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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LEO TRAUB

Behavioral Health Coalition spokesman Dan Martin, at left with a bullhorn, cheers on a crowd of more than 400 advocates, healthcare providers, patients and family members of patients at a rally in front of the State House in Annapolis on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Advocates Rally for Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Legislation

By LEO TRAUB
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Andy Shepherd was jobless, homeless in Baltimore, and suffering from alcoholism and depression before arriving 10 months ago at Peer Connec-

tion, a recovery program in Salisbury for people with addictions and mental illnesses.

Previously, Shepherd had spent time in and out of 14 rehabilitation centers and five halfway houses, he said, and had a counselor not recommended he try Peer Connec-

tion, he might not have survived on his own.

"I was at a place where I just couldn't function and couldn't get a foot up," he said. "I'm doing great now. I've got hope again."

Shepherd joined more than 400 behavioral health advo-

ates, care providers, patients and family members of patients in Annapolis on Thursday to show support for a pair of bills that would ensure funding and increase access

See HEALTH Page A3

What's the Deal with Mid-Season, Out-of-Conference College Basketball Games?

By AUBURN MANN
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—While Maryland's blowout win over Bowie State last month might not have been any legitimate indicator of where the Terps were after their first bye, it did perhaps signal a new trend in college basketball: mid-season out-of-conference scheduling.

The Feb. 9 matchup was the third instance this season of a school playing a team outside of its interscholastic athletic conference affiliations in January or February, a period traditionally reserved for unadulterated conference competition.

A couple of weeks ago, the SEC and Big 12 held their annual challenge a more than a month after its usual slot in December to Monday Feb. 8 in women's college basketball pitted the University of Connecticut and the University of South Carolina against each other.

Around the NCAA, varying reasons were offered from this departure from convention.

In College Park, the original intention was to schedule Bowie State for December, but due to a clear conflict with Maryland's fall final examination period, the alternative was to schedule it during one of Maryland's bye weeks in February.

"Hopefully this will allow us to keep our rhythm ... and hopefully expand our bench a little bit," Terps head coach Mark

Turgeon said before the game with the Bulldogs. After a 93-62 victory orchestrated through an evenly balanced dosage of starters and reserve players, Turgeon was grateful for the opportunity for the team to get back on the court.

"It doesn't matter who your opponent is. You still have to play a 40-minute game. They are going to play defense, we're going to play offense," Turgeon said.

It's no big deal, if you ask the SEC.

"A lot of schools do this to fill byes in their schedule," said SEC spokesman Craig Pinkerton.

In the case of the SEC Big 12 Challenge, the objective was to generate more exposure for the event by scheduling it during a time where other inter-conference challenges had concluded.

"During previous seasons we would usually have the challenge in December, however, it would get lost in all the other inter-conference games," Pinkerton said. "We moved it later in the season this year, hoping that it would become a marquee event."

Indeed, the reward was the highest Nielsen rating in the history of the Big 12-SEC Challenge when Kentucky played Kansas on Jan. 30.

The University of Connecticut's women's team usually schedules a non-confer-

See BASKETBALL Page A3

Free St. Patrick's Day Rides Offered in PG County to Deter Drunk Driving

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD, March 1 — Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by drunk drivers, free cab rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County, Maryland on

Thursday, March 17, 2016 (St. Patrick's Day).

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) and continue until 4:00 am on Friday, March 18th as a way to keep

See FREE RIDES Page A6

For Second Consecutive Year, Graduation Rate in PGCPS Soar to Record High Levels

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Data released on February 12, 2016 by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shows a graduation rate of 79 percent, a 2.16 percentage point increase in the overall four-year graduation rate for

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). This is the highest graduation rate on record for the school district.

The following high schools made gains of three or more percentage points in their graduation rates:

See GRADUATION Page A6

EDC Toasts Largest Microbrewery in the United States at Their Upper Marlboro Grand Opening

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On Saturday, February 23, 2016, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and his executive team welcomed Calvert Brewing Company as it opened its first production brewing facility and tap room in Prince George's County. Located in Upper Marlboro, this facility is the largest microbrewery to open in the United States within the last five years. Saturday's Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting was attended by several County officials including Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller (Dist. 27), Senator Douglas J.J. Peters (Dist. 23), Delegate Michael Jackson (Dist. 27B) and Delegate Marvin Holmes (Dist. 23B).

"Prince George's County continues to grow everyday thanks to great new partners like the Calvert Brewing Company," said Mr. Coleman. "We are proud to welcome them to



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: Donna Gehart, Calvert Brewing Co.; Delegate Michael Jackson, Dist. 27B; Jim Coleman, President & CEO, PGCEDC; Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Maryland Senate President; Michael Scarborough, Founder & Managing Partner, Calvert Brewing Co.; Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, Dist. 23; Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; David Lewis, Business Development Director, PGCEDC; Delegate Marvin Holmes, Dist. 23B; Katie Kerwin, Calvert Brewing Co.)

Prince George's County. Here, we 'Activate Prosperity' by helping businesses expand and matchmaking them with other businesses to make all of them successful. We look forward to

partnering with Calvert Brewing Company at our June 'Thirsty (for Business) Thursday' networking event."

Calvert Brewing Company founder and managing partner,

Michael Scarborough, who grew up in Oxon Hill, Maryland was glad to be back open-

See BREWERY Page A5

INSIDE

Vilsack Announces \$18 Million Available to Support Research and Teaching at Historically Black Land-Grant Universities

The grants are available through the 1890 Institution Research, Extension, and Teaching Capacity Building Grants program administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
Community, Page A3

The Third Reconstruction Era

Moments like these give us a chance to appreciate how much change a citizen like Mrs. McLaurin has seen in her lifetime. When she was born America was firmly in the grip of Jim Crow, segregation, racial violence and political disenfranchisement that characterized the decades following the initial post-Civil War promise of Reconstruction.
Commentary, Page A4

EDC 'Activates Prosperity' by Matchmaking 300 Small Business With \$16 Billion in Federal and County Procurement Opportunities

The majority of the contracting opportunities were for Information Technology consulting firms, a targeted industry sector for the County that brings high wage jobs and is on a strong growth trajectory.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: 13 Hours:

The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi

When the not-an-embassy is overrun by a mob, the G.R.S. guys are eager to lend a hand but are hindered by the Chief's dithering and the thick, sticky bureaucracy of having a secret CIA base. (If they rush over to help, it will be hard to keep pretending the CIA base doesn't exist.)
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that Apple gets around U.S. labor standards and laws by outsourcing production to China?

—Josie Walsh,
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

They honored him with balloons, candles at the Hangar Club

Joseph Michael "Mike" Beall, 73, a longtime resident of Pine Grove Drive in Morningside, died at home on Feb. 16. He had leukemia.

He was born in Mitchellville, son of Clarence and Lillian Beall, and graduated from Frederick Sasser High School. He joined the Army and, during a tour at Ft. Bliss, Texas, met Rita Carreón. They were married Aug. 15, 1964, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in El Paso. After leaving the service, the newlyweds lived in Mitchellville and District Heights before moving to Morningside in 1973.

Mike served in the Army Reserves and went to work at Pohanka as a specialist in body and fender work. He liked to hunt and fish, and follow NASCAR, and did a little racing himself years ago.

And he played pool. His wife Rita managed pool teams at Andrews Restaurant (formerly Skyline Restaurant), Tucker's (until it burned down), and most recently the Hangar Club. In memory of Possum—as they called him—his fellow pool-players carried candles and released 65 balloons.

Mike was the husband of Rita for 51 years; father of David and Danny Beall and Anita Cook; grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of two; brother of Vincent and Paul Beall, Joan Armstrong and the late Irene Botler and Debbie Corrick. Fr. Ted Hegnauer conducted a service for Mike at Lee's Funeral Home on Feb. 20.

Skyline School, Forestville High supporters fight closings

SRO crowds at Skyline's February meeting and at two School Board hearings have brought out a lot of angry people, protesting the planned closings of both schools at the end of the school year. Stan Holmes, President of the Skyline Citizens Association, Ashby Harmon and Floyd Shields, have been leading the fight for us here in Skyline.

I'll be telling you a lot more about this scary development, when I learn more.

