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Maryland Millionaires May Feel Tax Sting

State Has High Concentration of Wealthy Americans

By JEFFREY BENZING
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - In Maryland, a state with the nation's second-highest concentration of millionaires, there are a lot of eyes on President Obama's push for a "Buffet Rule" tax on the wealthiest Americans.

Details are still sketchy on the president's plan, but Maryland multimillionaire Ted Leonsis -- an Obama supporter -- is among those already bristling.

"Economic Success has somehow become the new boogie (sic) man," Leonsis, who declined to be interviewed, wrote in a Sept. 25 blog post, noting that he has already given the maximum contribution to Obama's re-election campaign.

"(S)ome in the Democratic

See WEALTH, Page A5

Politics Clouds Vaccine Facts

A Bill to Mandate HPV Vaccinations for School Enrolment Was Withdrawn

By EMILY HOOPER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Gov. Rick Perry has taken a lot of heat for requiring Texas schoolgirls to be vaccinated against human papilloma virus, which causes cervical cancer, but the facts behind the inoculation have been lost in that controversy.

In Maryland, the issue is particularly acute, given that Baltimore City has 25 percent more cervical cancer deaths than the national average, according to a report by Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

And other areas in Maryland

See VACCINE, Page A3



PHOTO BY JIM PITTMAN

"I need to restore everything. All our furniture, files and everything we had in the office, what a mess. I am hoping we can get some assistance." (The Prince George's Post Office Manager)

President Obama Issues Major Disaster Declaration for Maryland

Prince George's County Named as One of the Counties Designated for Assistance

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - This afternoon, October 5, 2011, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Maryland, triggering the release of Federal funds to help communities recover from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee during the period of September 6 - 9, 2011.

"I want to thank President Obama for signing this declaration and assisting Prince George's County residents recovering from the devastating impact of Tropical Storm Lee and its subsequent flooding."

said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The Prince George's County government is greatly appreciative of the assistance from FEMA and looks forward to working with them as we rebound from this natural disaster."

Details of the disaster declaration and assistance programs are as follows:

Declaration Number: FEMA-4038-DR Incident: Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee
Incident Period: September 6 - 9, 2011
Public Assistance (PA):

Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities.

PA-Designated Counties: Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles, and Prince George's Counties.

Hazard Mitigation (HM): Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

HM-Designated Counties: All counties and the Independent City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

OTHER:

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is now incorporated within the Department of Homeland Security, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law 93-288, as amended, administers the Public Assistance (PA) program. Public Assistance is ori-

See DISASTER, Page A7

University of Maryland College Park, Baltimore Merger Forum Held

Campus Community Invited to Weigh In

By GINA CAIRNEY
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - The idea of merging two University of Maryland institutions -- College Park and Baltimore -- received a largely positive response Wednesday at a campus forum hosted by UMCP President Wallace D. Loh and Provost Ann Wylie.

"Collectively, we can cre-

ate a model to move the state in a way economic impact is larger than anyone realizes," said Dr. Robert S. Gold, dean of the School of Public Health, at the event.

The Maryland General Assembly in April ordered the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to

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PHOTO BY BY CARMICHAELLIBRARY, FLICKR

The Maryland General Assembly ordered the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to study the pros and cons of merging the two universities.

Lottery Narrows Casino Proposals

Agency Eliminated Two Companies Vying to Build Slots in Baltimore and Rocky Gap Resort

By JESSICA TALSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - The State Lottery Agency eliminated two out of the five proposals from companies vying to build slots casinos in Baltimore and the Rocky Gap Resort.

The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission will pick from the remaining proposals.

Of the two proposals for a Baltimore casino, only CBAC Gaming LLC was recommended. The agency received three proposals for the Rocky Gap Resort location, and from those three Landow Partners LLC and Evitts Resort LLC were recommended to the commission.

A bid from Allegany Entertainment Group for Rocky Gap was denied because of problems with the application. The bid from Baltimore City Casino LLC did not include a required licensing fee.

The choice of a casino builder can heavily influence how successful a casino becomes. Builders have jurisdiction over design aesthetics, community relations and whether more amenities are built, like golf courses and spas.

"The model in Maryland is Hollywood Casino in Perryville. They did a great job of establishing relationships with people in Cecil County," said Dr. James Karmel, a gaming analyst for the consulting company Gaming Atlantic, and a business professor at Harford

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INSIDE

Maryland Eligible for Disaster Funds

President Obama Signs Maryland Disaster Declaration Paving the Way for Federal Disaster Recovery Funding in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles and Prince George's Counties. Senators Mikulski and Cardin Lead Maryland Delegation in Praising President for Signing Disaster Declaration for State.
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How We Can Create Jobs

The Great Recession has taken a serious toll on our economy. With employment stalled in the nine percent range, consumer demand down and businesses hesitant to hire, Americans are truly concerned about how we will resuscitate our ailing economy. There is only one way to do that and it's by creating more jobs.
Opinion, Page A4

Businesses Add Jobs

New and expanding businesses in Maryland created 76 jobs and made \$25 million in capital investments, according to the September 2011 New and Expanding Businesses in Maryland report released by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED).
Business, Page A5

Movie Review

The chances of a film like "50/50" turning out to be anything better than awful were slim. It is a comedy about a young man stricken with cancer, first of all, and it costars Seth Rogen, not an actor known for his gentle touch, as the guy's best friend. You could play it as a farce and go for the dark humor -- but no, "50/50" keeps it realistic.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm interested in getting a new tattoo, but recently found out that red tattoo ink contains mercury. Is this true of other tattoo inks as well? Are there any eco-friendly alternatives
-- John P., Racine, WA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Senior Center hosts Hat & Tea Social and Flea Market

Enjoy a fall hat parade and a tasty assortment of teas, pastries and sandwiches at the Camp Springs Senior Center's Hat & Tea Social on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prizes awarded for the most colorful, most unique, most elegant, most impressive and most amusing hats. Bring your favorite teacup for display. Space limited to the first 35 to register.

Also, the Center is hosting a Flea Market on Friday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Table rental, \$10. Call 301-449-0409. The Center is at 6420 Allentown Road.

Neighbors

Photos of former Morningside Council members have been removed from the meeting hall at the Morningside Town Hall. Many have suffered water damage and just plain aging and will have to be replaced before the photos are rehung. If you can donate a good photo of a former Councilman or -woman, call the office, 301-736-2300.

Former Morningsider Rose Hoffman went to SunFest in Ocean City but didn't get much sun—it rained for four days. She attended the Kenny Rogers concert, with an umbrella.

Jean Glaubitz, wife of the late Morningside Mayor, attended the viewing of her dear friend Hazel Loughmiller on August 23 at Kalas Funeral Home. As she stood beside the casket, the earthquake struck. And then she remembered that Hazel once said, when she died something extraordinary would happen.

Condolences to André and Cynthia Jordan, of McKeldin Drive in Skyline, who have both

lost mothers in the past two months. Cynthia's mom, Mary C. Savoy, died Aug. 31. André's mother, Catherine L. Jordan, passed away Sept. 5.

Reunions Coming up

Suitland Class of 1961: Oct. 22. E-mail Suitland61@hotmail.com.

Suitland Class of 1991: Oct. 21-22. E-mail Myneko Broadhurst, broadhurstm@hotmail.com, or Toni Buckman Dickerson, imagesofyou@msn.com, or go to www.suitland1991.com.

Changing landscape

A year ago, in August 2010, violent thunderstorms tore a 50-foot hole in the roof of the From the Heart Ministry Church in Andrews Manor Shopping Center, flooding the church and forcing the congregation to hold services, first at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro and then in a huge white tent on the parking lot in front of their damaged church. Now construction is underway to make extensive repairs on the building. The white tent may soon be gone.

A sidewalk is being installed on one side of Auth Road from Allentown Road to the 7-Eleven.

A building permit application has been submitted to add 26,000 square feet, including a game room and dance studio, to the Allentown Fitness & Splash Park in Fort Washington. The complex, including the swimming pool, is closed and not expected to reopen until the summer of 2013.

The shop at the corner of Suitland and Randolph roads is now Healing Hearts Ministry. That building started out as a convenience store which became a 7 Eleven, then an Almost a Bank which became

Eagle Check Cashing. The last occupant was Judah Christian Center Church, which has relocated.

The Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant, "The place where you dine Halal," is under new ownership and management. It is located at 3930 Bexley Place in Suitland. Call 301-899-9139.

May they rest in peace

Blanche T. Quade, 76, of Mechanicsville and formerly of Larches Court in Morningside, died May 29. She had been a cook for the Prince George's County School Board, and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at VFW Posts 9619 and 8810. She loved dancing, playing bingo and the slots. Her husband James predeceased her. Survivors include her children, Donna DeMent, Patricia Chilton and James Jr.; siblings Anna Marie Bowles and Joseph Hill; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Glenn Thomas "Tom" Trotter, 61, a 1968 graduate of Oxon Hill High School, died Aug. 23 at Frederick Memorial Hospital. He served in the Marines, attended Virginia Tech, and had been an electrician for the engineering and design firm Aecom. Survivors include his sister, Shirley Watson.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Dr. Alvin Thornton and Kam'Ron Blade, Oct. 7; Greta Chambers, Oct. 9; Marvin Burkhart, Oct. 10; Mary Deans, Oct. 11; and Tj Foster, Oct. 12.

