

BUSINESS

Smoke from A1

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, the report didn't consider smoking rates. The rankings were largely based on state-funded tobacco prevention and cessation programs, which Maryland lacks.

Smoking has been proven to greatly increase the risk of strokes, lung cancer and coronary heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States.

DeMarco points to the state's tobacco tax and smoke-free law as examples of its commitment to reducing the number of smokers.

While these measures have encouraged people to stop smoking, "what they need is help with cessation advice, an active line to call and low-income individuals need help with patches and accessories to help quit," DeMarco said.

Maryland is one of two states without tobacco cessation benefits for state employees. The other state is Louisiana.

"I don't understand it personally because Maryland has a vast interest in public health," Williams said.

Tobacco prevention programs are another area where "Maryland isn't doing great," she said.

Funding for such programs has fallen significantly in the last few years. Of an estimated \$550 million in tobacco-generated revenue from settlement payments and tobacco taxes, only .8 percent is spent on tobacco prevention programs, according to a report by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Resources like the Quitline, a hotline for smoking cessation services, have been forced to work with tighter budgets. Maryland has budgeted \$1.20 per smoker, a fraction of the \$10.53 per smoker recommended by CDC.

Additional funding comes from the federal government, since 30 percent of people who call the Quitline are enrolled in Medicaid, a program equally funded between state and federal government, said Phillips. The state was one of the first to receive federal money for the Quitline.

Despite its low funding, Williams applauded Maryland for supplying patches or gum to Quitline callers free of charge.

And the Quitline, staffed by professional counselors, never has a busy signal, said Phillips. "The services are there."

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ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol"

"MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE -- GHOST PROTOCOL"

B+

Rated PG-13 for moderate action violence, a little mild profanity.
2 hrs., 13 min.

with IMF agent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) getting busted out of a Russian prison, moves quickly to a mission to prevent nuclear launch codes from falling into the hands of a madman, and after that barely pauses to catch its breath before people are dangling from skyscrapers and leaping out of trains. Yet instead of feeling chaotic and exhausting, as movies that seem to feature nonstop action often do, this one is breezy and invigorating, the action fluid and logical. Not to pick on the "Transformers" movies, but the incoherent action in them is a big part of why they're terrible. Brad Bird lays everything out perfectly, ably assisted by editor Paul Hirsch and cinematographer Robert Elswit, who won Oscars for their respective work on "The Empire Strikes Back" and "There Will Be Blood."

Ethan's partners this time are Benji (Simon Pegg), his old I.T. buddy who has graduated to field agent, and Jane (Paula Patton), whom Ethan has not worked with before. Jane is a skilled agent but is currently hot under the collar because of what happened in a botched mission involving fellow agent Hanaway (Josh Holloway) and devious French assassin Sabine Moreau (Lea Seydoux). The fourth member of their team -- and this chapter is all about the importance of teamwork -- is Brandt (Jeremy Renner), a pencil-pushing assistant to the IMF Secretary (Tom Wilkinson) who's dragged into the middle of the action.

The screenplay, by "Alias" writers Josh Appelbaum and



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

This is not just another mission. The IMF is shut down when it's implicated in a global terrorist bombing plot. Ghost Protocol is initiated and Ethan Hunt and his rogue new team must go undercover to clear their organization's name. No help, no contact, off the grid. You have never seen a mission grittier and more intense than this. -- (C) Paramount

Andre Nemeč, is marked by dialogue that's more efficient than memorable -- functional, rather than clever -- and a story that's twisty enough to be "Mission: Impossible" without being impossible to follow. The stakes are clearly delineated, and we know what the objectives are. None of it is remarkable, though it's always nice to see the old classics played with enthusiasm and skill. (And I do wish the bad guy had more to him than this one does.) The real meat is in the execution of the stunts, and the way they're seamlessly integrated with the scenes in between. Bird doesn't do anything just because it looks cool. He does things that make sense within the story, and that look cool.

Everyone's going to be talking about the sequence set at the world's tallest building in Dubai.

And with good reason: it's one of the most breathtakingly suspenseful and shrewdly crafted segments I've ever seen. You don't even need to be told that it was actually shot there, and that Cruise did most of his own stunts; you can tell by looking. More importantly, the sequence works not because it's BIG and HUGE -- it's not like they blow up the building, or outrun a tidal wave, or knock a bridge over -- but because it operates on simple principles and slows down enough to let us see, and thus care about, what's going on.

That's the movie in a nutshell: thrilling, charismatic, fun, and not too ludicrous. If Brad Bird chooses to accept the mission of making more live-action films as vigorously entertaining as this one, I'll never disavow him.

The Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, featuring Cruisers University

ANNAPOLIS, United States Yacht Shows, producers of the oldest and most renowned in-water boat shows in the world, is pleased to announce that it will produce a spring boat show called the Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, featuring Cruisers University.

The new event will be held at the Annapolis City Dock, Ego Alley, surrounding city lots, the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Hotel, the Annapolis Recreation Center, and Susan Campbell Park. The show will include more than 2,000 feet of floating docks, accommodating approximately 80 sailboats, both mono-hull

and multi-hull. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$4 for youth 7-12, and free for children 6 and under. For those attending Cruisers University, a separate tuition schedule will cover all classes, meals, demos, on-board instruction, and social activities. Additionally, a special Cruising Destinations Series will be available to all show attendees on Saturday and Sunday.