Neighbors

Rose Hoffman, former Morningsider, has been awarded The Smiley Face Award "for always smiling!" She is currently in rehab, I'm not sure where.

You may have noticed I've not submitted a column for a couple of weeks. I was in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., where my son Brian is seriously ill. He is now with Hospice, and I will be back there again soon. I ask your prayers for him, his wife Carol, and all the McHale family.

Suitland '63 reunion

Carolyn Hartsock Fonner is spreading the word about the upcoming Suitland reunion, for the Class of '63. Friends of '61, '62 and '64, who have joined them in the past, are also welcome. The information I have is a little sketchy, but I believe the event is going to be at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis. You'll have to contact Carolyn for the details. Her number is 443-370-9677.

Also coming up

State Sen. C. Anthony Muse is hosting a 26th District Community Breakfast (FREE) to give a legislative update and to hear concerns. It will be on March 12, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. Register at: <https://senatormuse2016communitybreakfast.evenbrite.com>.

Mt. Calvary School, 6704 Marlboro Pike, is hosting a Fashion Show on Saturday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m. Tickets: adults, \$10; children, \$5. For information: Mrs. Ruffin, 301-735-5262.

Bishop McNamara Fine Arts Dept. is presenting *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the famous comedy of manners driven by mistaken identity and witty dialog. March 18 & 19 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets (\$10), visit www.bmhs.org or contact Mary Mitchell-Donahue, 301-735-8401, ext. 101.

Changing landscape

County Executive Baker attended the Oxon Hill Middle School Gymnasium Dedication

on Feb. 17 and the Grand Opening of the Suitland High School Writing Center on Feb. 18.

A Sherwin-Williams Paint Store has opened at 8847 Branch Ave. in Clinton. Call 301-868-6324 for hours.

Roadwork on Allentown Road near Andrews' Main Gate is progressing nicely, and I note a new traffic light ready at the entrance to Andrews Manor Shopping Center.

An aggressive Pothole Blitz is on in the County. To report one, call CountyClick at 311 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, or submit your information online at www.countyclick311.com.

Evelyn Lozano, longtime St. Philip's parishioner, dies

Evelyn H. Lozano, 95, of Waldorf and formerly of Auth Village, died Feb. 17. She was born in Von Ormy, Tex., daughter of Sarah and Albert Herrera. Evelyn was a longtime member of St. Philip's Parish and a regular at daily Mass. Her husband Tom preceded her in death. She was the mother of Judy Ward, Joan Dupuy, Tommie Jeanette Gardner and the late Martha Jean Burke; sister of Roland Herrera; grandmother of nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Terrence Flaherty, Feb. 28; Gerry Joliffe, on Leap Day, Feb. 29; Winifred Lanehart, March 1; Karen (Elborne) Stern and Harold Titus, March 2; and Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor and Matthew Flaherty, March 4; Roy Derrick, March 6; Anna Buck, March 9 (1914!); Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; John F. Latimer, March 10 (1920!); Karl Kaufman Jr., Angelo Meoli, Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10.

Happy anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman, on their 58th, March 4; and to Larry and Susan Frostbutter, March 5.

physical fitness program, concerts and theatrical productions, family reunions and repast. Please contact Dorothy Magruder at 301-888-2171 for leasing/rental or any other information. Email: NewHope014@gmail.com or visit www.thenhf.org.

There will be live music and vendors. Sponsorships available. Cost is \$50 per person. For more information, call 301-952-3755 or contact us via email at LRTHOMAS@CO.PG.MD.US.

EARLY VOTING

You can vote at your convenience. Early voting runs April 14, 2016 to April 21, 2016 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Voting is convenient, accessible and on your schedule. Important dead lines: Voter Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 5, 2016 -9:00 PM, Absentee Ballot Application deadline: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:00 PM (mail) or 11:59 PM (fax/email). For more information, contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at (301) 341-7300. Primary Election is Tuesday April 26, 2016. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

WHML (31st ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON)

Join us at Martin's Crosswinds—7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland—March 16 at Noon to honor women in Prince George's County government and public service. Featuring Gladys Noon

Spellman Award presentations, the Women in Government Award and a special tribute to the Honorable Barbara Mikulski, United States Senator.

There will be live music and vendors. Sponsorships available. Cost is \$50 per person. For more information, call 301-952-3755 or contact us via email at LRTHOMAS@CO.PG.MD.US.

MAMA STELLA'S (RISTORANTE ITALIANO)

Come out for lunch or dinner at Mama Stella's Ristorante Italiano on April 6 for a fundraiser to benefit Christmas in April • Prince George's County. Mama Stella's will donate 20 % of all sales made during the day on April 6, to Christmas in April. Mama Stella's is located at 7918 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Telephone number is 301-868-3057.

SUMMER YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

University of Maryland will offer a Summer Youth Music Camp. Band Camp is Sunday, July 24–Friday July 29. Choir, Orchestra and Piano Camp is Sunday, July 31–Friday, August 5. For more information or to view the informative video, visit http://www.music.umd.edu/community/summer_activities/summer_youth_music_camp.

Neighborhood

Continued Growth in PG County Brings Need for More Volunteers for Hospice of the Chesapeake

LARGO, MD—As Hospice of the Chesapeake continues to reach out to serve hospice and palliative care patients and their families in Prince George's County, its list of volunteer needs grows to serve this region.

Volunteers play a vital role on the hospice team by visiting patients, supporting caregivers, serving as counselors at grief retreats, organizing fundraisers and assisting in our offices. You can become a hospice volunteer if you are age 18 or older and willing to complete our free volunteer training program. Areas of need in Prince George's County include:

- **Patient Care:** These volunteers provide companionship and a supportive presence for our patients and respite for caregivers. They offer a listening ear, open mind and loving heart.

- **Veterans-to-Veterans Program:** Volunteers with a military background to visit patients who are veterans.

- **Honor Salutes:** Active duty military personnel to perform Honor Salutes at the homes and bedsides of our Veteran patients.

- **Healing Arts:** Licensed Massage Therapists, Comfort Touch, Reiki, musicians, artists and others. Also, dog owners willing to train to share their pet with patients through Pet Therapy. In most cases, specific training can be provided.

- **Threshold Choir:** Singers to participate in the Prince George's GIFTS Threshold Choir.

- **Four-Wheel Drivers:** Volunteers with four-wheel drive vehicles are needed to assist patients and staff in their transportation needs during inclement weather conditions.

To volunteer, contact Allison Kuchar at akuchar@hospicechesapeake.org or 443-837-1513 or visit the website: www.hospicechesapeake.org for more information and to download an application.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Prince George's County Executive Announces Acting Director for the Department of Family Services

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced that Elana Belon-Butler has been appointed to serve as the Acting Director of the Department of Family Services effective February 8, 2016. Ms. Belon-Butler replaces Theresa Grant, who had served as Acting Director of the agency since 2011. Ms. Grant returned to her career position as Manager of the Aging and Disabilities Division within the Department of Family Services.

"I am pleased to announce Ms. Elana Belon-Butler as the Acting Director of the Department of Family Services," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I am confident that her previous leadership position as Deputy Health Officer for Prince George's County, along with her overall expert-

ise and passion for human services will continue to advance the County's programmatic and service delivery efforts for our families.

"I thank Theresa Grant for her leadership and commitment to the families of Prince George's County. She has been a tremendous asset, and will continue her good work in serving our older adults, and our residents who are living with disabilities."

Elana Belon-Butler is a longtime employee of Prince George's County Health Department where she had served for the past fourteen years. She was appointed to the position of Deputy Health Officer in 2008 and, prior to her current appointment as Acting Director of the Department of Family Services, Ms. Belon-Butler also had served as Special Assistant to the Health Officer. Among her responsibilities within the County's Health Department, Ms. Belon-Butler managed several programs in the Divisions of Health and Wellness, Family Health Services, Behavioral Health Services and Environmental Health and Disease Control. She was also responsible for providing oversight and leadership to the Office of Administration and the Health Department Ombudsman.

WSSC General Manager/CEO Takes Disparity Study to Next Phase

LAUREL, MD—General Manager/CEO Carla A. Reid announced the next phase of the ongoing Disparity Study, which was launched in May of 2015. MGT of America, who is independently conducting the study, has partnered with McMillon Communications and Oppenheim Research to collect and analyze anecdotal information from the business community.