Happy 22nd anniversary to my daughter Elaine and Luke Seidman on Oct. 7.

And happy 50th birthday to RFK Stadium. Remember when?

color remember leaders like Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and others who fought so hard against enormous odds to achieve advancements in equality and justice that few had thought were possible. Let his legacy and memory inspire us to redouble our efforts to make America a better place for all its citizens.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is one of the nation's leading research and public policy institutions and the only one whose work focuses primarily on issues of particular concern to African Americans and other people of color. To learn more, please visit www.jointcenter.org.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and PGFD is Going Pink!!!

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department will join with others across the Country in raising the awareness of breast cancer. October is breast cancer awareness month and we will help to highlight that one in eight women will develop breast cancer and every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer, not only effects women, but a percentage of men as well. Approximately 1,600 men will become breast cancer victims with about 400 diagnoses resulting in death. Though

much research and strides have been made to cure the disease, much more research is needed to aid in the education and prevention to help save lives from this type of cancer.

This year the Fire/EMS Department will participate in the nationwide campaign for breast cancer awareness with members having the option of donning pink shirts Sunday, October 16, 2011 through Saturday, October 22, 2011. Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor stated, "The color 'pink' has become symbolic of breast cancer awareness. I am authorizing the change in work uniforms during this time to help with awareness efforts." A member of our Department has designed T-shirts that reflect our advocacy for breast cancer awareness. The shirts will display a symbol of care and compassion for those affected while demonstrating a level of professionalism to be seen by a member of the community. Chief Bashoor stated, "If not you, we all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer. This is an opportunity for us to show our support and I know that the men and women of this Department will do their part to support this worthy cause." There are two T-shirts approved; one designed to be worn by all members of the Department; career, civilian and volunteer members or one designed for career personnel with a specially designed Local 1619 logo. Additional information about the Department's efforts for Breast Cancer awareness and the need to raise funds for additional research will follow.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Congresswoman Edwards Congratulates Nancy Navarro on Appointment to President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-04) released the following statement today congratulating Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro on President Obama's intent to appoint her to the Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

"I congratulate Nancy Navarro on her appointment to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Nancy has a proven track record when it comes to education, from Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Education's Communications and Public Engagement Committee, to her non-profit work promoting educational development of Latinos and other immigrant communities. She will be a strong advocate for the Latino community and



all our young people who deserve a quality education to compete in a 21st Century economy."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Men's Choir of Christ United Methodist Church will celebrate their Anniversary on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 3:30 PM. The program will feature The Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Thankful Hearts, featuring Bro. Dale Hoskins, The Bad Boys of Praise (The Men's Choir of Covenant Point @ Lakeside Cooperative Parish), Susan Proctor and Sylvia Ector. There will be a Free Will Offering. Brother Robert Adams, President and Rev. Daryl L. Williams, Pastor. Christ United Methodist Church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road in Aquasco, Maryland.

HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TOUR

The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with the Prince George's County Delta Alumnae Foundation, invite 10th, 11th and 12th grade students to participate in a chaperoned tour of 14 historically Black Colleges and Universities during the week of November 5-11, 2011. This special 25th Anniversary Tour affords an amazing opportunity for college-bound students to explore the academic, cultural and social advantages offered at some of our Nation's prestigious HBCU institutions such as North Carolina Central, Spelman, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta, NC A&T, Elizabeth

TRUNK-N-TREAT

Friday, October 28, 2011 there will be Trunk-N-Treat at 6:30 PM for ages 3-12. The cost is \$3.00 per child by October 27 and \$5.00 per child on October 28th. New show and new costume contest. Parents are needed to volunteer candy and car trunks for the kids treating enjoyment.

Trunk-N-Treat will be at

Baden Community Center located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. The Center is located just 7 minutes south of Brandywine Elementary School. If you need more information call 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-203-6030.

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City, to name a few. Also, for the first time ever, we will be visiting Fisk University, Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College. Cost is \$500 which includes bus transportation on a luxury motor coach, hotel accommodations, 12 meals, and campus activities. To download application, visit the website www.pgacd.org or email HBCU@pgacd.org or call 301-736-3250.

GREAT JACK O' LANTERN CAMPFIRE

Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 7:00 PM you can enjoy a Jack O' Lantern Campfire at Darnell's Chance House Museum. The address is 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

There will be a display of dozens of hand carved, illuminated Jack O' Lanterns. Roast marshmallows and bask in the warmth of a fall campfire and enjoy hot cider and popcorn. Kids can win a prize on a hunt for glowing Jack O' Lanterns. Rain date is Sunday, October 23 at 6:00 PM. No reservations are required. The fee is \$3.00 per person (cash only).

Reps. Edwards, Hanna Introduce Bipartisan 'Clean Construction' Bill

Legislation Improves Air Quality, Spurs Economic Growth

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Representatives Richard Hanna (R-NY) and Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) introduced a bipartisan bill that will improve air quality around infrastructure projects by making it easier and more cost-effective to upgrade construction equipment to meet diesel soot emissions standards. The legislation will help states reduce pollution within their borders and beyond, and will create jobs in environmental technology.

Under the "Clean Construction Act of 2011" contractors working on federal transportation infrastructure projects in regions of the country that are not in compliance with federal air quality standards will be allowed to use a portion of the budget to reduce pollution from their older diesel-powered equipment. The bill aims to achieve a priority set in the last surface transportation authorization by expanding access to federal dollars under existing transportation programs for diesel engine upgrades. Diesel fuel powers most heavy machinery and vehicles used on construction sites.

"This process will help the construction industry increase its commitment to ensuring its equipment has a limited impact on the environment," said Hanna, who is the Vice

Chairman of the Highway and Transit Subcommittee of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. "This bill will spur tremendous strides in making cleaner machinery by allowing for improvements to be made to existing and — often older — equipment that still has a useful life. Through a competitive, market-based approach we will utilize the latest and most effective technologies to improve our existing heavy-duty equipment."

"The Clean Construction Act is a tremendous opportunity to help the construction industry improve air quality and create jobs," said Edwards. "Our legislation brings together the federal government, American businesses, and environmental groups to pair green technology with our nation's infrastructure projects. The bill will make the air cleaner for all Americans, boost employment related to pollution control, and support a construction industry hit hardest by the recession."

The Associated General Contractors of America and the Clean Air Task Force are both supportive of the bill.

"This approach will protect the environment without punishing contractors for purchasing equipment that met all clean air standards in place at the time," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the chief executive officer of the

Associated General Contractors of America. "This legislation will improve air quality without harming contractors or putting people out of work."

"The Clean Air Task Force thanks Reps. Hanna and Edwards for their strong leadership, commitment and vision in ensuring that the air we breathe and the projects we build are simultaneously strong and healthy for the communities in which they are built," said Conrad Schneider, advocacy director of the Clean Air Task Force. "This legislation provides a targeted approach to reducing emissions from construction machines that will be used in the areas of the country that are struggling to meet federal air quality standards. We are thrilled to be standing side-by-side with the contractors in support of the Clean Construction Act of 2011. Utilizing cleaner diesel engines in transportation projects is a winning proposition."

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Flexible Spending Accounts Slash Your Taxes

Admit it: You probably spend more time comparison shopping online than reviewing your annual benefits enrollment materials. That's a big mistake because the money you could save by choosing the right employee benefits package probably far exceeds any savings you could get on a big-screen TV.



For example, many people don't sign up for an extremely valuable benefit — flexible spending accounts (FSAs). If your employer offers them, FSAs let you pay for eligible out-of-pocket health care and/or dependent care expenses on a pre-tax basis — that is, before federal, state and Social Security taxes are deducted from your paycheck. Using an FSA to cover expenses you would have paid for anyway reduces your taxable income by that amount, which in turn lowers your taxes.

Here's how it works: Say you earn \$40,000 a year and are in a 25 percent tax bracket. If you contribute \$1,000 to the health care FSA and \$3,000 for dependent care, your taxable income would be \$36,000 — about a \$1,000 reduction in federal taxes alone, depending on your marital status, withholding deductions and other factors. (Use the calculator at www.dinkytown.net/java/Payroll125.html to evaluate your situation.)

Health Care FSAs let you pay for IRS-allowed medical expenses not covered by medical, dental or vision insurance, including deductibles, copayments, orthodontia, glasses and contact lenses, prescriptions, chiropractic, smoking cessation programs and many more. Check IRS Publication 502 at www.irs.gov for a list of allowable expenses.

