Wild Versus Wall* and *Too Many Tracks*, the Sierra Club describes how the significance of the borderlands—a vast and ecologically distinct region with a multitude of mountain ranges, two of North America's four deserts and major river ecosystems—has been ignored by current U.S.

border policy. The borderlands provide important habitat for rare and threatened wildlife species, including many federally-listed threatened and endangered species. But in 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, which included a provision that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all local, state and federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, deemed an impediment to building walls and roads along U.S. borders. Border patrol has now built stadium-like lights, roads and towers in sensitive, remote areas, the Sierra Club says, and the roads fragment and destroy habitat while high voltage lighting affects nocturnal animals' ability to feed and migrate.

"Border Patrol's off-road driving, tire dragging and ATV use in designated roadless wilderness has left an immense scar on the landscape," said Dan Millis, borderlands program coordinator for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club continues to raise awareness on borderland habitat degradation with the hope that they can combat further border wall development that may pose harm to the environment and wildlife. In a November 2015 trip to a U.S.-Mexico border wall in Bisbee, Arizona, Millis told Borderlands campaigners how the jaguar is an "emblematic species for why this wall is



CREDIT: SIERRA CLUB

More than 600 miles of border walls and barriers have been constructed in all four southern border states, with dire consequences for vast expanses of pristine wild lands. The threat of a mandate to build hundreds of miles of additional wall continues to loom in Congress.

problematic ... It's important for wildlife, like the jaguar, to be able to have access to a range. The jaguar used to live in the United States, all the way up to the Grand Canyon ... the jaguar's critical habitat has been established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and it includes areas that are bisected by these walls. And that's really problematic if we want to see a very majestic species like the jaguar ... we're going to have to these problems like this border wall seriously."

Millis also informed the campaigners of several other ecological issues associated with border development, including increased erosion,

flooding and soil degradation. "We're encouraging Border Patrol and Homeland Security to keep this stuff in mind as they move forward on projects," Millis said. "They need to do things in a way that is more sustainable."

CONTACT: Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign, www.sierraclub.org/borderlands.

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.

Council Briefed as Continuous Improvement Performance Audit of County Schools is Set to Begin

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

The Prince George's County Council was briefed on Monday, January 11, 2015 by the contracting team for the Continuous Improvement Performance Audit of Prince George's County Public Schools. The process is poised to begin by the end of January.

The contracting team includes Ernst & Young, UPD, and the Strategic Solutions Center, and is charged with conducting a comprehensive performance assessment of the operations of

key areas in five divisions of the Prince George's County Public Schools: Human Resources, Curriculum and Instruction, Supporting Services, Business and Management Services, and Information Technology.

Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, says the joint performance audit reflects an important, historic partnership between the Council, County Executive, the CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, Board of Education, and all stakeholders.

"Educating our children to compete in a global economy

is critical to our County's future, and conducting this system-wide performance review paves the road for producing a well-educated and well-trained workforce. While the performance of our schools is improving, if Prince George's County is to become the economic powerhouse we desire, our education system must be first rate and remain a top priority for all of us."

Chair Davis adds that the performance audit will be an ongoing process of collaboration and the results will help us all to address the shared priority of edu-

cation more responsibly, efficiently and effectively.

"We look forward to the outcome of the external Continuous Improvement Performance Audit of Prince George's County Public Schools, the first in 18 years, creating the foundation for the world-class school system our students deserve, furthering investments for every child's future, and better informing the decisions of this Council as fiscal stewards."

A final report is expected by January 2017; however, ongoing reports are anticipated as findings become available.

Council 2016 from A1

healthcare Corporation (Certificate of Need Reviews); Board of Elections; Family Services-Americans with Disability Act related items); Health Department and all Board of Health issues; Human Relations Commission; Board of License Commissioners; the Prince George's County Memorial Library System; and Social Services. Committee members include Council Members Mel Franklin (D) – District 9, Council Chair Davis, and Council Vice-Chair Glaros.

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison (D) – District 5, will chair the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (PZED). She will be assisted in this important work by Council Vice-Chair Glaros, serving as committee vice-chair.

In addition to handling issues and policies around County zoning and subdivision bills, and planning and land-use regulations, PZED is also responsible for reviewing the Economic De-

velopment Corporation's budget and concerns; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning, which includes bi-county issues, the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation and the Planning Board; and the People's Zoning Counsel. PZED Members include Council Members Mel Franklin, Deni Taveras and Karen Toles.

Council Members Franklin, and Obie Patterson (D) – District 8, will lead the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee (PSFM) as chair and vice-chair respectively.

PSFM is responsible for reviewing 18 County agencies, and several issues and policies related to law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice, emergency preparedness, labor agreements, bond issues, budget and financial management, and cable television and telecommunications. Agency review responsibilities include the Office of Central Services; Circuit Court; Office of Community Relations; Department of Corrections; Office of Finance;

Fire/EMS Department/Volunteer Fire; Office of Homeland Security; Office of Human Resources Management; Personnel Board; Office of Information Technology; Office of Law; Board of Ethics; Office of Management and Budget; Orphan's Court; Police Department; Office of the Sheriff; Office of the State's Attorney; and the Revenue Authority. Committee Members include Council Members Mary A. Lehman (D) – District 1, Andrea Harrison (D) – District 5 and Todd Turner (D) – District 4.

Council Member Turner will serve as chair of the Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee (THE), with Council Member Taveras serving as committee vice-chair.

THE handles legislative matters pertaining to transportation policy and planning, transit-oriented development, as well as environmental protections, conservation programs and green infrastructure. Other policy and budget issues include the Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program; Enterprise

Funds; Solid Waste Plan; Storm Water Management; the Community Development Block Grant Program; the Redevelopment Authority; and Taxicabs and Limousines. Agency review responsibilities include the Department of Environmental Resources; Animal Control; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Public Works and Transportation; the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Operating Budget; and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. Committee Members include Council Members Obie Patterson, Mary Lehman and Chairman Davis.

Council Vice-Chair Glaros and Council Member Harrison will preside over Rules, General Assembly and Committee of the Whole (COW) efforts as chair and vice chair respectively.

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, M-NCPPC and County Capital Budgets and Capital Improvement Programs are reviewed in the Committee of the Whole.

Mizzou from A6

isolation that these young men are black labor, here for entertainment and revenue, not as students. If this legislation passes, it will do harm to our campus by further silencing rather than encouraging dissent and pluralism from all of our students which, after all, are hallmarks of critical thinking and education. Our interim chancellor sent out Mizzou

community an email regarding this, where he said, "Mizzou, to its credit, is a place where dissent and activism are not just tolerated, but embraced."

The football players at Missouri deserve our support and solidarity, and Brattin has revealed himself to be the sort of person who wants to treat human beings like chattel, seen and not heard. It's a shameful law. It's a racist law. And if it is passed, players should do what they did

last November: fold their arms and refuse to take the field, as the school hemorrhages millions of dollars. Let them try and find a new team on a week's notice next fall. Or maybe Brattin and his cronies can put on the pads and suit up against Alabama. Now, that I would pay to see.

Update: Benjamin Watson, tight end for the New Orleans Saints and member of the NFL Players Association's Executive Committee, sent the following

statement to The Nation in regards to State Representative Rick Brattin's House Bill 1743:

"This proposed legislation is clearly an attempt to silence student athletes by threatening to take away their education. Instead of using scare tactics I would encourage the legislatures as well as the university administrations to engage with their students, athletes and non-athletes alike, to find solutions to their concerns."