This phase of the study provides an opportunity for businesses to share experiences of doing business or attempting to do business with WSSC and its prime contractors and vendors.

"As the new General Manager and CEO of WSSC, improving stakeholder relationships is a top priority for me," said Carla A. Reid. "We can only improve by hearing from those businesses that have worked with us or participated in our procurement process about what is working and what is not. Participating in this study is an important way businesses can do that."

Participants will be randomly selected to contribute in this phase of the study via telephone interviews over the next four to six weeks. The information collected will determine the changes that must be made to procurement policies and procedures, including those of WSSC's Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise (SLMBE) program.

Individual information will be kept confidential and aggregated for overall analysis and used only for the purposes of conducting this study.

The Disparity Study examines WSSC's four principal contracting areas – construction, architecture, engineering, and professional services and goods and other services—to determine minority—and women-owned businesses' availability to compete as

prime contractors and subcontractors in each of the four areas and the extent to which Minority Business Enterprises are used by WSSC.

For information about the Disparity Study visit <http://wsscwater.com/disparitystudy>.

WSSC Details Long-standing Program to Minimize Lead Risk

LAUREL, MD—February 19, 2016: In light of the national conversation over concerns of lead in public drinking water, WSSC's water quality experts briefed commissioners this week on the safety of the drinking supply in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Two key points emerged: WSSC has no lead pipes in its water distribution system (which stops at a customer's property line) and WSSC adds a corrosion inhibitor to its water that coats the inside of all pipes, including those on private property.

In 2005, WSSC conducted an aggressive search to find and replace any lead pipes in the WSSC system, but many homes built before the 1986 EPA ban of lead solder may still contain sources of lead in the solder that was used to connect copper plumbing inside their homes. In accordance with EPA regulations, every three years WSSC conducts random sampling in certain homes built prior to the EPA ban. Based on the latest round of sampling in 2014, results for all homes tested were below 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead, which is the EPA action level. Ninety-eight per cent of those tested were below 2 ppb.

Source water taken from the Potomac and Patuxent rivers is first treated by our water filtration plants where it is tested more than 500,000 times each year, including tests for lead before being sent out to homes and businesses through our 5,600 miles of distribution pipes. The results allow WSSC to make any adjustments to our operation or treatment process to maintain the highest level of water quality.

It's important for customers to know that the corrosion inhibitor WSSC adds to the water creates a coating on pipes that prevents them from leaching lead, but it's still possible that a few homes built prior to 1960 may still have lead service lines on their property. Concerned customers should contact a WSSC-Registered plumber to determine if their homes contain lead pipes in their homes or contact WSSC's Water Quality Center at 301-206-7575 about having their water tested. More information is available on the WSSC website, and WSSC's annual Water Quality Report can be found online, as well.

WSSC is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to ensure the water we provide customers meets federal and state regulatory standards. WSSC is also closely monitored by the executive and legislative branches in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as state legislators in Annapolis. WSSC has never had a drinking water violation in its 98-year history.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Cutting Your Medical Bills via Smartphone

What if your next doctor's visit could happen by smartphone from anywhere in the world? It could happen sooner than you think.

It's called telemedicine, or telehealth: The use of Internet-connected devices to communicate information about diseases, symptoms and other health data. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is driving innovators in healthcare and technology to develop apps and devices that offer greater access to healthcare products and services at a lower cost. In fact, the global telehealth market is expected to grow from \$440.6 million in 2013 to \$4.5 billion by 2018, according to Colorado-based research firm IHS.

How could this affect you? Though apps that measure everything from your daily walk or run to your heart rate are already available, an incredible range of options are coming. Here are some of the current and future product development trends in smartphone and wearable healthcare:

Physical activity and vitals tracking. While many major health systems and hospitals allow you to download apps that let you schedule appointments, see lab results and even communicate by email or text with your doctor, such offerings have no diagnostic value ... yet. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently released policy statements on what it calls "mobile medical apps" that will actually allow tracking of vital health data for direct interpretation by trained health professionals.

GPS Medicine. Let's say you need to fill a prescription and you want to know the cheapest place to buy it within a 10-mile radius of your office. Using technology similar to the restaurant, movie and service-finding sites you probably use now, developers are considering similar models for medical supply and service pricing data that could save you money in real time.

Diagnosis by selfie. Who knew taking a selfie could help improve your health? This new technology allows patients to take a photo of a non-life-threatening injury or rash using their cell phones (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-future-of-medicine-is-in-your-smartphone-1420828632>). Then, an algorithm processes the image, evaluates it and texts back the diagnosis. Developers are coming up with sensors to collect symptom- and condition-related health data, which could mean that in the future, physicians will have a lot more to work with than a mere photo.

Virtual appointments. Healthcare legislation is also expected to spur use of handheld devices to create 24/7, real-time communication between patients and practitioners for the cost of a co-pay—or less. In a 2014 report, consulting firm Deloitte said that there would be 100 million health "eVisits" globally, potentially saving over \$5 billion in costs compared to those incurred by traditional physician visits.

But before you start downloading this new technology, research the following:

- Who made the app and what do the developers really know about my condition?
- What about privacy? What's in the app's usage agreement and how safe is the payment, prescription or medical data required to use the app?
- What does my primary care doctor or my insurer think about me using this app? Could using it affect my coverage in any way?
- What does it really cost to use the app and how might it affect data charges on my smartphone or tablet bill?

Bottom line: The ability to manage your healthcare by smartphone is a revolutionary concept. But before you dive in head first, learn as much as you can about the technology and whether your current health professionals and networks support it.



Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$18 Million Available to Support Research and Teaching at Historically Black Land-Grant Universities

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced \$18 million in grants will be available to strengthen research and teaching at historically black land-grant universities during a meeting with the 1890's Council in Washington. The grants are available through the 1890 Institution Research, Extension, and Teaching Capacity Building Grants program administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

"There is an increasing need for highly skilled workers to fill agriculture, nutrition and natural resources jobs, and too few students graduating in those fields," said Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This support from USDA will ensure our 1890s universities can educate talented, skilled professionals to help us meet future food security challenges."

NIFA provides support to historically black colleges and universities that were designated as land-grant universities in the Sec-

ond Morrill Act of 1890. The Capacity Building Grants (CBG) program supports agricultural science programs while strengthening the linkages among the 1890 universities, other education institutions, USDA, and private industry. The program focuses on advancing cultural diversity in the scientific and professional workforce by attracting and educating more students from under-represented groups. Grants are awarded in the categories of research, teaching and extension with a focus on NIFA's priority areas of sustainable bioenergy, food security, childhood obesity prevention, climate change, and food safety. Since 2009, NIFA has awarded more than \$122 million in grants to support 1890 land-grant universities through the CBG program.

Applications are due March 31. Please see the request for applications for more information.

In addition to single institution and joint project applications, the CBG program features professional development grants to help faculty enhance their net-

working and competitive capacity by working collaboratively with colleagues from 1890 and 1862 land-grant universities, other public and private universities, federal agencies, private and non-governmental institutions, foundations, and other domestic and international research entities. The training, which may take the form of sabbaticals, mini-sabbaticals, faculty exchanges, or educational courses, must address critical U.S. food, agricultural and human science issues at the local, state, regional, and national level.

Previous projects funded through this program include a research grant awarded to South Carolina State University for study on the economic effects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on food safety and the environment, as well as the effects of state environmental regulations on state agricultural exports. Prairie View A&M University used a previous grant to develop a Master of Science degree in human nutrition. Southern University in

Louisiana offers educational support to families and assesses Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum in child development, due to a CBG grant.

Since 2009, NIFA has invested in and advanced innovative and transformative initiatives to solve societal challenges and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA's integrated research, education, and extension programs, supporting the best and brightest scientists and extension personnel, have resulted in user-inspired, groundbreaking discoveries that are combating childhood obesity, improving and sustaining rural economic growth, addressing water availability issues, increasing food production, finding new sources of energy, mitigating climate variability, and ensuring food safety. To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural science, visit www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts, sign up for email updates, sign up for email updates, or follow us on Twitter @usda_NIFA, #NIFAimpacts.

Health from A1

to services for people suffering from mental health and substance use disorders.

"Mental health matters," said Sen. Guy Guzzone, D-Howard, at the rally. "For years and years in our society, we haven't done a good job."

