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Paving Ain't Pay Dirt for Construction

Stimulus Money in Maryland Drying Up for Struggling Crews

By JEFFREY BENZING
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Federal investment in "shovel-ready" construction put a lot of people to work -- and did so quickly -- but stimulus money for Maryland work crews is drying up, and some experts say too much of it went to temporary projects that failed to save jobs in the long term.

"I think that's one of the mistakes of the previous stimulus package -- it focused so much on 'shovel-ready' projects," said Anirban Basu, chairman of Sage Policy Group Inc. "The way to get long-term, broadly shared American prosperity is not through road resurfacing."

Basu, who said the government spends too much overall, but too little on infrastructure, said he thinks jobs legislation that President Obama has pushed since September would also fall short in funding longer-term, transformative projects -- things like high-speed rail and overhauls to the country's air traffic control system.

See **STIMULUS**, Page A3



PHOTO BY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Mikulski decried wage discrimination. "Let's start with equal pay for equal work,"

Racing Returns to Rosecroft

After Three-year Hiatus, Long Term Unlikely Without Slots

By BRANDON COOPER
Capital News Service

FORT WASHINGTON - Horse racing will return to Rosecroft Raceway for the first time in three years on Friday, but the new owner of the track says it is unlikely to survive long-term without slot machines, a tough sell in Prince George's County.

Ten harness races will take place at the track on Friday night, the first of 20 scheduled racing dates this fall.

"Hopefully we can eventually draw back some of the horses that have left (Maryland)," said Chris McErlean, vice president of racing at Penn National Gaming Inc., the company that bought the track out of bankruptcy in February.

On Thursday, workers finished preparing the track for the return of racing. They washed windows, fixed lights and put new signs around the facility.

Dave Herbst, who is overseeing renovations

at Rosecroft, said the facility has come a long way since workers began fixing it in May. Grass had grown three-feet high in the infield and they had to repair large holes in the track surface.

"It should've never closed down in the first place," said Herbst, who has worked at Rosecroft for decades.

The raceway closed completely in July 2010 after it lost its ability to simulcast races from other tracks, but Rosecroft was in financial trouble well before that.

Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc., the owner at the time, stopped live racing in 2008 in a last-ditch attempt to stay open. After Penn National Gaming purchased the track, they brought back simulcast races in August.

Although Penn National Gaming is celebrating the reintroduction of live racing, the company has repeatedly stressed that it cannot be sus-

See **ROSECROFT**, Page A7

Bay Restoration Fee Increase Proposed to Task Force

Workgroup also Recommended Extending Timeframe to Meet Cleanup Goals to 2025

By GREG MASTERS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- A governor's task force on sustainable growth heard a proposal to double and eventually triple Marylanders' monthly water and sewer fee of \$2.50 for Chesapeake Bay restoration.

Because of funding shortfalls, the workgroup also recommended extending Maryland's timeframe to meet its bay cleanup goals to 2025, which is the Environmental Protection Agency's deadline, instead of the self-imposed deadline of 2020 that Gov. Martin O'Malley set last year.

While Maryland should continue to move at the accelerated pace set by O'Malley, no funding scenario would get the state to its goals by 2020, said John Griffin, secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and chair of the funding workgroup that made the recommendations.

"To suggest that, in the face of what we've seen here in this workgroup, we're going to meet

all this by 2020 I think goes away from the whole notion of being candid and transparent with the public," Griffin said.

In 2010, the EPA established a "pollution diet," known as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, for Maryland and other bay watershed states. Annually, Maryland must reduce nitrogen pollution from urban areas and septic systems by about 7.6 million pounds to meet the TMDL requirement for developed areas.

To meet that goal, the state plans to retrofit stormwater management systems and septic systems, as well as finish upgrading its 67 major wastewater treatment plants.

But the Bay Restoration Fund, created in 2004 to finance the treatment plant upgrades, faces a funding shortfall of about \$385 million, and funding for retrofits is also uncertain.

See **FEE**, Page A3

Maryland Ranked 10th Nationally for Energy Efficiency

By JEFFREY BENZING
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - A push to reduce peak electricity use and decrease money spent on energy has earned Maryland a spot in the top-10 most energy-efficient states, according to a report released Thursday by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

"The cheapest kilowatt is the one not needed," said Malcolm Woolf, director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "What Maryland is going to need to do is do what we're doing -- but do it faster and more."

The report, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, has Maryland ranked 10th, the state's highest placement to date. Maryland jumped up six spots from last year, making it one of the most improved states in terms of dollars invested and kilowatts saved.

Topping the list, also for the first time, is Massachusetts, which unseated second-ranked California. Since 2006, the

report has detailed policies by state governments that have led to decreased energy use and saved money.

"States always have these friendly, cutthroat rivalries -- but it does absolutely bring out the best," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "It makes us look at what other states are doing, learn the best of what's been tried."

Success in Maryland, Woolf said, comes in part from the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, passed in 2008 to reduce state energy demand by 15 percent by 2015. The programs available to Marylanders vary by utility provider but include things like appliance rebates, lighting rebates and home energy audits.

So far, 215,000 Marylanders have used these incentives to save 900 million kilowatt hours of electricity, Woolf said, leading to \$117 million total in money not spent on utility bills.