Dependent Care FSAs let you use pre-tax dollars to pay for expenses related to care for your children, disabled spouse, parent, or other dependent incapable of self-care, including:

- Licensed day care or adult care facility fees.
- Services provided in or outside your home (including babysitter, nursery school or summer day camp) so that you and your spouse can work, look for work, or attend school full-time.
- Before- and after-school programs for dependents under age 13.
- Babysitting by relatives over age 19 who aren't your dependent.

For some lower-income families, using the federal income tax dependent care tax credit is more advantageous than an FSA so crunch the numbers or ask a tax expert which alternative is better for you. Just be aware that you cannot claim the same expenses under both tax breaks.

Your FSA contributions are deducted from paychecks throughout the year. As you incur eligible expenses, you submit receipts to the plan administrator for reimbursement. Also, many employers now offer prepaid health care cards, which let you draw on your account at the point of service to pay for qualified medical expenses, thereby eliminating the need to pay cash up front and submit reimbursement forms.

Keep in mind these FSA restrictions:
Maximum contribution amounts vary by employer, but commonly are \$2,000 to \$5,000 a year for health care and \$5,000 for dependent care FSAs.

Health care and dependent care account contributions are not interchangeable.

Estimate planned expenses carefully because you must forfeit unused account balances. Some employers offer a grace period of up to 2 ½ months after the end of the plan year to incur expenses; but that's not mandatory, so review your enrollment materials.

You must re-enroll in FSAs each year — amounts don't carry over from year to year.

To learn more about how FSAs work, visit Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management program run by Visa Inc. (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits).

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

Mikulski. Cardin Lead Md. Delegation in Praising President for Signing Disaster Declaration for State

Obama Signs Maryland Disaster Declaration Paving the Way for Federal Disaster Recovery Funding in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles and Prince George's Counties

BY PRESS OFFICERS
Maryland Delegation

President Obama Signs Maryland Disaster Declaration Paving the Way for Federal Disaster Recovery Funding in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles and Prince George's Counties

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) were joined by members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation today in applauding President Barack Obama for issuing a Declaration of Disaster for Maryland in the wake of Tropical Storm Lee. Senators Mikulski and Cardin were joined by U.S. Representatives Steny H.

Hoyer, Roscoe E. Barlett, Elijah E. Cummings, Chris Van Hollen, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, John P. Sarbanes, Donna F. Edwards and Andy Harris.

The Disaster Declaration means that Maryland is now eligible for federal disaster recovery dollars through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), ensuring the already strained state budget is not stretched any thinner as a result of another natural disaster. In declaring that a major disaster exists in the State of Maryland, President Obama ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Tropical Storm Lee during the period of

September 6 to September 9, 2011.

"As members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, we have been united throughout this process in urging the President to issue a Disaster Declaration for Maryland in the wake of Tropical Storm Lee," said members of the Delegation. "We are pleased that the President recognized the full extent of the damage that was caused and that he has taken action to help communities recover from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Lee."

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emer-



FILE PHOTO
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski

gency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Tropical Storm Lee in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles and Prince George's Counties. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Vaccine from A1

post higher cervical cancer rates than the nation, which is about 8 out of every 100,000 people. For instance, in Baltimore City, the rate of cervical cancer is 9.8 per 100,000 people. In Cecil County, the incidence rate is 10.7.

The two available vaccines -- Gardasil and Cervarix -- protect against two strains of HPV that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer, the second-leading cause of death for women in the United States.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that girls be vaccinated at 11 or 12 years old, since the vaccine is most effective before they become sexually active.

The vaccines cannot treat existing HPV infections or related health problems. CDC recommends that a second dose be given one to two months after the first and a third dose six months after the first dose.

"We really shouldn't see any cervical cancers," said Dr. Niharika Khanna, associate professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland.

Despite its benefits, doctors have been disappointed by the vaccine's low uptake rate, largely due to a lack of access and information. In August, the CDC issued a report that showed only 32 percent of teenage girls received all three shots.

The dismal numbers are a "call to action" to increase awareness about the vaccine and its benefits, said Greg Reed, program manager of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Immunizations.

"This is a very, very good vaccine. But there is still misinformation about the vaccine out there," he said.

The vaccine is caught up in the same debate that tripped up Perry following the GOP presidential debate earlier this month. Perry has been chastised for signing a 2007 executive order requiring female students be vaccinated before entering sixth grade. The requirement was overturned. His Republican presidential opponents have gone on national television to criticize it, with one calling it a "government injection" of a "potentially dangerous drug."

But the CDC and many physicians have deemed the vaccine safe and effective. Common adverse effects are mild and include pain at the site of injection, fever, dizziness, and nausea and fainting, which is especially common among adolescents.

However, like all vaccines, there are still risks.

In June 2011, the U.S. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System released a report on Gardasil side-effects. Eight percent of reported side effects included blood clots and Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare

neurological disorder that causes muscle weakness. However, the CDC found no evidence that Gardasil had increased the rate of GBS.

The controversy has been heightened by the fact that HPV is sexually transmitted, yet the inoculation is recommended before a teen becomes sexually active. Some parents and other critics have charged that the vaccine promotes sexually risky behavior.

"If you've had sex you've been exposed to HPV," said Connie Trimble, director of the Cervical Cancer Dysplasia Center and associate professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Maryland has taken a wait-and-see approach to a shot mandate. In 2007, it was one of 24 states and D.C. to introduce legislation to mandate HPV vaccinations for school, but the bill was withdrawn.

In its place, the governor established a task force to make recommendations for a state plan for the vaccine.

In 2009, the HPV subcommittee decided that the vaccine too new to mandate. The public did not know enough about the vaccine and access was too limited.

Cathy Allen, former subcommittee member and member of St. Mary's County Board of Education, worried that a mandate would keep kids out of school, as it did with the chicken pox vaccine.

Beginning in the 2006-2007

school year, the General Assembly required that students be vaccinated for chicken pox or prove they had already been exposed. A year later, some students whose parents had failed to comply were still missing, including more than 2,600 students barred from Prince George's County schools the following August, according to an article in The Washington Post.

Calls to the Prince George's County school system were not returned.

"You would be talking about a significant number of children who would have to immediately go out and find a vaccine," said Reed. "It does take a lot of work and does put tremendous enforcement burden on your schools -- both public and private."

Maryland already requires that students be vaccinated against polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B and Tdap, which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

Another issue is access. At \$390 for a series of three shots, the vaccine is more expensive than most, however, most insurance companies cover the vaccination. Maryland's Vaccines for Children program provides the vaccine for free to uninsured or underinsured children under 18.

Currently, Maryland's health department has no plans to recommend mandating the vaccine at this time, said Reed.

Forum from A1

study the pros and cons of merging the two universities, saying the two institutions are complementary and that joining them would push the merged institution into the top ranks of the best schools in the world.

The regents must submit a final plan about the merger by Dec. 15.

Wylie, who is a co-chairman of two task groups on the merger study, said the individual academic programs will continue as they are, but one idea about the merger is that it could create enhanced opportunities for undergraduate seniors to collaborate with the graduate programs in Baltimore.

"It was discussed whether a merger would change the perception of Maryland as a single institution. If it did, and we were viewed as a more powerful institution, (the merger) would enhance the value of students' degrees," Wylie said.

Carol Rogers, professor at

the Philip Merrill College of Journalism questioned whether alternatives to a merger were being considered.

Wylie couldn't respond with specifics because the study is on-going. She did, however, say the task groups were "looking for something other than a full-blown merger" to allow the institutions to maintain some autonomy or identity while appearing to be a single institution.

Few students attended the forum, but David Lieb, a sophomore biology major and Student Government Association member from Middletown, said he was there because he has a "vested interest in the process" as a pre-med student.

Lieb asked how soon the changes from the merger would affect students, but Loh pointedly said, "If the merger were to take place, it would take many years to implement. It's not a one or two year operation." Although he would not be affected, Lieb said a merger

between the two colleges "would be worthwhile. There's so much to be gained by the merger."

Josh Birch, a senior history and communications major, brought up the issue of student population, its effects on the school's ability to meet student needs and effects on tuition.

Wylie responded that there were no plans to increase enrollment on campus, and any increase in numbers would be a result of combining the population of the two campuses. As for tuition, she said the funds will more than likely come primarily from state resources.

Loh remains neutral on the issue of whether the merger will be good or bad for the university. "My mind is not made up," he said. The ultimate decision of whether the merger happens falls on the regents, and a lot of information is required to make that decision.

"We can sit around and debate until hell freezes over about the pros and cons," Loh

said.

Loh used merger of the Chicago and Urbana campuses of the University of Illinois in 1982 as an example, saying the difference between that and Maryland's merger is politics. According to Loh, it was the university in Illinois that initiated the merger, whereas in Maryland, the General Assembly mandated the study.

"There are larger statewide issues," Loh said, including issues like politics and culture adding to the complexity of the merger.

"The issue isn't to merge, or not to merge. That's not the question," Loh said at the end of the forum. The question is figuring out how to "take two very good universities and catapulting them to global excellence."