Funding for behavioral health—the umbrella term for mental health and substance abuse disorders—has never been mandated in the state's budget, so it does not automatically adjust with inflation. The Keep the Door Open Act, sponsored by Guzzone, would ensure that funding for behavioral health providers is indexed in the budget beginning in fiscal year 2018, without needing to be renewed by the legislature.

"Behavioral health may not be a household name, but it's definitely a household need," said Delegate Antonio Hayes, D-Baltimore, who is sponsoring the Keep the Door Act on the House side.

The spending mandate would require an additional \$17 million in increased general fund expenditures in 2018, and would increase to \$20.6 million by 2021, according to a statement of opposition submitted by the Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

The legislature has increased behavioral health funding to match inflation six times in the past 20 years, with an average annual increase of around .6 percent per year, said Richard Bearman, executive director of Go-Getters, a Salisbury support community for people with behavioral health disorders.

"Over the years, what we have seen is a little here, a little there. It's been very sporadic," said Gerry McGloin, executive director of Path-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LEO TRAUB

Ralliers hold signs showing support for the Keep the Door Open Act, which would require the state to increase funding for behavioral health care yearly with the rate of inflation, in Annapolis on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

ways, a behavioral health treatment and rehab center in St. Mary's County.

Some healthcare insurance providers will cover mental health services, but programs like Pathways and Go-Getters, which runs Peer Connection, depend largely on state funding from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to run their clinics.

Money has gotten tight, McGloin said, and Pathways has had problems retaining staff and budgeting resources.

Approximately half of all mental health patients also have substance abuse disorders, said McGloin, so programs often treat the two conditions together.

The average lifespan for a person with a mental illness is 25 years below that of the general population because many of them have chronic diseases that they do not know how to take care of on their own, said Bearman.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would be required under the second bill to develop a plan ensuring 24/7 statewide access to behavioral health services like walk-in clinics and mobile crisis teams.

Mobile crisis teams operate in 13 counties, and Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties have crisis walk-in centers, with the latter two providing free 24/7 crisis hotlines and access to counselors. Expanding the current crisis services statewide would require an estimated \$33 million more annually, according to a letter submitted by Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in opposition to the second bill.

The state passed legislation in 2002 that attempted to address the issue of mental health crisis response, but the law contained conditional language dependent on federal funding that never came, said Mary-

land Behavioral Health Coalition spokesman Dan Martin.

"What we have now isn't as much a system as it is a patchwork of services," Martin said. "It's time now to really step forward and have the state put together a plan."

Staffing and equipment for mobile crisis response teams are too expensive for many behavioral health services to maintain, said McGloin.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is already working with counties to develop and expand crisis services, and the task force needed to develop further plans under the second bill would not be worth the extra money and manpower, said Allison Taylor, the department's director of governmental affairs.

The state needs better access to behavioral health programs like the one that saved his life, Shepherd said.

"This is an indication that our time is coming," he said.

Basketball from A1

ence opponent during the conference season.

"The last couple years, we have played South Carolina, and in years before that we have played Duke or North Carolina or Oklahoma," said University of Connecticut Women's Basketball spokesman Patrick McKenna.

"It's just another chance to play a really good opponent on national television."

The nationally ranked (then No. 2) Terrapins' brief escape from Big Ten play to head across the Capital Beltway to face Division II-bound Bowie Bulldogs of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) was not only conceived as a good way to counteract a long

bye week. It also presented another opportunity for the Terps to play local schools.

Last fall, Maryland took on Georgetown University and Mount St. Mary's University—and beat them both.

"The idea was to stay fresh against a local team," said University of Maryland men's basketball spokesman Zach Bolno. "Since a lot of the student ath-

letes are from the Maryland area, it offers a great chance to play against familiar foes."

Although not certain about specifics for next season, Bolno said he was sure that meetings with other Washington area teams will be on the schedule, including a rematch against Georgetown at the Verizon Center for the 2016 Big Ten-Big East Challenge.



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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Durbin Introduce 'CLEAR Act' to Ensure Safer Drinking Water for American Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) today introduced S. 2587, the Copper and Lead Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting Act of 2016 (CLEAR Act), to better protect the American public from being poisoned by its drinking water supplies.

The CLEAR Act directs the Environmental Protection Agency to develop new ways to improve the reporting, testing and monitoring of lead and copper levels in America's drinking water, addressing an urgent need brought to light in Flint, Mich., that exists in communities nationwide.

"The loss of safe drinking water supplies in Flint and in communities across the country has given rise to a crisis of public confidence that should never be allowed to exist in America," said Senator Cardin, a senior member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "The CLEAR Act will work to restore the public trust in its drinking water by improving safety testing and ensuring our communities know immediately should their drinking water safety ever be compromised."

"A recent Chicago Tribune report highlighted the risks that aging water infrastructure can pose to residents of cities like Chicago where nearly

80 percent of homes are connected to pipes that contain lead," said Senator Durbin. "The crisis in Flint has brought national attention to the threat of elevated levels of lead in drinking water and the danger that can be to children and families if left untreated. The CLEAR Act focuses on common-sense reforms to give Americans more information about the safety of their drinking water."

By codifying into law the December 2015 recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council for long-term revisions to EPA standards for lead and copper, the CLEAR Act (S. 2587) acts on broadly backed, consensus recommendations for reform. These include:

- Establishing a health-based, household action level that triggers a report to the consumer and to the applicable health agency for follow-up.
- Adding targeted outreach to consumers with lead service lines and other vulnerable populations and their caregivers/healthcare providers.
- Encouraging public accountability through better online reporting from utilities to the public.

See WATER, Page A7



Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: UMD

CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center is a vibrant community of artists, students and audiences, where great work happens both on- and offstage. We present approximately 1,000 events each year spanning all performing arts disciplines. Transformative performances, workshops, lectures, dialogues and other events featuring visiting artists from around the world, as well as students and faculty from the university's academic departments of music, dance and theatre, allow for unparalleled engagement. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland is located at the corner of Route 193 (University Blvd.) and Stadium Drive on the campus of the University of Maryland.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



The Third Reconstruction Era

Many of us have been thrilled by the video of 106-year-old mentor and school volunteer Mrs. Virginia McLaurin visiting the White House during a Black History Month celebration to meet — and dance with — President and Mrs. Obama. Her joy in being there and fulfilling her dream of meeting the first African-American President and First Lady was infectious. Born a child of South Carolina sharecroppers in 1909, this was a day she never dreamed would come: "I didn't think I'd ever live to see a colored president. I am so happy."

Moments like these give us a chance to appreciate how much change a citizen like Mrs. McLaurin has seen in her lifetime. When she was born America was firmly in the grip of Jim Crow, segregation, racial violence and political disenfranchisement that characterized the decades following the initial post-Civil War promise of Reconstruction. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1941, in time to see the activism of A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and others urging the federal government to desegregate our armed forces and provide more economic opportunity for African-Americans. She saw burgeoning civil rights activities like these surge into a transforming movement across the South including the 1963 March on Washington in her new hometown. And she saw the Civil Rights Movement lead to significant changes—enough to allow her to visit President and Mrs. Obama in the White House in 2016.

When we look at arcs of history like this, where are we today? Many scholars see the Civil Rights Movement as a second Reconstruction Era and a second try at rebuilding our nation into one truly committed to liberty and justice for all. But just as the progress of the first Reconstruction was followed by decades of retrenchment and reversal, many of the formidable threats millions of poor children and families of all races but especially children of color face today are very dangerous steps backwards. Unjust racial profiling and killing of Black boys and men by law enforce-

ment officers enjoined to protect them; mass incarceration of people of color—especially Black males; massive attacks on voting rights which especially impact the poor, people of color, the elderly, disabled and the young; and resegregation and standard schools denying millions of poor Black, Latino and Native American children basic literacy, numeracy and other skills they will need to work in our increasingly competitive globalized economy should be siren calls to wake up and fight back.

Past lessons have led some scholars and observers to believe we may be in a second post-Reconstruction Era, fighting deliberate widespread well-funded regression and backlash against progress made. But Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, the head of North Carolina's NAACP chapter and a leader in the "Moral Mondays" movement, views this historical moment with optimism but urges vigilance. In his new book with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, Dr. Barber argues that the beginnings of a Third Reconstruction are under-

way—rooted in "fusion politics" that have changed our nation before and can do it again.