See **ENERGY**, Page A5

Richmond Free Press Makes Racial Breakthrough in Virginia Supreme Court

By JEREMY M. LAZARUS
Richmond Free Press

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Richmond Free Press photographer Sandra Sellars has made history when she covered the historic investiture of Virginia Supreme Court Justice Cleo E. Powell on Friday, Oct. 21.

When the prize-winning photographer arrived at the state's highest court to cover the Powell formal installation, she became:

· The first Black newspaper photographer to cover an investiture in the 232-year history of the court, which is located across the street from the State Capitol.

· The first woman newspaper photographer to cover a Supreme Court investiture, according to Free Press research.

Overton Jones, a retired Richmond daily editor, agreed that Ms. Sellars was a likely gender history maker in Richmond journalism. "I don't

recall any" woman photographer covering a Supreme Court investiture, said Jones, who worked first for the defunct Richmond News Leader and later for the Richmond Times-Dispatch a total of 55 years, beginning in 1938.

Sellars' presence will add to the historical significance of the installation of Justice Powell, the first Black female justice elected to the court by the General Assembly.

Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser's approval of Sellars represents a major victory for the decade-long Free Press campaign to change the court's guidelines that previously barred photographers from the Free Press and other Black-owned newspapers, as well as those from non-dailies. Earlier, the chief justice, in response to another Free Press campaign, expunged sexist references

See **COURT**, Page A5



PHOTO BY JEROME REID/RICHMOND FREE PRESS

Richmond Free Press Photographer Sandra Sellars and Free Press Editor/Publisher Raymond H. Boone approach an entrance at the Virginia Supreme Court before she became the first woman and first Black person to photograph, representing newspapers, to cover the Virginia Supreme Court's Investiture.

INSIDE

Check Smoke Alarms!

The County Fire/Emergency Medical Services partnered with Lowe's of Largo, Maryland, to promote safety for local homeowners. Firefighters/ Medics and employees of the Lowe's Home Improvement store teamed up to check smoke alarms, provide fire safety and injury prevention material.
Community, Page A3

Iraq Quagmire Ends

The nation owes a big debt of gratitude to the more than one million Americans who have been deployed to Iraq since the start of the war. This includes more than 4,480 who died on the battlefield and more than 32,000 who were wounded. Now we must do everything in our power to support our returning vets.
Opinion, Page A4

Company Will Retain Jobs

Governor Martin O'Malley joined Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and Maryland House Speaker Michael E. Busch to announce that the state's Legislative Policy Committee has approved conditional loan to Bechtel Power Corp. that will retain the company's operations and a minimum of 1,250 full-time jobs.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review

"Some of the known laws of physics are defied in "Paranormal Activity 3," but the law of diminishing returns is in full effect. The problem of how to satisfy returning viewers without merely repeating what you've already done is a tough one to solve anyway and it's especially tricky when, there's such a specific and narrowly defined style.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
What are the greenest light bulbs to use? I hear there has been a lot of backlash against compact fluorescents because they contain mercury.

-- Peter Roscoe,
Hershey, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Remembering the '60s and '70s in Marlow Heights

You can dine on a Mighty Mo at the Marlow Heights 60s & 70s Back to School Dance Oct. 29, 6 p.m. to midnight at the Chesapeake Beach Legion Hall.

Chuck Fraley invites you to come for the "Sights and Sounds of Marlow Heights and vicinity of the 60s and 70s, featuring Mighty Mo/Royal Burgers, Barn Busters, French fries, onion rings, orange freezes, Hot Fudge Ice Cream Cake, dancing fools, and all your old friends and classmates."

For tickets (\$25), photos, videos and history, check out the website,

www.marlowheights60sand70s.com. There's also a plea for support for Chuck's web work to "Keep the memories alive." As Chuck says, "We are the ghosts of Marlow Heights who walk amongst its inheritors."

Heart transplant recipient dies at 25

Casey Renee Towers was buried at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf on Oct. 20. She died Oct. 13 when her transplanted heart just gave out. She was 25 years old and leaves two young children.

On Feb. 15, 2006, her daughter's first birthday, she received a donated heart which came from 16-year-old high school athlete Luke Abbate, of Georgia, who died in an auto accident. He was the brother of Jon Abbate, star linebacker for Wake Forest University. In 2010 a movie, "The 5th Quarter," was made about the accident and the transplant.

Despite her health problems, Casey graduated from Centura College for Medical Assistance and the College of Southern

Maryland.

She was the granddaughter of Charles and Constance Towers, who used to live on Larkspur Road in Morningside. She was the daughter of Charles and Barbara Towers, sister of Charles II, and the mother of Kaylee, 6, and Kristopher, 5.

Changing landscape

The Spauldings Branch Library, in District Heights, has completed renovations and had a grand reopening on Oct. 22. Features include a barnyard-themed children's area, both quiet and public meeting rooms and new wireless internet stations.

I hear that an Aldi grocery is due to open on Allentown Road in Camp Springs where there was an A & P years ago. There are other Aldis in District Heights and Oxon Hill.

A building permit has been submitted to build an auditorium for Crossland High School.

A building permit has also been filed to build a \$3 million addition to the Allentown Fitness and Splash Park.