The regents will host two other public forums this month: Oct. 21 at the Baltimore campus from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 28 at College Park from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



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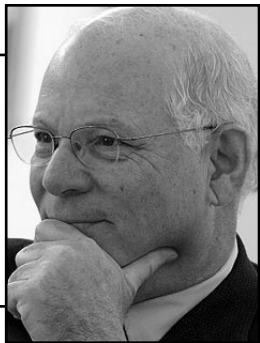
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COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



How We Can Create Jobs and Help Our Nation's Struggling Construction Industry

The Great Recession has taken a serious toll on our economy. With employment stalled in the nine percent range, consumer demand down and businesses hesitant to hire, Americans are truly concerned about how we will resuscitate our ailing economy. There is only one way to do that and it's by creating more jobs.

Jobs must be our primary focus right now and I have introduced legislation that will help create up to 40,000 new jobs nationwide in the construction and manufacturing industries -- industries that have been particularly hard hit by this recession.

My bill -- the Energy-Efficient Cool Roof Jobs Act, S. 1575 -- has bipartisan support and will provide economic incentives to accelerate the adoption of energy-efficient roofs. In fact, because it takes only 30 days or so to order and install an energy-efficient roof, my measure would provide an immediate shot in the arm to the construction industry.

It works this way: the current tax code acts as an obstacle to retrofitting old roofs with energy-efficient ones because generally commercial roofs are depreciated over 39 years. My legislation would shorten the depreciation schedule to 20 years for roofs that meet certain energy-efficiency standards and that are retrofitted over the next two years. By shortening the depreciation schedule, we would reduce the amount of tax that businesses would otherwise have to pay. This change will

create more jobs by encouraging the construction of new roofs and by putting more cash in the hands of businesses.

This bill is what I call "a win-win" -- it will create new jobs, improve the energy efficiency of commercial properties and it will help the construction industry, which has suffered a loss of one out of three jobs in this recession. It's also good tax policy because the average lifespan of a typical commercial roof is only 17 years and this legislation will correct an inequity in the tax code by aligning the depreciation period closer to the actual life-span of the commercial roof.

A close look at the impact of this recession on the construction industry is alarming. In July, a report by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation found that 14.1 percent of the 2010 unemployment insurance claims were from workers associated with the construction industry, making it the largest source of unemployment insurance claims in the state. Nationwide, the construction industry lost 2.2 million jobs because of the economic downturn.

I believe my proposal is a common sense approach to our current economic downturn and one that achieves several goals -- it gets Americans back to work, it replaces aging commercial roofs with ones that are more energy efficient, and it helps to reduce future energy costs. I definitely think it's a winner.

To Be Equal
Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



President Obama Energizes Black America to "Press On" for Jobs and Equality

"Let's put our people back to work doing the work America needs done." President Barack Obama

After months of reaching out to the other side to find common ground on the issues of job creation and deficit reduction, President Obama's speech at the Congressional Black Caucus dinner on September 25th signaled a shift towards a more robust defense of the progressive values he shares with the CBC, the National Urban League and millions of middle class and working class Americans.

The President used the speech to contrast his vision of equal opportunity and shared sacrifice with those in Congress who are only looking out for big business and the wealthy. He also reminded us that despite fierce opposition, his Administration, with the help of the CBC, has accomplished much that has benefitted African Americans. This includes a payroll tax cut; an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit; enactment of the strongest consumer financial protections in history; making college loans more affordable; investments in early childhood education, community colleges and HBCUs; and passage of a health care law that has already resulted in one million more young people having health insurance.

This real progress has largely been drowned out by the loud and raucous partisan opposition that has dominated much of the President's first term in office. But President Obama also acknowledged that with unemployment approaching 17 percent among African Americans and almost half of African American children living in poverty, much more needs to be done.

The blueprint for the work that lies ahead is

contained in his American Jobs Act, which includes a number of measures I have personally pushed for in direct meetings with the President. These include summer jobs for teens, infrastructure investments and direct job creation. The President also shares our belief that funding for these and other provisions in his bill requires that the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations pay their fair share. He said, "Warren Buffet's secretary shouldn't pay a higher tax rate than Warren Buffet. A teacher or a nurse or a construction worker making \$50,000 a year shouldn't pay higher tax rates than somebody making \$50 million a year. That's just common sense." We agree.

And while I support the President's demand that Congress pass this jobs bill now, I have also urged improvements to ensure that its benefits do not bypass urban communities.

For example, infrastructure spending needs to be expanded beyond schools and transportation to include work on community centers and libraries to bring more jobs to urban neighborhoods. Job training is also needed to prepare more urban residents for work refurbishing foreclosed properties. And funding for these and other projects should be provided directly to municipalities rather than through the states to ensure that communities hardest hit by unemployment are not left behind.

The President's speech paid homage to the leadership and sacrifices of civil rights legends like Rev. Joseph Lowery and Congressman John Lewis. He urged all of us to follow their example and "press on" for the sake of jobs, equality and our children. I urge him to keep up the pressure and carry that message to every corner of this country.



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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



National and State Safety Nets Fail to Catch Millions of Children

The Children's Defense Fund has launched a new series of stories on our web site featuring children and their parents who have fallen on very hard times. They are the real faces and fears behind our disgraceful national child poverty statistics--16.4 million poor children living in the richest nation on earth. In 2010, over a million more children fell into poverty, over half a million more into extreme poverty. Forty-three states saw increases in poverty for children under six, the most critical years for brain development. Extreme poverty, defined as an annual income of less than half the poverty level, means less than \$30 a day for a family of four. Forty-one states saw an increase in extreme child poverty in 2010.

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Julia Cass traveled to Michigan for the Children's Defense Fund to meet families with children our national and safety nets had failed to catch. One of the families she met was the McKees--and as she noted, "Shoes tell the story of the McKee family's descent into poverty.

The shoes belonging to Skyler, 10, and Zachery, 12, are falling apart. Their sister, Jordan, 14, wears the varsity coach's shoes when she plays on her school's volleyball team. Less visible is hunger. The children and their parents, Tonya and Ed McKee, of Dowagiac, Michigan, sometimes went without food this summer when Ed's unemployment insurance ran out and the family was not yet receiving food stamps. Skyler told Cass he gave the birthday money he got at church to his mom for groceries, "and I told her she didn't have to pay me back." Skyler confided that sometimes his stomach has growled. "It's hard, not easy like it was before where we had money and could do stuff. Now we don't go anywhere... Sometimes we don't have food and we just don't eat."

Cass reported, "Cass County in southwestern Michigan, where Dowagiac is located, is a pretty area of lakes and farmland. Ed McKee comes from a farming family, and was working as a breeding manager at a large hog farm when he was laid off in July

2009. Ed said 'to save money,' the company replaced him and several other employees with new workers earning a lower wage. 'There are other farms around here but they just aren't hiring,' he said. 'If they are, you better be the first to know. There's a lot of people waiting in line to get that job.' Factory work? 'They closed most of them around here. There's a tool and dye plant that makes parts for Ford and Chevy that closed and just opened back up, but you have to be on their call list to get hired. It's frustrating to walk into a place and they say they're not hiring or they say they are hiring and you put in an application and never hear from them.'"

Meanwhile, Tonya baked cakes in their home to supplement their income; their son Zachery is a special needs child who didn't speak until a few years ago, and Tonya hadn't worked at a job since he was born. This summer, Cass notes, everything got even worse: "Ed's unemployment insurance ended in May, and there was a month and a half gap before the McKees began receiving food stamps. Their only income was the monthly Social Security disability check for Zachery. 'Ed and I went hungry some nights so we could feed the kids,' Tonya said. 'A lady here in town has brought us food several times and went shop-

ping for us several times. And our parents helped when they could. Otherwise, we didn't know where the next meal would come from. One of my friends brought over some cereal and milk one day and the boys said, "Wow! We get cereal!"

The McKee children are three of the new faces of child poverty in America. But as families like the McKees know, poverty hits children of all colors, all ages, and in all states. Children of color are disproportionately poor. Over one in four Black children were poor in 41 states and the nation's capital, and over one in four Hispanic children were poor in 43 states. In many states, the news was even worse for the youngest children: 40 percent or more of Black newborns to kindergartners were poor in 30 states and the nation's capital, including 15 states where half were poor, and 40 percent or more of Hispanic newborns to kindergartners were poor in 14 states.

Is this the best America can do? Is this the reflection of our values as a nation? These child poverty statistics are morally and economically indefensible. The toxic cocktail of poverty, family joblessness and stress,

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Business Exchange

by William Reed



AT&T T-Mobile Merger

The world, as we now know it, is changing at a tremendous pace. Potential changes in the wireless industry constitute the major business issue of the day. AT&T's \$39 billion bid to acquire T-Mobile USA affects millions of Americans and translates into billions of dollars for the industry and the economy. We are all a part of it as wireless technology moves at breakneck speed across the world. The technology is a good bet for the future. Ninety-one percent of Americans use a mobile phone. The wireless industry can be even more vital in American society and economy. The AT&T/T-Mobile USA megamerger is important to the industry and to communities of color.