The Third Reconstruction describes how what has become the Forward Together Moral Movement was the outgrowth of several years of theological education and grassroots organizing in North Carolina that coalesced in 2013 with Moral Mondays, a nonviolent civil disobedience campaign of protests, rallies, and arrests that has been adapted in other states, including Florida, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Ohio and New York. The multi-faith, multiracial movement is committed to a 14-point People's Agenda including education, health care, the economy and reforming the justice and electoral systems, and is supported by over 150 coalition partners. The book describes the historical impact that can occur when people are willing to form strong coalitions for change. The coalition in North Carolina includes progressive people of faith, union members, immigrants, Appalachian workers and many more and may be a model for others committed to racial and economic justice.

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The Mighty 9 Push a 21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom

"Elections determine who is in power, but they do not determine how power is used."

—Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion*, June 1, 2007

With American citizenship comes great responsibility. Since the birth of this nation, every four years we decide who will take on the mantle of president. No decision we make as citizens could have a more profound impact on our lives—and in the broader international arena. When we determine who will take on the role of commander in chief, we effectively decide our national priorities, our agenda and under what political philosophy we wish to be governed. Voting for a president is neither an exercise to be taken lightly or undertaken in blissful ignorance. Every four years, you are challenged to choose the candidate who promotes your agenda.

At the National Urban League, our agenda revolves around education, jobs and justice. This is not about endorsing candidates; it's about endorsing democracy. This is not about endorsing a particular politician; it's about endorsing those ideas that benefit communities of color, benefit our cities and benefit all low-income and working-class Americans. The National Urban League, along with the heads of eight other historic civil rights organizations, recently met with democratic presidential candidates Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders to hear their respective platforms and to promote our respective agendas.

In addition to myself, the meetings included:

- Melanie Campbell**, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
- Cornell W. Brooks**, NAACP
- The Rev. Al Sharpton**, National Action Network
- Kristen Clarke**, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Wade Henderson**, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Benjamin L. Crump**, National Bar Association
- Sherrilyn Ifill**, NAACP Legal defense and Education Fund
- Ingrid Saunders Jones and Janice Mathis**, National Council of Negro Women

The political truth is that, today, a candidate for the office of president will find it almost impossible to win a nomination without the support

of African-American and Hispanic voters. Communities of color are a large voting bloc and their concerns must be acknowledged as vital, top-of-the-agenda items.

We covered much of those items with the would-be-presidents using the coalition's "21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom" as a framework. The public policy paper, developed almost five years ago in a series of meetings attended by nearly 60 leading civil rights, social justice, business and community leaders in Washington, D.C., identified five urgent domestic goals for our nation:

1. Achieve Economic Parity for African-Americans;
2. Promote Equity in Educational Opportunity;
3. Protect and Defend Voting Rights;
4. Promote a Healthier Nation by Eliminating Healthcare Disparities; and
5. Achieve Comprehensive Criminal Justice System Reform

Both of the candidates spoke candidly on a host of these issues—and more. Both of the candidates demonstrated an ability to speak fluently and fluidly on the topics of race relations and racial inequality, and how the enduring pairing of the two has had a devastating impact on communities of color all around our nation. It was important for those of us gathered around the table to understand that as the first Black family to reside in the White House moves out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the concerns of Black Americans and underserved communities aren't swept under the rug behind them—to paraphrase my esteemed colleague Rev. Al Sharpton of National Action Network.

Our goal is to help set an agenda for the next president, but that agenda will ultimately be set with every individual vote cast. You have a seat at the table too. Find out where the candidates stand on the issues that are important to you and cast a vote—and make sure your family and friends are doing the same—because your vote is your access to the proverbial table. It is your unique opportunity to let the candidates know what is most important to you.

I hope this will not be the last meeting between civil rights groups and presidential candidates. The invitations have been sent and we look forward to more conversations, because in politics, there are no permanent allies or permanent enemies, only permanent interests.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

So is Winter Finally Starting to Get You Down?

You seldom, if ever, hear people complaining that Spring has hung around too long. But Winter? Yes, skiers may never want it to end, but for most of us, it seems to drag on way too long.

Right about now is when the mid-winter blues become most common. They can make you feel sad or lacking for energy, yet apparently for no real reason.

The name that mental health experts use for this condition is Seasonal Affective Disorder, or S.A.D. They believe it's tied to the reduced amounts of sunlight and activity that most of us face in the Winter.

It's estimated that about 9% of the population in the northern parts of the country have the winter blues, but even in southern states such as Florida, an estimated 1.5% of people suffer from this condition.

For most people, S.A.D. takes the form of mild depression. Symptoms can be reduced energy, decreased participation in once-liked activities and loss of interest in what had normally been enjoyable.

But in some cases, S.A.D. can be strong enough to cause severe depression, severe enough to raise the chances of suicide or possibly require hospitalization.

Fortunately, there are ways to fight these mid-winter blahs. One simple remedy is getting out more into the daylight. Researchers report even a ten minute exposure to the sun can help brighten a person's mood and overall attitude.

There's also evidence that increasing your level of exercise can help limit those winter blues. Even on the coldest days, just bundling up and getting out for a walk or to play with the kids or dog can improve your day.

It also helps to put extra effort into activities you know bring you joy. Getting together with family or friends, going to a movie, working at a favorite hobby, or just lunching with someone special, can all help raise your spirits. What you want to avoid is withdrawing and sitting on the couch focusing on feeling blue.

So if Winter has you a little down, fine. But if you find that your winter blues, or those of someone close to you, are severe enough to truly affect your life negatively, talk to your family physician or consult a professional counselor.

From counseling, to various light treatments, to pharmaceutical therapies, there are a variety of options that mental health professionals have available to help keep S.A.D. from ruining your life.

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

Brewery from A1

ing his new 28,000 SF facility in Prince George's County.

"The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation have been fantastic in helping us get to our grand opening today," said Mr. Scarborough. "I know that they are going to be a great partner in the future."

The brewing company is currently working with the Economic Development Corporation's Workforce Development team to fill 24 new positions at its Upper Marlboro facility, and is also partnering with Calvert Brewing Company for its June 'Thirsty

(for Business) Thursday.'

"This is huge! This brewery is a great investment in Prince George's County," said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller. "Prince George's is on the cusp of greatness; it is moving up. Calvert Brewing is strong part of it. This facility means jobs and this means economic development, all to move our County forward."

For information on employment opportunities with Calvert Brewing Company, contact EDC Workforce Development Deputy Director Jeffrey Swilley at 301-618-8400 or jswilley@co.pg.md.us.

EDC 'Activates Prosperity' by Matchmaking 300 Small Business With \$16 Billion in Federal and County Procurement Opportunities

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

LARGO, MD—Local companies flocked to the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as top executives from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Prince George's County Office of Central Services gave specific details on how to prepare for and tap into the \$16 billion in procurement opportunities available through these agencies. The EDC's IRS Procurement Opportunity Day provided local businesses with specific contracting opportunities available, including bid solicitations and procurement forecasts, as well as direction on how to submit bids on those lucrative contracts.

"We 'Activate Prosperity' through matchmaking; we 'Activate Prosperity' through contracting," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "We are creating multimillionaires here at the EDC by matchmaking our local small businesses with large federal agencies and making sure they are ready to compete to win these contracts. I want our businesses to tap into the \$16 billion in contracting opportunities available from the four agencies we have here today."

Today's IRS Procurement Opportunity Day is an integral part of the EDC's 'Activate Prosperity' initiative; an aggressive three-year plan designed to rapidly grow Prince George's County businesses by connecting them with valuable resources and programs; thereby creating more jobs for County residents.

"We believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that all of Prince George's County's local businesses are aware of the opportunities in their own backyards," said EDC Business De-

velopment Director John Mason. "To be able to have access to high level federal decision-makers, and an economic development team excited about matchmaking companies with key federal agencies can really boost a company's revenues. Now is the best time ever to expand a business in Prince George's County."

Panelists at today's game changing event shared with attendees the types of goods and services that are most often contracted for in each of their respective agencies. The majority of the contracting opportunities were for Information Technology consulting firms, a targeted industry sector for the County that brings high wage jobs and is on a strong growth trajectory.