May they rest in peace

Edna Holland, longtime Morningside resident, died Oct. 21. She was a devoted member of Bells U.M. Church where her funeral will be held Friday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. I'll pay tribute to her next week.

Philip Gibson "Gib" Wehrman, 52, current Commander of American Legion Suitland Post 196 and past second-vice-commander of the Prince George' Council, died Oct. 10. He was the husband of Beverley Wiese, father of Casey Wehman, son of Connie and brother of Holly and William. Burial was at Cheltenham.

Mary Ellen Blohm, 67, Oxon

Hill High graduate who had owned the pet-sitting business PAWS in Gaithersburg, died Sept. 22 in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. In the 1960s she was an administrative assistant at NASA and years later taught at Gaithersburg High School. Survivors include her husband of 45 years, Richard "Dick" Blohm, two children and five grandchildren.

Lt. Col. William P. Moore, 91, of Camp Springs, meteorologist for the Air Force through WWII, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Sept. 8. After retiring, he worked for NOAA and volunteered at Andrews. His first wife Dorothy and second wife Rita both predeceased him. Survivors include five daughters and many grand- and great-grandchildren. Services were at St. John's in Clinton with burial at Arlington.

Edna M. Meads, 81, who taught in several Oxon Hill area public schools before retiring in 1993, died Sept. 27. She had lived in Oxon Hill and Accokeek. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Keith Meads, daughter Lesley McKinley and six siblings.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Diane Cvitko, Oct. 28; my grandson Isaac Gallegos, Oct. 29; Denise Williams, Kim Miller and my daughter Kathleen Shearer, Oct. 30; Don Eisenberg, Henry Ruby and my sister Rose Marie Nickodemus, Oct. 31; Carolyn Follin, Rita Gray and Morningside Vice Mayor Jim Ealey, Nov. 1; Carl McKlveen, Nov. 2; my son-in-law Luke Seidman and Flossie Keck, Nov. 3.

Happy anniversary to Michael and Maria (Blankenship) Jinks, their 9th on Nov. 1; and to Dolores and Gus Steinhilber, on Nov. 3.

Affordable Care Act Help Improve Care for Medicare Beneficiaries

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 500 community health centers in 44 states across the country will receive approximately \$42 million over three years to improve the coordination and quality of care they deliver to people with Medicare and other patients, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced today.

"Health centers are integral parts of our communities," said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Donald M. Berwick, M.D. "This initiative will give participating health centers the help they need to improve care for many people with Medicare who rely on them as their main source of care."

Under this Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration, created by the Affordable Care Act, Medicare will pay community health centers based on the quality of care they deliver. This improved payment system will reward clinics for such things as helping patients manage chronic conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

In addition, health centers will use this funding to expand their hours, make same day appointments and accommodate patients with urgent care needs.

"The goal of this demonstration is to help patients get the care they need in a primary care setting rather than in an emergency department," said Dr. Berwick. "When patients are able to use a health center as their primary source of care, it helps primary care doctors, nurses and specialists coordinate their care. Health centers will also use health care dollars more wisely as patients receive the right tests, right medications and right treatments in the right setting."

The demonstration will be conducted from November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2014. Participating health centers will be paid a monthly fee for each eligible person with Medicare that receives primary care services. The CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) will provide technical assistance to help participating community health centers throughout the demonstration.

"The lessons learned from this demonstration project will help all community health centers improve on their long-standing commitment to providing high quality, patient-centered primary care," said Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, PhD.,

R.N. "This program will help strengthen the relationship between the more than 8,100 health center sites HRSA helps fund and the communities they serve."

To study the process and challenges involved in transforming community health centers into advanced primary care practices, the Innovation Center will conduct an independent evaluation of the demonstration. The evaluation will assess the project's impact on hospital admission rates, emergency department visits rates, access, quality and cost of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. The evaluation will also assess whether the demonstration was cost effective.

This Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration is operated by the Innovation Center in partnership with HRSA. It is one of a number of initiatives made possible by the Affordable Care Act to help bring better health and better health care not just to Medicare beneficiaries, but to all Americans, while helping use healthcare dollars more wisely.

For example, the HRSA Health Center Quality Improvement and Patient Centered Medical Home Supplemental Funding initiative is providing 904 community health centers nationwide new support to provide care coordination services to patients including care planning and efforts to help doctors work together to deliver better care for patients.

Health centers improve the health of the nation and assure access to quality primary health care services at more than 8,100 service delivery sites around the country. They are also an integral source of local employment and economic growth in many underserved and low-income communities. Since the beginning of 2009, health centers across the country have added more than 18,600 new full-time positions in many of the nation's most economically distressed communities. In 2010, they employed more than 131,000 staff and new funds, made available by the Affordable Care Act in September, will help create thousands more jobs nationwide.

For more information on how the Affordable Care Act is finding better ways to improve health-care, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

More information on the Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration project, including a fact sheet, and a list of participating health centers can be found at: <http://innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/fqhc/>.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Afghan Women's Task Force Co-Chairs' Statement on Meeting with United States Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman

Washington, D.C. - Representatives Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5), Co-Chairs of the Afghan Women's Task Force, released a joint statement this evening following their meeting with U.S. Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman.