The U.S. wireless telecommunications services industry includes 1,600 companies with combined annual revenues totaling more than \$190 billion. The major companies include: AT&T, Verizon, Sprint Nextel, and T-Mobile USA (an indirect subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom). More than 300 million Americans are mobile subscribers to the tune of an average of 6.1 billion minutes used per day, or about 21 minutes per person per day. The real "on-line" growth comes from wireless data services — mobile Web, text messages, and other non-voice services. Several influential African-American groups have taken stances on the AT&T/T-Mobile matter. Merger proponents' claim of "connecting every part of America to the digital age" is great news for communities of color, who disproportionately rely on wireless service to make phone calls and access the Internet. Coalitions of notable African-American groups support the deal, saying "it would help Blacks compete for business opportunities and better jobs."

AT&T reports that the merger "will create nearly 100,000 jobs and provide wireless Internet service to most of the U.S." which may spur economic development. "The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will mean more diplomas, better jobs and healthier African-American families," said Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition of Black Civic Participation. Campbell's coalition and groups like the National Urban League, NAACP and Al Sharpton's National Action Network support the deal. "AT&T has been among the highest ranked in the telecommunications industry for its commitment to diversity in terms of

procurement, philanthropy, promotion and hiring at the federal, state and local levels," says NAACP Senior Vice President, Hilary Shelton. "Wireless broadband is an integral tool in promoting civic engagement and as such is crucial to voter empowerment. We are hopeful that this acquisition will further advance increased access to affordable and sustainable wireless broadband services and ... stimulate job creation."

Moving ahead with the merger will solve a need for increased network capacity and speed, and it advances the public interest in many different ways. By 2015, there will be an average of two devices per person or 15 billion network devices utilized worldwide. 4G network build out could mean \$25-53 billion for the U.S. infrastructure investment by 2016; create 371,000-771,000 jobs and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth between \$73 billion-\$151 billion. In 2010, U.S. providers reported making capital investments totaling \$24.9 billion. For every \$1 invested in wireless broadband, it will create an additional \$7-10 for GDP. The average U.S. consumer spends \$60 on accessories for their wireless device. Businesses spent more than \$1.9 billion in 2010 on non-handsets (e.g. tablets, notebooks, e-readers).

By 2014, it will exceed \$5 billion. With smart mobile devices, stronger, faster and smarter networks are needed to keep pace with wireless data demand. The supply of wireless spectrum currently available in the United States for commercial use is running low. Wireless spectrum is the government-controlled airwaves that wireless companies license to transmit wireless signals and provide wireless services. Just like a real-estate developer needs land to build communities and provide services, wireless carriers need spectrum to build wireless networks and service customers. AT&T and T-Mobile concluded that joining forces was an effective solution to respective capacity issues. The combination will significantly enhance the efficiency of spectrum use and result in considerable improvements in service, quality and deployment of the next generation of mobile data speeds (4G LTE). Hopefully, the Justice Department will allow the merger process to continue.

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

Maryland's New, Expanding Businesses Invested \$25 Million in September

BALTIMORE, MD (October, 2011) — New and expanding businesses in Maryland created 76 jobs and made \$25 million in capital investments, according to the September 2011 New and Expanding Businesses in Maryland report released today by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). In total, 14 new and expanding projects were announced in seven counties representing health care; educational services, accommodation and food services, arts and professional services

"Our September New and Expanding report shows that Maryland businesses are continuing to add jobs and invest in new facilities and expansions," said DBED Secretary Christian S. Johansson. "We encourage businesses that are looking to

start up or expand in Maryland to take advantage of the many tools in our arsenal to help businesses grow and create jobs, including our Small Business Credit Recovery program and the federal State Small Business Credit Initiative, which help small businesses access capital through loan guarantees."

Of the 14 projects announced in September, Baltimore City had five, followed by Anne Arundel County with three, Baltimore County with two, and Frederick County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, each with one.

Topping the list of private sector employers announcing jobs were Anne Arundel-based electrical contractor Lighting Maintenance, which will occupy 17,885 square feet of leased office and warehouse space in Linthicum Heights. The compa-

ny has grown 40 percent in the past year and has added 40 employees as part of its expansion. Retailer DTLR announced that it will locate a 140,000 square foot headquarters and distribution center in Anne Arundel County. And, Monocacy Brewing in Frederick County has leased 3,000 square feet and is planning to open a craft beer production business in November, planning to produce up to 20,000 barrels annually and employ 25 workers.

This report, which is compiled by DBED's Office of Research with input from county economic development officials, is based on public announcements of planned employment creation and capital expenditures by businesses in Maryland. Some of the new facilities announced may not yet be in operation, as there can

be a lag time between announcement and occupancy.

About DBED: The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's mission is to attract new businesses, stimulate private investment and create jobs, encourage the expansion and retention of existing companies and provide businesses in Maryland with workforce training and financial assistance. The department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development, international trade and tourism. As a major economic generator, the department also supports the arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.

Casino from A1

Community College.

After years of debating slots, the Maryland legislature passed a bill that put the question to a referendum in 2008. Marylanders voted to allow five slots casinos throughout the state.

Hollywood Casino in Cecil County and the Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County are currently Maryland's only two operating slots parlors. In August alone,

the combined income of Hollywood Casino and Ocean Downs was \$13.1 million. State officials are pleased with that number, especially considering the effects of Hurricane Irene.

Ocean Downs was forced to close on the weekend that the hurricane hit because the Eastern Shore was evacuated. Hollywood Casino remained open but had fewer visitors than usual.

Maryland Live! At Arundel Mills Mall is currently under

construction and is scheduled to be partially open by June 2012, and be fully operational in the fall of next year. The casino will have about 4,750 slot machines.

If built and managed correctly, the Allegany County and Baltimore casinos could bring money to the state and create jobs.

So far in 2011, the two open casinos have put \$50.4 million into the Maryland Education Trust Fund. Every casino in Maryland will be required to

put almost 50 percent of its revenue into the trust fund.

"I think that it's pretty clear now that the doomsayers are wrong. Calamity has not struck Worcester County or Perryville because they opened casinos," Karmel said.

However, slots opponents remain. The Washington Post reported this week that Prince George's County Council Member Eric Olson, D-College Park, has introduced a bill that would ban slots in Prince George's County.

Wealth from A1

party are now casting about for enemies and business leaders and anyone who has achieved success in terms of rank or fiscal success is being cast as a bad guy in a black hat," said the owner of the Washington Capitals, Wizards, Mystics and the Verizon Center.

The Senate Democrats seem to have heard that, proposing on Wednesday to fund the president's jobs package with a 5 percent surtax on millionaires.

The idea of the "Buffett Rule" -- named after billionaire Warren Buffett's admission in The New York Times that he pays taxes at a lower rate than his office staff -- is simple: The wealthy should pay taxes at a rate at least as high as everyone else.

What's not simple is defining who should pay more -- if anyone -- and what the impact would be for states like Maryland, which has ranked second nationally in concentration of millionaire households for four consecutive years, according to Phoenix Marketing International. Hawaii has ranked first since 2008.

The state boasts eight Marylanders, all billionaires, on the Forbes Magazine ranking of the 400 richest Americans: Washington Nationals owner Ted Lerner, Danaher cofounder Ted Rales, Carlyle Group cofounder David Rubenstein, Host Hotels chairman Richard

Marriott, Baltimore Ravens owner Stephen Bisciotti, Marriott International Chairman Bill Marriott, Saul Centers Chairman Bernard Saul and Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder.

Any revenue from a Buffett Rule "would be an awful lot of money, and I think a fairly small impact on the lifestyle of the people affected," said Neil Bergsman, director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute.

Millionaires are split into two worlds, according to economist Roberton Williams of the non-partisan Tax Policy Center. There are those like Warren Buffet, chairman of the investment firm Berkshire Hathaway, who take income mostly from investments and can pay taxes at a rate of just 15 percent. Then there are those with wealth that comes mainly from wages and salary. This group usually pays taxes at a much higher income tax rate of 35 percent, Williams said.

Maryland millionaires' average income, according to the state Comptroller's Office tax records, was \$2.4 million in 2009.

Some say the wealthy already give the government a big enough cut.

"If Warren Buffett would like to write a check, he should do so," said John Kane, CEO of the Elkridge-based Kane Co. and former chairman of the Maryland Republican Party.

"Beyond that, I don't think we should be touching taxes."

Kane, who said about \$80 million in company revenue goes through his tax return, said he himself is not a millionaire. Kane argued that some business owners look wealthy when really they're reporting revenue that is reinvested in their businesses.

Nationwide, millionaires will pay taxes at an average rate of 29.1 percent this year, according to the Tax Policy Center. But some will owe much less, and the Buffett Rule, according to the White House, would ensure that those who don't pay at higher rates would be liable for at least as much as the middle class starting in 2013.