"The true key to success in winning contracts with the IRS is all about doing your homework," said LaTonya Bowman, Small Business Specialist with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. "There are numerous opportunities to partner with the IRS, and thereby, assist them in achieving their procurement goals. To truly engage in those procurements, one must know what the IRS is buying, when they are buying, and then connect with the IRS Small Business Office ready to discuss your company's capabilities. Last year, the IRS bought more than \$520 million in non-IT products and services and more than \$1.3 billion in IT products and services."

The Prince George's County Office of Central Services also provided key information on how to do business with the County through its Contract Administration and Procurement Division that purchases everything from pencils to libraries to helicopters. Solicitations from the County can be found on the County's website as well as on the E-Maryland Market Place website.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right; John Mason, Business Development Director, PGCEDC; Pamela Wilson, Business Analyst, OSDBU, U.S. Dept of the Treasury; Jim Coleman, President & CEO, PGCEDC; LaTonya Bowman, Small Business Specialist, Internal Revenue Service; Jade Haynes, Business Analyst, Prince George's County Supplier Development Diversity Division; Winston DeLattiboudere, President & CEO, Delmock Technologies.

"One of the most aggressive procurement opportunities that the County is currently soliciting for is a Public-Private Partnership with Corvias Solutions to provide services in the County's \$1.2 billion stormwater management project," said Roland Jones, Director of the Prince George's Office of Central Services. "In addition, the Excelon PEPCO merger, which will bring together the top performing gas and electric utilities in the Mid-Atlantic, will also present a large number of contracting opportunities in the near future. Stormwater and the utilities are very sustainable industries that local companies should not overlook."

Mobile SEO Technologies, one of the sponsors of the event provided text-to-talk technology allowing questions from the audience to be provided via text messages. The event was also sponsored by NAI Michael Companies and Berman Enterprises.

"Today, we learned about the tools we need to enhance our opportunity to procure with the federal government. The contacts and references we received

are invaluable," said Thomas and Gretta Anderson, owners of Itec Solutions in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. "We can now email a key official we've met with the IRS and be able to reference this event as a starting point for a conversation. We feel like we have an 'in' with the federal government, and that can mean great growth for our company in the very near future. We are very glad that we came out to this event."

The next EDC event will be the 'Connections for Success' forum on March 14, 2016 and will address "Enhancing Relationships With Customers for Long Term Growth", in partnership with the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20772.

Free admission and parking will be provided. All attendees for these exclusive events must RSVP to Crystal Ballard (cballard@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Nichelle Holmes (naholmes@pgcedc.com) or 301-583-4621.

AAA Mid-Atlantic Brings Auto Repair, Retail, Travel, and Insurance Under One Roof in Brandywine, Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.—AAA Mid-Atlantic will open the AAA Car Care Insurance Travel (CCIT) Center in Brandywine, Maryland on Monday, December 14. Joining the auto club's seven other Maryland locations (Annapolis, Columbia, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Glen Burnie, Rockville, and Towson), the new AAA Car Care Insurance and Travel Center is located at:

AAA Car Care
Insurance Travel Center — Brandywine

16301 Crain Highway,
Brandywine, MD 20613-8054
Phone: (301) 909-9519

Hours: Monday–Friday:
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The 8,901 square foot Brandywine location will be home to 25 AAA Mid-Atlantic associates. The facility, which has 10 car care bays, is located on Crain Highway next to Wawa at the intersection of McKendree Road and Crain Highway. The new location replaces the previous Brandywine location at 15906C Crain Highway SE, Brandywine, MD 20613.

While the new store provides all of the regular services that AAA Mid-Atlantic

members have come to expect from AAA's retail offices, the difference is that CCIT Centers also offer car care services, which will be available to non-members as well, although AAA members will enjoy a lower price with a discount on repair labor. This is the 25th car care center in the AAA Mid-Atlantic service area, which includes Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"AAA Mid-Atlantic's Car Care, Insurance and Travel Centers are open to members and non-members as a one-stop shop for automotive repair, travel and insurance," said John B. Townsend II, Manager of AAA Mid-Atlantic Public and Government Affairs. The car care center is a timely addition for pre-road trip vehicle checkups and vacation planning."

For more than 110 years, AAA has been a trusted and reliable source for emergency roadside assistance for more than 54 million members nationwide. The club has also played an important role in the automotive repair industry through the certification of auto repair shops across the country through the AAA Approved Auto Repair (AAR) program. This expansion of AAA services is one that club management feels is a natural fit for an organization that assists thousands of motorists every day and serves nearly four million members in the Mid-Atlantic region.

AAA Car Care Insurance Travel Center services include maintenance, diagnostics, and repairs such as tires, brakes, tune-ups, air conditioning and cooling systems, battery replacements, and electrical work.

Complete list of services

- Diagnostics
- Air Conditioning and Cooling
- Electrical System Diagnosis
- Tune-ups and Maintenance
- Battery Service & Replacement
- Oil & Filter Change
- Coolant Flush
- Transmission Flush
- Power Steering Flush
- Four Wheel Alignments
- Differential Service
- Repairs on Tires, Brakes & More
- Purchase Tires
- Tire Rotations & Balance
- Standard & ABS Brake Service
- Clean & Adjust Drum Brakes
- Brake System Flush
- Expert Brake Diagnosis, Service & Replacement
- Auto Glass Replacement and Repair

Visit <http://midatlantic.aaa.com/Automotive/ClubOwnedRepair> for more information.

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ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi
Grade: B
Rated R, a lot of graphic combat violence including grotesque images, plus military-grade swearing
2 hrs., 24 min

Michael Bay hasn't directed many movies that were good, but he's directed even fewer that were political (chanting "USA! USA!" isn't the same as being political). So we shouldn't be surprised that *13 Hours*, Bay's movie about the Benghazi attacks of 2012, is far more interested in the bullets, bombs, and bodies of the affair than it is in the hearings and investigations that followed it. The whole subject may be politically charged, but don't forget: Michael Bay is first and foremost a dumb guy.

This is one of his better films, actually, a fairly mature and level-headed combat drama that follows a well-worn path with smooth confidence. Adapted by Chuck Hogan from Mitchell Zuckoff's book, *13 Hours* isn't burdened with the cheesy dialogue and moronic humor that have plagued so many Bayopics, and the director's other usual excesses are reined in. Oh, there are blood-spraying headshots, and bodies being run over by cars (Bay likes that), and a *Pearl Harbor*-ish moment where we follow the bomb's point of view as it descends on a target (always a favorite). But in general, Bay seems serious about telling an intense, fact-based story along the lines of *Zero Dark Thirty*, albeit without that film's level of tension and gravitas.

We arrive in Benghazi, Libya, with Jack Da Silva (John Krasinski), a Navy SEAL now working with other ex-military as security contractors for the CIA, which has a secret base in the city. A mile away is an American "temporary



ROTTENTOMATOES

Based on the book *13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi*.

diplomatic outpost"—not an official embassy, crucially, or it would have tighter security—where the U.S. ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens (Matt Letscher), is due to visit from Tripoli.

At this point, Benghazi is one of the most dangerous places in the world. The post-Gaddafi government is opposed by rebel forces (the bad guys), which are in turn opposed by a militia called the February 17th Martyrs Brigade (the good guys). The trouble, as Jack's fellow SEAL Tyrone "Rone" Woods (James Badge Dale) explains, is that "not only is hot as balls, you can't tell the good guys from the bad guys." They're all Libyan and heavily armed, and it's not like they wear uniforms.

Jack, Rone, and the other members of the Global Response Staff (as they are called) may have difficulty knowing who can be trusted, but the movie makes sure we know who can't: the wormy, cowardly CIA chief (Dave Costabile) in charge of the base. His first action in the movie is to deny Jack and Rone support during a scuffle with locals because he insists on keeping a low profile.

Then there's his declaration that "there is no real threat" in Benghazi (a line engineered to make us howl at his shortsightedness), plus an overall reluctance to get involved in anything. Also, in a movie full of buff guys, he's doughy. Bro doesn't even lift.