"Our meeting with Ambassador Grossman could not have come at a more critical time, following Secretary Clinton's remarks with President Karzai and her trip over the weekend throughout Central Asia. The meeting confirmed what we have long advocated; the regional community must remain supportive of stability in Afghanistan as led by the Afghan people and that this process must include women. We fully expect President Karzai to

meet his commitment that reconciliation talks, including those in Istanbul and at the Bonn Conference in December, comprise at least twenty-five percent women. This is the only way to ensure that women can protect their interests and expand their economic opportunities, both of which are critical to guaranteeing the long-term peace and sustainability of Afghanistan for all Afghans."

Congresswoman Edwards to Host 3rd Annual College and Career Fair
Washington, D.C. - On Saturday, November 5, 2011 Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) will host a college and career fair for high school students and their parents from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The fair will feature representatives from over 90 colleges, universities, training centers, and organizations as well as instructional resources in financial aid, post-secondary education opportunities, and



writing college applications. For more information please visit www.donnaedwards.house.gov or call (301) 562-7960. The event flier can be found here (in Spanish).

What:
3rd Annual College and Career Fair Hosted by Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards
When:
Saturday, November 5, 2011 8:30am - 1:00pm
Where:
Silver Spring Civic Center One Veterans Place Silver Spring, MD 20910

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

ALL DAY CARE

When School's out we're in at World View Christian Center All Day Care. We have field trips and Super Fun Days. World View students: \$10.00 and Non-World View students: \$25.00. Hours of operation are 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM. For more information call 301-372-0053 or visit info@worldviewchristiancenter.com or www.worldviewchristiancenter.com.

BLACK COLLEGE EXPO

The Black College Expo will be coming to University of Maryland College Park in the Reckord Armory Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All students welcome. The Black College Expo helping students across America get to College, Careers and beyond. Students will meet with colleges, live band Auditions for Scholarships. Most application fees waived. Get accepted on the spot and find out about internships. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$8.00 online *Special Group Rates. There will be an After Show from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

hosted by Actor/Comedian Kel Mitchell. Visit www.thecollege-expo.org or call 877-427-4100.

COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Start cleaning your closets, garage and basement for the Community Flea Market on Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Reserve your table today. The cost is \$15.00 for residents and \$18.00 for non-residents (non-refundable). The Community Flea Market will be at Baden Community Center. The address is 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD 20613 (located 7 minutes south of Brandywine Elementary School). Telephone number is 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-203-6030.

ST. PHILIPS CHURCH

Come join us for a Holiday Dance with some free-holiday fun and dancing. There will be Hand Dancing, Line Dancing and good old dancing Saturday December 17, 2011 from 8:00 PM to 12:00 midnight.

The Holiday Dance will be at

St. Philip's Church Baden Parish, Fellowship Hall. The address is 13801 Baden West Wood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Donations \$15.00. Music by Ms. Jackie, (D). Light refreshments will be served. Point of contact are Michele Williams 202-528-7422, Sallie Glover 240-299-5239, Christine Johnson 301-888-1126 and Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260.

HOLIDAY DROP 'N SHOP

Every Saturday drop the kids off for an afternoon of holiday games and crafts while you do your holiday shopping. Note: A participant profile must be filled out for each child attending this program. The Holiday Drop 'N Shop will be at the Upper Marlboro Community Center located at 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The Holiday Drop 'N Shop will be open every Saturday December 3, 2011- December 24, 2011 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The fee is \$25.00/ \$26.00NR Ages: 6-12. Call 301-627-2828/TTY 301-203-6030 for more information.

Baker's Statement on Obama's Jobs Initiative for Veterans

Upper Marlboro, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III released the following statement in support of the Obama Administration's new initiatives to increase health care employment opportunities for returning veterans:

"The men and women who have served our country deserve respect, gratitude, admiration and a fulfilling civilian life. But many of our veterans have struggled to find jobs at home, including those with medical training, even when their military service has given them the necessary job experience. By aligning the credentials gained during military service with the qualifications necessary for health care professions, the Obama Administration has made it easier for veterans to find jobs in a field

where experienced practitioners are in demand. In addition to this "win-win" policy, the President has released two other initiatives to facilitate the placement of military veterans in health care jobs. The Obama administration has again demonstrated a clear commitment to our brave men and women in uniform, and I am proud to stand in support of these policies."

County Executive Baker was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves Judge Advocate General Corps from 1987 to 2001 and has consistently supported measures to benefit Maryland's veterans. In the 2011 Legislative Session, the County Executive supported legislation to create a checkoff for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund on the individual income tax return form. The County Executive has

GRAND OPENING

Habitat For Humanity of Prince George's County

THRIFT STORE
14940 Main Street
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-627-4890

Furniture Household Goods Lighting	Building Supplies Appliances Doors/Windows
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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Beware of fake check scams

The other day I got one of those annoying emails from a supposed Nigerian prince promising rich rewards for helping to move money out of his country. It's hard to believe those kinds of scams are still thriving, but they are. In fact, according to a recent survey conducted by the Consumer Federation of America, fraud (including fake checks, bogus sweepstakes and work-at-home schemes) is now among the top 10 consumer complaints received by consumer protection agencies.



Endless variations on fake check swindles are being perpetrated by phone, letter and email, including these gems:

You've won a foreign lottery and are sent a check that's the first installment of your winnings. To get the rest, you must deposit and cash the check, then wire the money to someone who will pay facilitate the transaction and pay taxes on your behalf.