"Those who are doing the best ought to be paying the larger part," said Bergsman, who also supports a tax on millionaires in Maryland. The wealthy benefit -- sometimes more than the middle class -- from tax-funded utilities and infrastructure and should do more to maintain them, he said.

In 2009, about 1,400 millionaires who filed tax forms nationally paid no federal income tax.

Maryland -- which taxed millionaires in a higher bracket from 2008 to 2010 -- tracks millionaires based on yearly income. In 2009, the state received 4,134 millionaire tax returns, according to the Comptroller's Office, or about 160 returns with income over \$1 million for every 100,000 returns.

The Maryland General Assembly allowed the state's millionaire tax to expire last December, though Bergsman, along with others, including Prince George's Democratic Delegate Jolene Ivey, hopes it will be revived next session.

For 2010, Phoenix Marketing's study reported that Maryland had 144,686 millionaire households out of about 2.1 million households overall. Because these rankings take into account all investable assets, which can stretch out longer than a one-year period, the number of millionaires is higher. By these rankings, Virginia and Washington, D.C., are in the top 10 nationwide. Nearby Delaware is ranked 11th, with Pennsylvania ranked 24th. New national rankings are expected in October.

Just how many millionaires would be affected by a Buffett Rule is unclear, Williams said, citing murky data to differentiate between those who make money on investments and those who make money from wages.

It is also unclear how much money the Buffett Rule might raise, Williams said, and even the most lucrative scenario won't dramatically lessen the nation's \$14.8 trillion debt and \$1.3 trillion budget deficit.

"We are not going to be able to solve the problem simply by taxing the rich," he said. "We're not going to solve it simply by taxing the rest of us."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

"50/50"

"50/50"

A-

Rated R for pervasive harsh profanity, some vulgar sexual dialogue, brief strong sexuality. 1 hr., 39 min.

Speaking of perilous odds, the chances of a film like "50/50" turning out to be anything better than awful were slim. It is a comedy about a young man stricken with cancer, first of all, and it costars Seth Rogen, not an actor known for his gentle touch, as the guy's best friend. You could play it as a farce and go for the dark humor -- but no, "50/50" keeps it realistic. How do you get laughs without being insensitive? How do you convey sensitivity without being mawkish? How do you bring an audience to laughter and tears without one or the other (or both) feeling forced? The task is so overwhelming that you'd be inclined to give up.

But then, miracle of miracles, "50/50" succeeds on every level. Written by Will Reiser, a cancer survivor and a friend of Rogen's, the hilarious and poignant screenplay rings with authenticity as it addresses what happens when someone young and healthy contracts the Big C. People don't react the same way they do when the patient is elderly, nor does the patient himself react the same way. It makes a certain amount of sense for a person who has lived a long, full life to deteriorate -- sad, of course, but an inevitable part of mortality. It's also far more common, so there are established methods of dealing with it. There's no such logic when it's a young person who gets sick. Young people, unaccustomed to pondering such weighty matters at this point in their lives, are far less prepared. And society in general doesn't know what to do with a dying person who's barely an adult.

These are all good reasons for a movie like "50/50" not to have existed before. I'm hesitant



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

Inspired by a true story, 50/50 is an original story about friendship, love, survival and finding humor in unlikely places. Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen star as best friends whose lives are changed by a cancer diagnosis in this new comedy directed by Jonathan Levine from a script by Will Reiser. 50/50 is the story of a guy's transformative and, yes, sometimes funny journey to health - drawing its emotional core from Will Reiser's own experience with cancer and reminding us that friendship and love, no matter what bizarre turns they take, are the greatest healers. -- (C) Summit Entertainment

to say it's completely unique, but if there have previously been any uproarious-yet-grounded comedies about cancer patients in their 20s, I don't know what they are. There isn't a "genre" tag for that on IMDb. At any rate, whether it's a first or not, "50/50" is a wonderful, cathartic pleasure.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt stars as Adam, a 27-year-old Seattle man who learns early in the film that he has a malignant tumor on his spine. Our introduction to Adam tells us a lot about him: even though there's no traffic in sight, he's waiting for the "walk" sign to cross the street. Cautious, polite, and unassuming, he's not even aware that his brittle girlfriend, Rachael (Bryce Dallas Howard), is using

him for a doormat until his best friend points it out.

That best friend is Kyle, played by Seth Rogen as the sort of lovable, horny slacker that Seth Rogen usually plays. But Rogen rises to the occasion just like Kyle does. Rachael pledges her devotion to Adam after he's diagnosed, then realizes she's not cut out for such commitment. Kyle, on the other hand, stands by his friend as best he can, encouraging him to use his illness to pick up women and to take advantage of medical marijuana. Things like that play as comedy bits, but you sense the truth behind them. It's believable that two not-particularly-serious twentysomething men facing this crisis would behave in approximately this way.

To help him cope as he begins his treatment, Adam is referred to a psychologist -- or, rather, a grad student working on her doctorate. Her name is Katherine (Anna Kendrick), and she has had exactly two patients before Adam. He finds her eager, textbook-prescribed methodology useless at first, but over time begins to trust her. Adam's mother (the wonderful Anjelica Huston), already caring for an ailing husband and a born worrier, wants to fuss over her son as much as he'll let her. And through it all, there's Kyle, helping in his way. "Fifty-fifty?!" he says optimistically of the survival chances Adam's doctor gave him. "If you were a casino game you'd have the best odds!"

HBO Begins Filming of VEEP in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD (October 3, 2011) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that HBO will begin filming the series VEEP in Maryland this week. The pilot episode for the series shot in Maryland in February. VEEP is a comedy set near the White House in which Former Senator Selina Meyer finds being Vice President of the United States is nothing like she expected and everything everyone ever warned her about.

"Maryland is excited to welcome HBO and the VEEP team back to our State," said Governor O'Malley. "This project will not only bring new jobs to Maryland, but will also benefit local businesses that will serve the cast and crew during production."

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, whose credits include Seinfeld and New Adventures of Old Christine, will star. VEEP was created by Armando Iannucci, who also directed the pilot episode. Directors for season one include Iannucci, Tristram Shapeero and Chris Morris. VEEP is executive produced by Iannucci, Christopher Godtsick and Frank Rich. Joining as co-executive producers are Simon Blackwell, Tony Roche, with Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Stephanie Laing producing. In addition to Iannucci, Blackwell and Roche, writers include Sean Gray, William Smith, Roger Drew, Ian Martin and Jesse Armstrong. Iannucci previously wrote and directed the Academy Award®- and BAFTA-nominated film In the

Loop, a 2009 political satire, and the BAFTA Award-winning The Thick of It, a British TV series.

This past summer, HBO shot "Game Change" in Maryland. The film chronicled the 2008 Presidential election and starred Julianne Moore as Sarah Palin and Ed Harris as John McCain. Previous award-winning HBO productions that were filmed in Maryland include Shot in the Heart, Something the Lord Made, The Corner and The Wire.

The Maryland Film Office estimates that the 5 weeks of prep and 8 weeks of filming, and wrap of the seven episodes could have an economic impact in excess of \$25 million, and create more than 2,000 jobs for Maryland crew and actors. A

production of this size will also purchase or rent goods or services from hundreds of Maryland businesses.

Maryland's newly enacted Film Production Employment Act of 2011 helped to secure the HBO production. The fund offers a partial tax credit for local production expenditures and encourages producers to use local film crews.

The Maryland Film Office, located in Baltimore and part of the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, is an agency of the state's Department of Business and Economic Development. It provides location scouting and pre-production research, in addition to acting as a government and community liaison throughout film production.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Occupy the NBA

"The purpose of Occupy Wall Street is to reclaim the country from corporate interests. The protesters feel as though their political system has been hijacked by Wall Street's corporations, and as a result their elected officials now serve the interests of the wealthy upper-1 percenters instead of what they call the '99 percent.'" - Allison Kilkenny, Citizen Radio

After decades of corporate greed run amok, a viral clarion call has sounded to strike back and "occupy everywhere". What started as several dozen people saying they would "occupy Wall Street" has become a national movement. Now we have thousands of people who are part of Occupy Boston, Occupy DC, Occupy Los Angeles, Occupy Las Vegas, even Occupy Nebraska. Now we have labor organizations like the Transit Workers Union and 1199 joining the charge. Now it's high time to take this movement and bring it to the National Basketball Association. We need to "Occupy the NBA."

Why not? Do you really want to talk about corporate greed pile-driving the interests of "the other 99%"? Look no further than the NBA. The League's billionaire owners have locked their doors and threatened to cancel the 2011-2012 season following the most lucrative year in league history. They haven't only locked out the players union, but thousands of low-wage workers – the people cleaning the arenas, parking the cars, and selling the overpriced flat, foamy swill the League calls beer. They've also locked out secretaries and scouts, managers and mascots. Somewhere in Phoenix there's a guy in a gorilla suit with a sign that reads, "Will dunk for food."