When the not-an-embassy is overrun by a mob, the G.R.S. guys are eager to lend a hand but are hindered by the Chief's dithering and the thick, sticky bureaucracy of having a secret CIA base. (If they rush over to help, it will be hard to keep pretending the CIA base doesn't exist.) Secrecy is eventually a moot point, and the question becomes whether the U.S. can send help that will a) arrive in time to be helpful and b) not start a war. The issue of how (or whether) to send backup during the attack has of course been the subject of much scrutiny in the three years since it happened, but Bay doesn't blame an agenda, a conspiracy, or even incompetence for the four American deaths. His theory seems to be, "Hey, red tape and protocol, whaddaya gonna do?" (In case you were wondering, Hillary Clinton is never mentioned.)

The combat sequences deliver what they're supposed to, hindered only a little by Bay's patented Confuse-O-Vision® shaky-cam technology, and helped considerably by the camaraderie among the men (who call each other "brother" and seem to mean it). Besides Jack and Rone, there's smart-aleck Tanto (Pablo Schreiber), philosophical Boon (David Denman), indestructible Oz (Max Martini), and Tig (Dominic Fumusa), whose personality trait I didn't catch but who seems valuable to the team. Their downtime conversations ring true, and the montage of their Skype and FaceTime calls back home to their families is just the right level of sappy.

Like a lot of war movies, this one doesn't have a purpose beyond thrilling us with bloody combat and brave heroism, no themes deeper than "we have to kill the bad guys when they attack us." That may be why, for as engaging as it is, it's never emotionally stirring in the way that the great war movies are, nor does it give the sense that this battle had any long-term significance. It's a good, ordinary movie about a very bad day.

Free Rides from A1

local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this 12-hour period, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide® phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service.

Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

"During the evening hours immediately following the 2014 St. Patrick's Day celebrations, nearly half of all U.S. traffic fatalities involved drunk drivers,"

said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

SoberRide® is offered in the District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® offering include AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, MillerCoors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the

Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

In addition, nine of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants have also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring SoberRide®. These dining establishments include: The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (D.C.); Fadó (D.C.); James Hoban's Irish Restaurant & Bar (D.C.); Kelly's Irish Times (D.C.); Martin's Tavern Est. 1933 (D.C.); Murphy's Grand Irish Pub (D.C. & VA); O'Sullivan's (VA); Rí Rá Irish Pub (D.C.); and Siné Irish Pub (VA).

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow

Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Founded in 1982, the non-profit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with historically keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 64,641 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

Graduation from A1

- Fairmont Heights High School with an 13.40 percentage point increase
- Potomac High School with a 13.19 percentage point increase
- Suitland High School with a 6.91 percentage point increase
- DuVal High School with a 6.53 percentage point increase
- Frederick Douglass High School with a 4.54 percentage point increase
- Surrattsville High School with a 4.24 percentage point increase

- Central High School with a 3.50 percentage point increase
 - Crossland High School with a 3.44 percentage point increase
 - Henry A. Wise High School with a 3.38 percentage point increase
- Principals from Fairmont Heights, Frederick Douglass and Potomac high schools, presented their strategies for increasing their graduation rates before the Maryland State Board of Education today in Baltimore, MD.

"This is tremendous improvement and I am very proud of our students, staff, teachers

and administrators for their hard work in achieving another impressive milestone. We are making steady progress toward outstanding academic achievement in PGCPS and this significant rise in our graduation rates is a great indicator of our success," said Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell.

MSDE uses a four-year cohort method to calculate graduation rates. It follows a set group of students from freshman year through their senior year.

To view data for any district or school in Maryland, please visit the 2015 Maryland Report Card website at www.mdreportcard.org.

About PGCPS: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has 209 schools and centers, more than 129,000 students and nearly 19,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.8 billion, the district serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and partnerships with businesses and institutions of higher learning.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Tactical Intelligence of #NoJusticeNoLeBron



Tamir Rice will forever be 12 years old, sentenced to death by Cleveland's police for holding a toy gun and "being a child while black." In the aftermath of the grand jury's inability to even secure an indictment, Baltimore-based journalist Tariq Toure started the hashtag #NoJusticeNoLeBron which aimed to "Call on LeBron James to lead a collective sit out on MLK day in solidarity with Tamir Rice and his family." (Read Tariq Toure's full explanation of his motivations here.)

This demand put before Cleveland's basketball messiah provoked a biblical-sized backlash comprised of one of the more bizarre combinations of people imaginable: people who love LeBron James and saw the hashtag as some kind of attack against him; people who despise the #BlackLivesMatter movement, particularly some of the young leadership who embraced this call; and people who stand with the struggle 1000% but think in the words of Professor Lou Moore, "the idea of attempting to force a black man into doing anything seems an awful folly for activists to pursue."

I strongly agree with Lou Moore and countless others that the idea black athletes have some kind of greater responsibility to speak out after such an egregious injustice, is grossly unfair. I've written repeatedly that it's long past time for white athletes to be put on the hot seat. Ask Kevin Love to sit out. Ask Matthew Dellavedova to sit out. Ask them all. Their hometown police murdered a twelve-year-old. It shouldn't be business as usual in the wake such a tragedy.

But the call for LeBron to sit out one game on the day we celebrate Dr. King's birth contains a measure of strategic genius that people who stand with #BlackLivesMatter yet disagree with this hashtag, should take seriously.

First and foremost, it is highly disingenuous to pretend that LeBron is just another athlete, especially in Cleveland, and is being asked to boycott solely because of the historic burden foisted upon black athletes to do more than just play. LeBron has asked for this weight, even demanded it. He has dramatically commented on other racist killings, organizing the Heat to pay tribute to the late Trayvon Martin by getting the team to pose in hoodies and having most of the Cavaliers last year wearing "I Can't Breathe" shirts after the Staten Island police choked Eric Garner to death.

LeBron has also spoken repeatedly about his desire to be a "global icon like Muhammad Ali," and his dreams of dunking on George W. Bush. He even uses the incendiary Public Enemy track Welcome to the Terrordome in his new Samsung Commercial.

But the fact that Tamir Rice was killed in Cleveland makes the connection to LeBron all the more acute. Upon choosing to return home, LeBron said, "This is not about the roster or the organization. I feel my calling here goes above basketball. I have a responsibility to lead, in more ways than one, and I take that very seriously. My presence can make a difference in Miami, but I think it can mean more where I'm from. I want kids in Northeast Ohio, like the hundreds of Akron third-graders I sponsor through my foundation, to realize that there's no better place to grow up."

Again, he has asked for this weight and there is nothing wrong with Tariq Toure, inspired by LeBron's conscience, to ask him to act upon the killing of one of the precious "kids in Northeast, Ohio." Tariq Toure's implicit point is, if you are going to use Public Enemy and say you want to be the Ali of the 21st century, people are going to ask you to back that crap up. Or as Toure wrote more eloquently, "The reason I went as far as to ask you to sit out is because every bit of empathetic work you have done makes you the archetype for this sort of leadership. Whether it be hoodies, t-shirts or 4th quarter comebacks, your energy commands allegiance."

The indispensable Twitter feed Prison Culture commented negatively about the hashtag, writing, "Go tell white athletes to show some solidarity on the matter of #TamirRice. Enough. This is a problem of WHITENESS and its deadliness."

But the motivation for this initiative is precisely rooted in the belief that those in power—as well as the white mass of Cleveland sports fans—are blithely ignoring this injustice. The hope is that LeBron, with all of his fame, can puncture privilege, tear the blinders off of those who care more about a Cavs championship than a police murder of a child, and get people to "see" Tamir Rice.