Someone responds to your classified ad or online auction posting for a valuable item. They have a logical-sounding reason why you're receiving a check above the purchase price: For example, they live overseas and asked someone in the U.S. who owes them money send you a check for more than your sales price; then, you'll keep your share and wire the buyer the difference.

You're hired as a secret shopper to help evaluate a money-transfer service. You're sent a check to deposit, minus your "pay," and are then asked to wire out the remainder using the service being tested.

What these scams have in common is that the checks themselves are fraudulent. Thieves count on the fact that your bank generally must make deposited funds available to you within a few days. However, weeks may pass before the bank ultimately discovers the fraud, at which point they bounce the check. You must then repay your bank the money or have your account frozen or closed and be sued — possibly even face criminal charges.

Today's sophisticated scanners, printers and software programs make it easy to create checks that sometimes even fool authorities. A few warning signs:

Fake checks are often printed on lighter, slippery paper and lack at least one perforated or rough edge.

Missing or faded bank logo, suggesting it may have been copied.

No street address or a P.O. Box only, or an inaccurate ZIP code. Check number at the upper right corner doesn't match the number on the check's bottom line.

Usually drawn for less than \$5,000 because by law, deposits under that amount must be made available to you within five days. Crooks count on your completing their transaction before the check has actually been cleared by the issuing bank.

Stains or gaps around signatures, a digitized appearance, or odd pen strokes, suggesting a scanned or forged signature.

The first nine digits in the check's bottom line typically identify the routing number of the issuing bank. Having fewer or more than nine digits means it's fake. Verify correct routing numbers at www.fededirectory.frb.org/reserve.cfm.

Many good resources exist where you can learn more about fake check scams and how to avoid them, including the FBI (www.fbi.gov/scams-safety), the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov), the Consumer Federation of America (www.consumerfed.org), and the National Consumers League (www.fakechecks.org/index2.html).

To paraphrase P.T. Barnum, there's a new scam born every minute. Just make sure you're not one of the poor suckers who falls for it.

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

PGFD and Lowe's Partner for Fire Safety

By MARK BRADY

PGC/EMS Press Information

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department partnered with Lowe's of Largo, Maryland, to promote safety for local homeowners.

Firefighters/Medics and employees of the Lowe's Home Improvement store on Campus Way South teamed up to check smoke alarms, provide fire safety and injury prevention material.

Lowe's also provided reflective mail box numbers for homeowners that will assist first responders with a quick and easy location of exact address.

Sixteen Fire/EMS Department personnel and Lowe's employees went door-to-door on Kettering Drive Friday morning, October 17, providing this valuable life saving information to very grateful members of the community. Lowe's of Largo provided smoke alarms and address numbers at no cost.

Fire Lieutenant Eric Hurt from the Department's Facilities and Resource Planning office coordi-

nated the event with Lowe's.

He stated, "We are appreciative of our partnership with Lowe's in providing the resources and staff to help us keep Safety First."

Staff from Lowe's of Largo included:

Jonathan Stern, Human Resources Manager

Ted Sligh, Assistant Store Manager

Kwessi Annor, Department Manager

Aaron Allen, Customer Service Associate

Isaac Holdbrook, Customer Service Associate

Earlene Mayo, Customer Service Associate

Shonta Holmes, Customer Service Associate

In addition to Fire Lieutenant **Eric Hurt** the following Fire/EMS Department personnel participated in the door-to-door campaign:

Tommy (TJ) James, 1st Battalion Chief

Gus Yates, Acting Fire Captain, Largo/Kettering Fire/EMS Station 846

Josh Reedy, Firefighter-Medic Lieutenant, Station 846

Jameson Scarlata, Fire Technician, Technical Services



PHOTO BY MARK E. BRADY
Jonathan Stern, Lowe's HR Manager, and Fire Lt. Hurt discuss fire safety with Mr. Ernest Baskerville at his home in the 400 block of Kettering Drive.

Mathew Kershaw, Firefighter/Medic, Station 846

Damien Reid, Firefighter-Medic, Station 846

Andrew Mika, Firefighter/Medic, Station 846

Robert Herbert, Firefighter/Medic, Station 846

Prince George's County citizens and residents may request a smoke alarm installed in their home, free of charge, by contacting our Safety First Smoke Alarm

number at 301-864-SAFE (7233) or on-line.

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, Daylight Savings Time will end and Firefighters will be reminding citizens and residents that when they move their clocks back one hour that it is a good time to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. "Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery"

Fee from A1

"When you compare the need to the amount of revenue we're bringing in and the time-frame we committed to doing it, it just doesn't match up," said Erik Fisher, a workgroup member and land use planner with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The recommendation that Griffin made to the Task Force on Sustainable Growth and Wastewater Disposal would increase the average residential fee from \$30 per year to \$60 per year starting in the 2013 fiscal

year and \$90 per year in the 2015 fiscal year. Starting in fiscal year 2016, the fee would be indexed to inflation, with a 3 percent cap per year.

Fisher favored a higher increase in the bay restoration fee, with an additional increment to \$10 a month, or \$120 a year.

"I'm concerned that even the scenario that was recommended will not reach, will not fulfill that commitment," Fisher said.