We are familiar with Wall Street's version of the high pick-and-roll, their go-to play: magically turning our tax dollars into their profits. Look at the billions that have gone to NBA arenas while public workers are laid off and the infrastructure of our cities rot. As economist David Berri has noted, \$2 billion has gone into building eight new facilities. Of that amount, 84%, \$1.75 billion, has come out of our pockets. That number also doesn't include the \$2 billion in tax dollars being funneled into the Atlantic Yards Project for the soon-to-be Brooklyn Nets. To David Stern claim that 23 of 30 owners are "losing money" on the NBA, while leaving public subsidies out of his math, only demonstrates his ugly contempt for us 99 percenters.

Is it the arrogance of the privileged class that makes your blood boil? Listen to Ted Leonsis, the owner of the NBA's Washington Wizards. In September, Leonsis said, "Economic Success has somehow become the new boogie man; some in the Democratic party are now casting about for enemies and business leaders and anyone who has achieved success in terms of rank or fiscal success is being cast as a bad guy in a black hat. This is counter to the American Dream and is really turning off so many people that love America and basically carry our country on their back by paying taxes and by employing people." So we pay for their stadiums, we buy their sweatshop-stitched crap, we work for poverty wages at the park and they're carrying us on their back? Please kiss me where the good Lord split me.

So what would an "Occupy NBA" look like? The demands are both obvious enough and placard-ready: "Stop the lock-out!" "Public ownership of teams that take public money!" "A living wage for stadium workers!" "Better beer!"

The method should be encampments out in front of every arena. We could gather with food, water, tents, "peoples libraries" filled with the collected works of Zander Hollander, and of course, a bunch of basketballs and a hoop. We would also need to dialogue with players and encourage them to start their own league until David Stern stops using his head as a rectal thermometer. As Henry Abbot wrote on ESPN's True Hoop blog before being methodically tortured in an undisclosed Bristol, Connecticut safe-house, "So long as taxpayers pay for the stadiums, and players do the work, why, again, do we cut owners in on the deal?"

The players have clearly also had enough of the arrogance and absence of accountability in the owner's box. Last week, the stars finally came out to the negotiations with Lebron James, Dwyane Wade, Kevin Durant, and Carmelo Anthony making themselves heard. When David Stern pointed his finger repeatedly at Wade, the All-Star guard responded, "Don't point your finger at me. I'm a grown man. I have children." Later, Lebron, D-Wade, Durant, and Carmelo all stood at attention, arms crossed, behind a sitting Derek Fisher, the union President, as he resumed negotiations with Stern. Now that's how to do a union negotiation.

Watching the NBA players develop a backbone, and seeing the reemergence of fightback against corporate greed, it's difficult to not think about the words of Troy Polamalu during the NFL's lockout over the summer. The Steelers safety said: "I think what the players are fighting for is something bigger. A lot of people think it's millionaires versus billionaires and that's the huge argument. The fact is its people fighting against big business. The big business argument is 'I got the money and I got the power therefore I can tell you what to do.' That's life everywhere. I think this is a time when the football players are standing up and saying, 'No, no, no, the people have the power.'"

Yes we certainly do. I want my basketball and I know I'm not alone. Let's Occupy the NBA.

[Dave Zirin is the author of "The John Carlos Story" (Haymarket) and just made the new documentary "Not Just a Game." Receive his column every week by emailing dave@edgeofsports.com.

Contact him at edgeofsports@gmail.com.]

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Calendar of Events

October 13 - October 19, 2011

Branch Avenue in Bloom Farmers Market

Date & Time: Fridays through November 18, 2-6 pm
 Description: Support local farmers! Call to find out about its selection of fruits, vegetables, organic food, local specialties and crafts. FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted. Read more about local farmers markets.
 Location: Iverson Mall Parking Lot, Branch Avenue 20748
 Contact: 301-403-8300 (Dion Gray)

Tiny Tots Thursday: Grimm 'n Grits

Date and Time: Thursday, October 13, 9:30 am & 11 am
 Event Description: Storyteller Jon Spelman is joined by musician Tina Chancey to present some favorite classic tales with a country-fried twist. The Brothers Grimm's Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel, Cinderella and Rumpelstiltskin come at you with homespun humor that will have the young audience laughing as they learn some history and geography with each colorful story.
 Ages: Recommended for grades pre-K-2 Fee: \$3/person
 Location: *Publick Playhouse*
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Information: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312

Fall Festival of Fun at Billingsley

Date & Time: Friday, October 14, 12 noon-2 pm
 Description: Join us for a fun afternoon of games, fall arts & crafts and pumpkin painting. We'll provide the art supplies, you provide the creativity. There will be a costume contest and pumpkin painting. Prizes, refreshments and lots of fun and food will be provided. Advanced registration and payment is required and is due by 5 pm, October 7.
 Cost: \$2/person Ages: All ages
 Location: *Billingsley House Museum*
 6900 Green Landing Road, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-627-0730; 301-838-7782, TTY 301-699-2544

Montpelier Fall Jazz Series: Warren Wolf

Date and Time: October 14, 8 pm
 Event Description: Warren Wolf has played vibes, drums and piano with musicians ranging from Wynton Marsalis to Cyrus Chestnut. Come hear this vibes master with his quartet in their first concert at Montpelier.
 Ages: All ages Fee: \$20/ticket. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription. Discounts are available for seniors & members.
 Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
 Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Atlantic Starr

Date and Time: Saturday, October 15, 8 pm
 Event Description: The rockin' 1980s R&B band famous for "Always" and "Secret Lovers" is hotter than ever and touring the globe. Making a rare D.C. area full-band appearance, the Lewis brothers will be at the Playhouse with their eight-piece ensemble for a full concert performance. They'll blow you away with "My First Love" and will have everyone up and dancing "Circles" in the aisles.
 Ages: All ages Fee: \$30/person
 Location: *Publick Playhouse*
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Information: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312

"Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum: An Autobiography"

Date & Time: Saturday, October 15, 2 pm
 Description: Michael Neufeld, co-editor of the book, will discuss Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum: An Autobiography. Written by staffers of the National Air and Space Museum, it naturally covers bureaucratic evolution and the institution's installations for collecting, storing, restoring, and displaying its artifacts.
 Cost: Free with museum admission.
 Museum admission: \$4/adults, \$3/seniors, \$2/ages 18 & under, FREE under 2
 Location: *College Park Aviation Museum*
 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740
 Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Concert: Baby Washington

Date and Time: Saturday, October 15, 8 pm
 Event Description: Her sultry delivery earned Justine "Baby" Washington R&B chart bows in four different decades, most notably on the delectable uptown soul classic "That's How Heartaches Are Made" in 1963. Born in South Carolina and raised in Harlem, Washington was a member of the Hearts in 1956 before tallying her first R&B hit in 1959 with "The Time." Billed occasionally as Jeanette or Justine Washington, she scaled the soul charts into the mid-'70s with hits still hot from the '60s including her nugget "Only Those in Love."
 Ages: All ages
 Fee: \$30/general admission; \$25/sr. citizens & students
 Location: *Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center*
 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
 Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Fall into Fun! at Watkins Regional Park

Date & Time: Saturdays & Sundays, October 15, 16, 22 & 23, 1-4 pm
 Description: Bring your family and friends and celebrate fall at Watkins Regional Park. Ride the train and meander through the woods to see fall leaves. Stop and visit the animals at Old Maryland Farm. Horse around on the carousel. Climb aboard the tractor-pulled wagon for a hayride. Stop by the Nature Center to make a fall craft and enjoy popcorn. Please note: all activities are subject to weather conditions and may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Admission sales available for purchase the day of the event at the Ticket Booth at the Train and Carousel, and are good for that day only. Everyone must pay admission to participate. Visa, MasterCard and Cash accepted.
 Cost: Resident \$5/person; Non-Resident \$6/person
 Ages: All ages
 Location: *Watkins Regional Park*
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

EARTH TALK ... "Mercury and other toxins in tattoo inks"

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm interested in getting a new tattoo, but recently found out that red tattoo ink contains mercury. Is this true of other tattoo inks as well? Are there any eco-friendly alternatives

-- John P., Racine, WA

It is true that some red inks used for permanent tattoos contain mercury, while other reds may contain different heavy metals like cadmium or iron oxide. These metals—which give the tattoo its “permanence” in skin—have been known to cause allergic reactions, eczema and scarring and can also cause sensitivity to mercury from other sources like dental fillings or consuming some fish. While red causes the most problems, most other colors of standard tattoo ink are also derived from heavy metals (including lead, antimony, beryllium, chromium, cobalt nickel and arsenic) and can cause skin reactions in some people.

Helen Suh MacIntosh, a professor in environmental health at Harvard University and a columnist for the website, Treehugger, reports that as a result of a 2007 lawsuit brought by the American Environmental Safety Institute (AESI), two of the leading tattoo ink manufacturers must now place warning labels on their product containers, catalogs and websites explaining that “inks contain many heavy metals, including lead, arsenic and others” and that the ingredients have been linked to cancer and birth defects.