If one agrees that white people need to confront the reality of this killing—and all the police violence that dots

See **LEBRON** Page A7

Calendar of Events

March 10, — March 16, 2016

Smooth Sounds for Seniors: Ethel Ennis

Date and Time: Thursday, March 10, 2016, 12 noon
 Description: Singing to a sold-out crowd the past two years at Montpelier, Ethel Ennis returns for the third annual Smooth Sounds for Seniors series! The incomparable Baltimore-based artist has sung to critical acclaim all over the world.
 Cost: \$12/person
 Ages: 60 & better
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

The Sweater Set

Date and Time: Friday, March 11, 2016, 8 pm
 Description: Listeners are invited into Maureen Andary and Sara Curtin's joyful friendship through their multi-instrumental arrangements of ukulele, guitar, flute, hand percussion, accordion, banjo, glockenspiel, and the occasional kazoo/mouth trumpet solo.
 Cost: \$25/person;
 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Public Reception & Award Ceremony: Fourth Annual Artists on the Rise: Juried Teen Exhibition

Date and Time: Saturday, March 12, 2016, 1-3 pm
 Description: In honor of National Youth Art Month, Montpelier spotlights regional teens (ages 13-18) and their talents in the visual arts. Join us for this special reception and award ceremony!
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!: Women's History Month

Date and Time: Saturday, March 12, 2016, 12 noon-2 pm
 Description: From Rosalie Calvert to female servants, enslaved and free, women women called Riversdale home. Riversdale is joining museums across the country to highlight the lives of these women. For a FREE tour, print the required ticket from this website.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
 riversdale@pgparks.com

Concert: Michael Henderson

Date and Time: Saturday, March 12, 2016, 8 pm
 Description: Michael Henderson first gained worldwide recognition as an acclaimed young bass player with the Detroit Emeralds and the Funk Brothers. Michael has played bass guitar and/or recorded with such luminaries as Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, The Jackson 5 and more.
 Cost: \$30/general admission; \$25/students & seniors
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Rd., Fort Washington, MD
 Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Classical Recital Series: Ward-Kong Duo, Piano/Cello

Date and Time: Sunday, March 13, 2016, 3 pm
 Description: The range of emotion, color, and tone that cello and piano can produce is infinite; and this duo demonstrates that fact. Cellist Alicia Ward has performed around the world and pianist Kimberly Kong has been praised for her "lyricism, delicacy of touch, and wide vocabulary of textures" (*The Washington Post*). Following the recitals, please join us for a reception sponsored by CAAPA: Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.
 Cost: Free; \$5 donation appreciated
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Kitchen Guild Open House

Date and Time: Sunday, March 13, 2016, 3:30 pm
 Description: Curious about joining our Kitchen Guild? Step into the warmth of the open hearth kitchen and chat with members while sampling an array of seasonal soups from period recipes. Registration required by March 10.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: Ages 16 & up
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
 riversdale@pgparks.com

GEICO Gecko Series: Upcycled Cinderella

Date and Time: Monday, March 14, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon
 Description: This imaginative production brings to life the story of Cinderella in a way that will surprise and delight audiences. The wacky duo Dustmop and Binny "accidentally" stumble upon an audience and decide to put on a play with what they have before them. Using household items, recycled objects and physical comedy, the performers create hilarious characters, inventive settings and lively scenes. Packed with character education lessons, *Upcycled Cinderella* will activate the imagination and encourage young audiences to use teamwork, friendship and creativity in their everyday lives.
 Curriculum Connections: English Language Arts, Social Studies. Supported by the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
 Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more; Free to Title 1 Schools in Prince George's County
 Ages: Recommended for grades Pre-K-5.
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Is Apple Outsourcing Production to China in Order to Avoid U.S. Labor Standards

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that Apple gets around U.S. labor standards and laws by outsourcing production to China?

—Josie Walsh,
 New York, NY

Apple isn't the only tech giant outsourcing much of its production to Chinese manufacturers nowadays, but the sheer popularity of the California-based company's products makes it an especially easy target for activists concerned about worker health and safety. China Labor Watch and other groups have exposed inhumane conditions at huge Chinese factories of suppliers like Foxconn and Pegatron that support many U.S.-based tech firms. Workers at these facilities, many who are underage, are often required to work 18-hour shifts and are routinely exposed to toxic chemicals—but still can barely make ends meet. The problem came to a head in 2010 when journalists got word that 14 workers had committed suicide at Foxconn's massive iPhone-assembly manufacturing facility in China.

Another issue dogging Apple's Chinese partners is worker exposure to toxic chemicals and a higher than average incidence of leukemia among employees. Apple agreed to discontinue using two of the worst offenders, benzene and n-hexane, after the non-profit groups China Labor

Watch and Green America collected upwards of 40,000 signatures from consumers demanding action from the company. But China still allows its manufacturing sector to use several other carcinogenic chemicals long outlawed in the U.S. and Europe. Repeated exposure to these substances is another threat Chinese workers have to contend with when working on the assembly line making smartphones and other tech gadgets.

Despite knowledge of the dangerous conditions, Apple's Chinese suppliers rarely struggle to find workers, many of whom are willing to take the relatively high paying jobs despite the risks—especially if they are supporting loved ones at home who depend upon the extra money to survive. China's huge population creates an infinite supply of workers, such that even a large-scale walkout would be pointless. The assembly line system gives each person a repetitive, simple job that can be taught in an hour.

For its part, Apple continues to claim they are investigating the situation and doing everything they can to ensure satisfactory working conditions. In 2010, the company revamped its supplier responsibility standards and threatened it would terminate relations with Chinese manufacturers that refuse to toe the line, and also called for new audits on all of its "final assembly"



CREDIT: SACOM HONG KONG, FLICKRCC

A Chinese protestor shows what he thinks of Apple's treatment of workers assembling iPhones.

facilities in China. Two years later, Apple became the first technology company admitted to the Fair Labor Association, a non-profit that conducts independent monitoring and verification to ensure acceptable workplace standards. While this affiliation doesn't mean Foxconn, Pegatron and other Chinese high tech suppliers are beholden to standards as stringent as U.S. labor laws, activists consider it a step in the right direction

and continue to keep an eye on the situation.

Of course, whether or not Apple steps up on the issue may depend more on if consumers are willing to forego the company's products due to worker exploitation issues. And that's not likely to happen anytime soon, as Americans and others continue to buy iPhones, iPads and Macs as fast as Apple and its Chinese partners can produce them.

CONTACTS: Apple Supplier Responsibility, www.apple.com/supplier-responsibility; Foxconn, www.foxconn.com; Pegatron, www.pegatroncorp.com; China Labor Watch, www.chinalaborwatch.org; Green America, www.greenamerica.org; Fair Labor Association, www.fairlabor.org.

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LeBron from A6

the country—consider that Tariq Toure alone has been able to put discussion of this debate on ESPN, on popular sports websites, on the Network News, and on sports radio; in other words, in front of white eyes and ears. Most of these commentators derided the call, defending LeBron like he is a fragile flower who might wither in the face of a hashtag. Let them bloviate. Millions of readers and listeners had to reckon with the death of

Tamir Rice, amidst New Year's college football bowl coverage, and see the face of a child the mainstream media and Cleveland politicians wanted to relegate to the holiday shadows.

Tariq Toure saw that the most powerful sports/politics moment of 2015 was the 69% black Missouri Tigers football team threatening to strike against racism on campus and bringing down a university president. That didn't happen by accident. It happened because they were engaged by the

movement and then their actions brought the crisis in Columbia, Missouri to the world. They risked their scholarships and their futures. But the risk is precisely what made it matter.

That's the power of sports as a megaphone for issues that transcend the playing field. This hashtag comes from a place of struggle and desire for change. Are activists using LeBron and using sports to project their issue to a higher cultural plateau? Absolutely! Do people in power use sports all

the time to advance nationalism, US militarism, sexism, and in the case of a certain football team, rank racism? You betchya, they do.

The lovers of LeBron will always defend him. The haters of Black Lives Matter will always find an excuse. But the people who want to see change should see athletes as potential and powerful allies. If we don't engage them with the world outside the athletic bubble, then inside the bubble they shall remain.

Water from A4

- Requiring public water systems to provide a public statement of lead service line ownership where a community has lead service lines.

- Modifying monitoring requirements to provide for voluntary, consumer-requested tap samples for lead.

- Utilizing results of tap samples for lead to inform consumer action to reduce the risks in their homes. Informing the appropriate health agency when results are above a designated household action level.

- Assessing the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment or other reasons for elevated lead results.

"No one in America should be without access to safe drinking water. But when that safety is threatened, the challenge can often be identifying the impacted areas and immediately informing residents," said Senator Durbin. "The CLEAR Act should help make that process easier."

"Healthy water is one of the most basic human needs, and guaranteeing safe public drinking water is one of the most basic responsibilities of our government," Senator Cardin added. "The American people need to be able to trust that their drinking water is being managed and monitored to the best of our abilities and in the most transparent manner possible. The CLEAR Act will move us decisively toward these goals."