Some members of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, which also took part in the task force meeting,

Stimulus from A1

State officials are considering efforts to fund transportation projects with money from Maryland's taxpayers. In Annapolis Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown supported the possibility of a 15-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax hike to boost jobs through road and mass transit projects, including construction of the Red Line light rail system in Baltimore and the Purple Line rail system proposed to run between Bethesda and New Carrollton.

This follows a vote in the U.S. Senate Oct. 11 to block Obama's jobs package, which could have given Maryland \$645 million in transportation and construction funds and \$315 million more for school repairs, according to the White House. Senate Democrats are still trying to push parts of the bill through.

"The Republicans didn't even allow us to bring this issue up for debate," said Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. "The president's proposal, which was heavy on infrastructure, would help an industry that was very much impacted by the downturn in the economy."

Since early 2009, more than \$8 billion in federal recovery money has been funneled through the Maryland economy, including around \$650 million in transportation funding, according to state reports.

Basu said this money kept work crews out of unemployment. What it didn't do was lead to lasting recovery.

Construction is down --

shrinking 12 percent in Maryland since Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February 2009. In early 2011, two years after funds were approved to stop job loss, about 136,000 Marylanders were working in construction, down nearly 25 percent from 2007, according to Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

This has left companies struggling for work and often reluctant to share projects or bid fair deals, a major concern in an industry so dependent on cooperation among subcontractors.

"We can all survive, but we can't fight," said Steve Sorrells, operations manager of D&S Site Maintenance and Construction, an Arnold-based company with nine employees. "If I can bite your head off over \$1,000 dollars, I'll bite your head off. But why don't we just do a job together?"

Sorrells said recovery money was doled out mostly to large general contractors who -- because work has been scarce -- haven't done enough to spread it around to smaller companies. Thus the impact for businesses like his has been negligible, he said.

D&S did receive \$145,934 in recovery funds as a subcontractor for a Grunley Construction project in Bethesda, according to federal data.

Joe Beuchert of Beuchert Excavating in Newburg said he saw recovery money going mostly to road crews rather than businesses like his that focus on

raised concerns about the recommendations.

"The concern is that if we do move from 2020 to 2025, what certainty, what assurance, do we have that the goals for the bay cleanup will be achieved?" said Alan Girard, senior land use policy manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Girard said he thinks the fee increase will help Maryland meet its bay cleanup goals, but the task force needs to "get it done right."

"We want to make sure that the assumptions that go into the calculations are correct and that

if the money's raised, it provides the results that we need," he said.

O'Malley spokeswoman Takirra Winfield said the governor will continue to aim for 2020 if the task force recommends the deadline extension in its final report.

"We've been a leader and we're going to continue to be a leader. It makes more sense for us to aim for a positive result sooner rather than later," Winfield said.

The task force's final report to O'Malley is due Dec. 1.

new construction. He called the current state of the industry "horrible" and said the government has focused more on pouring asphalt than building new infrastructure.

Cardin said he thinks some stimulus projects will add jobs, even if transportation money went largely to road and bridge repair. Maryland pushed these "shovel-ready" projects because they put crews to work quickly, speeding up the timeline for needed repairs.

"If you believe that these projects were going to happen at some point in time, you can argue that you were just accelerating them, and you weren't really creating anything. You were just sort of kicking the can down the road," said Joel Zingesser, director of corporate communication at Grunley, which received about \$296 million of recovery money in Maryland.

Adie Tomer, a senior research analyst in the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program noted the dueling interests of Congress' recovery bill.

"They wanted to get the money out fast as well as create jobs," he said. "They're not always one in the same."

Still, recovery funds did allow states to complete repairs that Tomer said needed to be done sooner rather than later. A study by Smart Growth America noted that maintenance jobs were a good use of money because they require little investment in land and materials, and more can be spent on wages.

But public transit projects -- things like Red Line and Purple Line -- are better long-term investments, Tomer said, because they employ workers over many years and create new kinds of work.

The Red Line is among 14 infrastructure projects fast-tracked Oct. 11 by President Obama for expedited permitting and review. Spokesman Terry Owens of the Maryland Transit Administration said the project would create around 9,800 construction jobs, citing a study by researchers from the University of Baltimore.

Similarly, the Purple Line could create around 3,000 construction jobs each year over a five-year period, according to a study by Transportation Economics & Management Systems Inc., a Frederick-based consulting firm.

These projects will significantly boost construction, Cardin said, and lead to outside job growth.

The Red Line, estimated to cost about \$2.2 billion, and the Purple Line, estimated at \$1.9 billion, would both be funded equally with federal and state money, Owens said.

Still, no construction has begun, and the private sector is not rebounding quickly enough to support the industry when federal and state jobs run out.

"Maryland contractors don't necessarily have the brightest outlook," said Basu. "I'd expect a couple more soft years, though not necessarily cataclysmic -- beyond that, it's uncertain."



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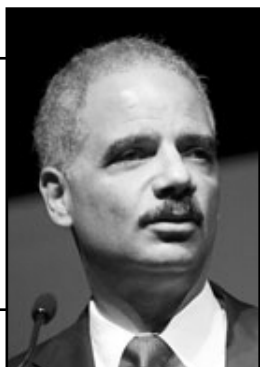
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Eric H. Holder, Jr.