Of course, exposure to mercury and other heavy metals is

hardly the only risk involved with getting a tattoo. The term tattoo itself means to puncture the skin. Tattoo ink is placed via needles into the dermis layer of the skin, where it remains permanently (although some colors will fade over time). Some people have reported sensitivity springing up even years after they first got their tattoo; also, medical MRIs can cause tattoos to burn or sting as the heavy metals in the ink are affected by the test's magnetism.

Beyond the long term risks of walking around with heavy metals injected into your body's largest organ (the skin), getting a tattoo in and of itself can be risky business. If the tattoo parlor's needles and equipment aren't properly sterilized in an autoclave between customers, you could be exposing yourself to hepatitis B or C, tuberculosis, mycobacterium, syphilis, malaria, HIV or even leprosy.

“The potential risk of infectious spread from tattooing (particularly due to Hepatitis B) is high enough that it is a practice that should be avoided by pregnant women to safeguard the health of the baby [and that of the pregnant woman herself] whose immune system is down regulated and is much more vulnerable to these types of infection,” reports dermatologist Audrey Kunin, who runs the popular Dermadoctor website. Dr. Kunin advises to be careful about choosing a tattoo parlor: “Make sure the place is reputable, perhaps check with the health department to see if there have been past claims against the parlor in question if you still



Credit: Hemera Collection, Thinkstock

As a result of a 2007 lawsuit brought by the American Environmental Safety Institute, two leading tattoo ink makers must now place warnings on their product containers, catalogs and websites to say that the “inks contain many heavy metals, including lead, arsenic and others” and that the ingredients have been linked to cancer and birth defects.

have doubts.” She adds that since tattoos are essentially open wounds, they must be cared for properly, especially in the first few weeks, to stave off infection.

Those who want go ahead with getting a tattoo anyway despite the risks should consider steering clear of colors derived from heavy metals. Dr. Kunin reports that black might be the safest permanent tattoo ink; it is often derived from a substance called carbon black and rarely causes any kind of sensitivity issues. If your heart is set on red in your tattoo, ask around to see if any tattoo parlors in your area are willing to work with non-metallic organic pigments that lend a red color such as carmine, scarlet lake, sandalwood or

brazilwood. There are non-metallic alternatives available for many other popular tattoo ink shades, too.

CONTACTS: Treehugger, www.treehugger.com; Dermadoctor, www.dermadoctor.com.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emazine.com).

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University of Maryland

Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

Question #1: My parents are renting a house on a heavily wooded lot and on occasion black rat snakes have been getting into their basement. They call me to help them remove the snakes. What can we do to prevent this from happening in the future? I do know that snakes are beneficial, but we all would be happier if they remained outdoors.

Answer #1: Sounds like you need to do some home maintenance. First of all make sure they do not have mice coming indoors. Snakes are excellent hunters and will seek out a food source. Next, seal all cracks, holes or crevices where they can enter the home and replace worn weather stripping around doors and windows. Outdoors, check along the top of the basement wall where it meets the siding for any gaps that should be

caulked. Clean-up wood and rock piles, cut back weeds near the house and thin out ground-covers to reduce hiding places. These basic measures should greatly reduce snakes from entering into the home. For additional information look for publication 'HG 64 Snakes' found on our website.

Question #2: It seems to me that I have seen an increase in the number of spiders and spider webs around my home and garden this fall. I also noticed a spider web that had a stink bug in it. Are spiders helping to control the brown marmorated stink bug population?

Answer #2: You are very observant. We are getting a number of reports from homeowners, who send us photos and questions through our website, that they have noticed the very

same thing. In addition to spiders, assassin bugs and praying mantids have also been seen feeding upon stink bugs helping to control their population. This is an excellent example of natural control at its best.

Question #3: My Sedum 'Autumn Joy' is flopping over. The bed where it is planted has gotten shadier because my maple tree is growing larger. What can I do to prevent this from happening next season?

Answer #3: Sedum 'Autumn Joy' will flop over if they receive too much shade or are grown in overly rich soil. Prune the tree to increase the amount of sunlight the plants will receive. If this is not possible stake the plants to keep them upright. Otherwise, you should transplant your Sedum to a sunnier site in early spring.

Gardeners also report success with pinching back plants by half in early June to control the height. This may delay flowering until later in the season, but will result in a more compact plant. Also do not fertilize them as this increases the likelihood of tall, lanky growth.

“Ask the Plant and Pest Professor” is compiled from phone and email questions asked the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC), part of University of Maryland Extension, an educational outreach of the University of Maryland. To ask a home gardening or pest control question or for other help, go to www.hgic.umd.edu. Or phone HGIC at 1-800-342-2507, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Disaster from A1

ented to public entities and can fund the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or infrastructure, which is damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

Eligible applicants include State governments, local governments and any other political subdivision of the State, Native American tribes, and Alaska Native Villages. Certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations may also receive assistance. Eligible PNPs include education, utility, irrigation, emergency, medical, rehabilitation, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), and other PNP facilities that provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public. PNPs that provide “critical services” (power, water—including water provided by an irrigation organization or facility, sewer, wastewater treatment, communications, educational services, and emergency medical care) may apply

directly to FEMA for a disaster grant. All other PNPs must first apply to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a disaster loan. If the PNP is declined for an SBA loan, or the loan does not cover all eligible damages, the applicant may re-apply for FEMA assistance.

As soon as practicable after the declaration, the State, assisted by FEMA, conducts the Applicant Briefings for State, local and PNP officials to inform them about the assistance available and how to apply for it. A request for Public Assistance must be filed with the State within 30 days after the area is designated eligible for assistance. Following the Applicant's Briefing, a Kickoff Meeting is conducted where damages will be discussed, needs assessed, and a plan of action put in place. A combined Federal/State/local team proceeds with Project Formulation, which is the process of documenting the eligible facility, the eligible work, and the eligible cost for fixing the damages to every public or

PNP facility identified by State or local representatives. The team prepares a Project Worksheet (PW) for each project. Projects fall into the following categories:

- Category A: Debris removal
- Category B: Emergency protective measures
- Category C: Road systems and bridges
- Category D: Water control facilities
- Category E: Public buildings and contents
- Category F: Public utilities
- Category G: Parks, recreational, and other

For insurable structures within special flood hazard areas (SFHA), primarily buildings, assistance from FEMA is reduced by the amount of insurance settlement that could have been obtained under a standard NFIP policy. For structures located outside of a SFHA, FEMA will reduce the amount of eligible assistance by any available insurance proceeds.

FEMA reviews and approves the PWs and obligates the Federal share of the costs (which cannot be less than 75 percent) to the State. The State then disburses funds to local applicants.

Projects falling below a certain threshold are considered ‘small.’ The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation. For fiscal year 2012, that threshold is \$66,400. For small projects, payment of the Federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project, and no further accounting to FEMA is required. For large projects, payment is made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed, although interim payments may be made as necessary. Once FEMA obligates funds to the State, further management of the assistance, including disbursement to subgrantees, is the responsibility of the State. FEMA will continue to monitor the recovery progress to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.

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Red Cross Blood Donors Can Honor the Fight Against Breast Cancer

The American Red Cross, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region is honoring those who have struggled with this disease with "Walls of Hope" at all blood drives and donor centers throughout the month of October. Participants may write a small card in honor of a cancer patient to post on the Wall Of Hope. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule a life-saving donation appointment. Platelet donors can call 1-800-272-2123 to schedule an appointment.

Blood is often used to treat those undergoing treatment for all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy can kill red blood cells and platelets, and these patients rely on blood transfusions throughout their treatment to remain strong and recover.

According to the American Cancer Society, over 1.5 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2010 in the United States. Many of those patients will require

transfusions of blood and platelets.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to give life to local patients in need with a blood donation and show your support of the fight against Breast Cancer" said Gary J. Ouellette, Chief Executive Officer for the GC&P Region. "Many of us know someone who has been touched by this disease, or by another form of cancer, and this give our donors the opportunity to share their experience with others while giving hope to patients who may currently be fighting the battle."

The "Wall of Hope" will be available at all American Red Cross Donor Centers and participating blood drives throughout October. In addition, all participants will receive a commemorative "I Gave Hope" lapel pin (while supplies last). Blood donations are needed to treat patients throughout the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region undergoing treatment for cancer, premature babies, trauma victims, transplant surgeries, those with chronic blood disorders, and many others. Over 1000 units of blood are needed daily to meet the needs of local patients.

Child Watch from A4

food insecurity, lost homes, and growing hopelessness are a national human disaster requiring the most urgent response from our political and business leaders in every party and place. Children deserve more than intransigent political grandstanding. They need shoes to protect exposed toes from the cold and food to

soothe their growling stomachs. Shame on those who seek to rip out more threads from our rich nation's tattered safety net while protecting tax cuts for millionaires. Skyler, Zachery, and Jordan McKee and the millions of children like them deserve more from our country.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's

Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.