Attorney General of the United States



Statements on Court Approval of Pigford II Settlement Agreement

WASHINGTON— Attorney General Eric Holder and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack released the following statements on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia approval of the historic Pigford II settlement:

"This settlement allows the Department of Agriculture and African-American farmers to focus on the future, and brings us one step closer to giving these farmers a chance to have their claims heard," said Attorney General Holder. "Accomplishing this settlement has been a top priority of this Administration and I am pleased that the court has approved it."

"Since my first day at USDA, I made it a priority to treat all Americans with respect and dignity and to ensure equal access to our programs. Court approval of the Pigford settlement is another important step to ensure some level of justice for black farmers and ranchers who faced discrimination when trying to obtain services from USDA," said Secretary Vilsack. "President Obama, Attorney General Holder and I are thrilled by the court's approval so we can continue turning the page on this sad chapter in USDA history. In the months and years ahead, we will not stop working to move the Department into a new era as a model employer and premier service provider for all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity or gender."

On Feb. 18, 2010, USDA and the U.S. Department of Justice announced an agreement with African-American farmers to settle the

Pigford II litigation for \$1.25 billion. Congress passed the Claims Settlement Act that funded the settlement in November 2010, and the bill was signed by President Obama in December 2010. The bill that passed the Senate and House included strong protections against waste, fraud and abuse to ensure integrity of the claims process. The claims process will soon be established and announced for individuals who may have faced discrimination.

In February 2010, the Departments of Justice and Agriculture announced the Pigford II settlement with African American farmers, in October 2010, the departments announced the Keepseagle settlement with Native American farmers, and in February 2011, the departments announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. Earlier this year, USDA also released a Civil Rights Assessment report that detailed an aggressive plan to promote equal access and opportunity at the department. The Department of Agriculture is currently implementing many of the department-wide recommendations that will help USDA improve service delivery to minority and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and enhance program delivery and outreach to promote diversity, inclusion and accessibility. An overview of these comprehensive efforts is available at www.ascr.usda.gov/new_era_at_cr.html

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Iraq Quagmire Ends

"After a decade of war, the nation that we need to build — and the nation that we will build — is our own."

President Barack Obama

Last week, President Obama announced that the remaining 39,000 U.S. service men and women in Iraq will be back on U.S. soil by the end of the year. This essentially brings to a close a nearly decade-long war that the President opposed from the start and vowed to end. This is welcome news for our troops and their families who have sacrificed so much in what has been increasingly viewed as an ill-advised and costly military mistake.

The nation owes a big debt of gratitude to the more than one million Americans who have been deployed to Iraq since the start of the war in March, 2003. This includes more than 4,480 who died on the battlefield and more than 32,000 who were wounded. Now that the war is ending, we must do everything in our power to ensure that the support our returning vets need to rebuild their lives and the jobs they need to support their families are waiting for them when they come home.

In addition to the human toll, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have also been a drain on the U.S. economy. At a cost of more than \$800 billion, including billions lost, unaccounted for or stolen, the Iraq War has been a major contributor to the nation's ballooning debt and deficit. It has also diverted funding that could have been used to create jobs and repair America's crumbling infrastructure. As the President said, "Over the past decade, we spent a trillion dollars on war,

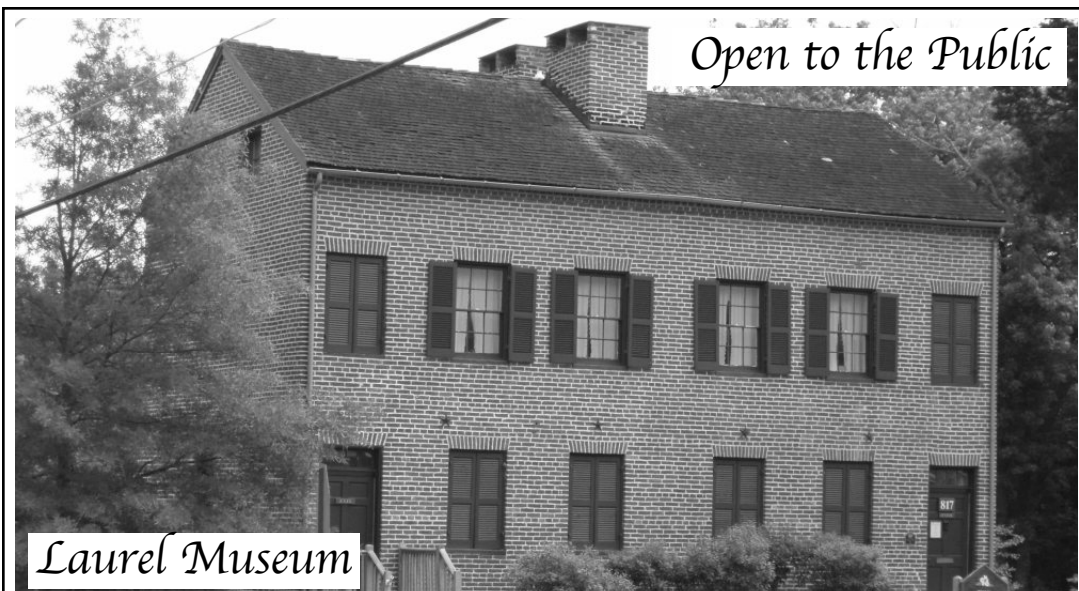
borrowed heavily from overseas and invested too little in the greatest source of our national strength -- our own people. Now, the nation we need to build is our own."

We could not agree more. In addition to withdrawing our troops, we should also accelerate Iraq's economic independence. Iraq is an oil-rich nation that has traditionally stifled the growth of small businesses and a vibrant middle class due to a culture of rampant corruption and bureaucratic red-tape. It is clear that if Iraq wants to move forward, it must change that culture from within -- not on the backs of the American taxpayer.

The money we have wasted in the war and in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure could be better spent here in America, rebuilding schools, roads, bridges, community centers, libraries and equipping our young people and returning veterans with the skills they need to enter the world of work.

It is unconscionable that any man or woman who goes abroad to fight our wars has to come home and fight for a job. But sadly that is the case. While overall unemployment remains unacceptably high at 9.1 percent, post-9/11 veterans suffer from a jobless rate of nearly 13 percent. That is why the President's American Jobs Act includes a \$5,600 tax credit for businesses that hire veterans who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

The President deserves our thanks for ensuring that our troops will be home for the holidays. Now it is up to Congress to honor their service and every American who wants to work by passing the American Jobs Act now.



Open to the Public

Laurel Museum

The Laurel Museum, 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland
Located in a former 1840's mill workers' home. The museum houses collections of books, photographs, tools, personal artifacts, textiles and oral histories. The Museum's main floor is the site of exhibits devoted to the history of Laurel, Maryland. - Maintained by the Laurel Historical Society.

Discover the rich history of Laurel, Maryland, an historic town located on the Patuxent River half way between Baltimore and Washington. Learn about its mill town roots, railroad connections, African-American community and early suburban experiences. Explore the history of its schools, fire department, shops, banks, Main Street. Meet the people who helped it grow into a thriving and diverse community.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Jobs, Jobs, Jobs, Stupid

"The Economy Stupid" were the words on the now famous sign in successful presidential candidate Bill Clinton's 1992 war room. Today, that sign should be in the war rooms of all candidates—from those seeking the presidency down to those running for local office. And right below it should be three words, "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs." The time has come for all our elected leaders and those who want to win our votes in the months ahead to focus on the most pressing problem facing our country—the jobs crisis.

Some of our leaders are stepping up to offer solutions—including Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), who along with 44 colleagues has introduced "The Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act" (H.R. 2914) to create over 2.2 million jobs for two years in order to provide time to get the economy back up and running and respond to some of our greatest needs. With 13.9 million people out of work—many for more than nine months, extended unemployment benefits scheduled to expire at year's end, and dim prospects for full-time employment among private sector employers who largely refuse to hire those who are currently jobless, jobs are critical to our nation's economic recovery. And as Rep. Schakowsky has noted, "Congress can and must do something today."

Each part of Rep. Schakowsky's bold proposal would create real jobs immediately that would benefit children, their parents, and their communities. This critical initiative would create a Neighborhood Heroes Corps and a Child Care Corps to provide support for early childhood, elementary and secondary educational services—the most strategic and cost effective investments our nation can make to lift children out of poverty and to ensure an adequately educated workforce for the future. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 230,000 education jobs have been lost since 2008. State and local budgets are stretched and the American Association of School Administrators says more than a quarter of a million education jobs could be lost this school year. This bill would keep those

jobs secure and rehire some of the teachers laid off by funding 300,000 education jobs for two years. Rep. Schakowsky's proposal also would help bridge the gap between what's needed and what's available through the Early Head Start program. This program which helps children in the years of greatest brain development currently reaches only three percent of eligible children from birth to age three. Her proposal will create 100,000 new jobs to serve infants and toddlers who desperately need a healthy, fair start in life.

Amanda, 4, and Emily, 3, play with toys their parents got on a bartering website called freecycle. Their father, John Nailor, owns a computer repair business in Ewart, Michigan but makes less than \$22,314 a year, the poverty level for a family of four. "If it weren't for food stamps and the income tax credit, I don't know where we'd be," he said. "We would be lost."

Children like three-year-old Emily Nailor of Ewart, Michigan, who lives with her four-year-old sister Amanda and their parents John and Sarah, who earn less than \$22,314 a year, the official poverty guideline for a family of four. "If it weren't for food stamps and the income tax credit, I don't know where we'd be," John said. The Nailors don't fit the old image

of a poor family. They live in a house with a yard in a small town in Middle America—the sort of place that might have been featured in a Norman Rockwell painting, according to reporter Julia Cass. On assignment for the Children's Defense Fund, she found the Nailor family in a rural county in central Michigan where 35 percent of the children live in poverty. John is a certified computer technician, and Sarah graduated from culinary arts school. But with a very high local unemployment rate and few opportunities available, neither one has been able to translate their education and training into a full-time job. For the last two years John's tried to keep the family afloat by running his own business fixing clients' computers and recycling old computers for their metal parts, but, Cass notes, "The best John can say about it is that 'I'm still in business, even though we don't have enough business to get off food stamps.'"

The children's toys are mostly second hand, and their clothes are hand-me-downs that John got through Freecycle.org, an international website with local groups that trade items for free. About 300 people in Osceola County and three

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