Cruisers University is a four-day educational program designed to introduce people to life aboard a cruising boat. Billed as "The Ultimate Aid to Navigation," Cruisers University provides expert instruction in a wide range of

subjects pertinent to long-range cruising, such as on-board technical systems, cruising destinations, insuring and outfitting your boat, as well as mastery level two-day courses on Diesel Maintenance, Navigation and Chart Plotting, and Electrical Systems Design.

The Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, featuring Cruisers University, follows the Bay Bridge Boat Show, the United States Yacht Shows' spring powerboat show in Stevensville, Maryland. Now in its 30th year, the Bay Bridge Boat Show has traditionally signaled the start of the spring boating season in the Chesapeake Bay.

More than two hundred powerboats of all sizes will be on display April 19-22, accompanied by more than one hundred land and booth vendors.

"Over the 11-day period of April 19-29, the Annapolis area will host perhaps the largest spring gathering of boaters in the United States," says Paul Jacobs, General Manager of United States Yacht Shows. "It's an amazing opportunity for anyone connected to the boating industry, as well as those who just love the boating lifestyle."

For ticketing and exhibiting information, go to www.usboat.com or call 410-268-8828.



The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Sorry Lakers: Chris Paul and the Clippers Now OCCUPY Los Angeles

The morning buzz in sports is about the greatest point guard of our generation, Chris Paul, joining the Los Angeles Clippers. It's a dizzying thought, but the Clippers, the much-mocked baby brother to the mighty Lakers in LA, now have the city's better basketball team.

This is a day for Frank Stallone, for Billy Carter, for Roger Clinton.... the day that your little bro with the runny nose and the toilet paper stuck to his shoe, inherited the earth.

Paul is a 26-year-old future hall of famer who might end his career as the greatest point guard to walk the earth. He now joins a team with reigning rookie of the year Blake Griffin, terrific young center DeAndre Jordan and former finals MVP Chauncey Billups.

They are young; they are loaded; they are primed for a sprint of a 66 game season where youth will reign supreme.

The Lakers, in sharp contrast, are old, creaky, and bitter that their own trade for Paul was voided by the league earlier this week.

I recommend going here and here if you want more analysis of the trade itself. I'm more interested in the cultural shift at play.

Not unlike seeing Newt Gingrich at the head of the Republican primaries, having the Clippers rule Los Angeles hoops is like living in an alternative universe. To put it in LA terms, it's like one of the Jackass movies winning the Oscar for best documentary.

The Lakers have been to 32 NBA Finals and won 16 championships. The Clippers have the most 60-loss seasons in NBA history.

The Lakers are the team of Magic, Kareem, Shaq, Kobe, with the ubiquitous Jack Nicholson in the front row. The Clippers are the team most known for their geriatric, feral, furtive owner Donald Sterling, who favors unbuttoned shirts, gold chains, and been accused of bringing "escorts" to ogle at his players changing in the locker room.

In recent years, Sterling has had to fend off racial discrimination suits from both former Clipper employees and tenants living in his archipelago of slums.

As comedian Nick Bakay once wrote, "the Lakers' luxury box is prawns, caviar and opera glasses while the Clippers stock Zantac, barf bags, some good books, and cyanide." They share an arena, the Staples Center, that has over the last decade resembled a coke-fueled celebrity yacht party for Lakers games and a dour, family reunion no one attends for the Clips.

These aren't two NBA teams. They are the two Americas.

But in a 2011 where we've seen global revolutions from the Middle East to the Mid-West overturn accepted truths in thought and deed, it's hard to think of a more appropriate way for the SportsWorld to end its year.

The Lakers have always been the ultimate team of the 1%. The Clippers are the also-rans/the afterthoughts are bottom-dwelling 99ers of the first order.

One trade and this sacrosanct truth has been turned on its head.

To see an exhilarating symbol of the change 2011 has brought and 2012 will bring, you can do worse than remembering the names Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and the soon-to-be almighty Clippers.

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Calendar of Events

December 29 - January 4, 2012

25th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Dates & Times: Friday, November 25, 2012 through Sunday, January 1, 2012 5-9:30 pm (daily)

Description: You won't want to miss this season's spectacular drive-through displays! Featuring more than a million twinkling lights, the 25th Annual Winter Festival of Light is a joyful event for everyone. Please bring a canned good with you for donation to local food banks.

Cost: \$5/cars and vans; \$15/mini-buses and limos; \$25/buses; \$10/multi-visit passes for cars and vans. The festival is FREE on December 25.

Ages: All ages

Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544

Annual Festival of Trees Celebration

Date and Time: Through Monday, January 2

Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-9 pm; Friday 9 am-7 pm; Saturday 9 am-5 pm; CLOSED Sundays

Description: Once again, Huntington takes the time to honor the environment through creative recycling. This winter exhibition showcases handmade trees and recycled arts by various community artists.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: *Huntington Community Center*
13022 8th Street, Bowie 20720
Contact: 301-464-3725; TTY 301-218-6768

The Calverts By Candlelight

Date & Time: Friday, December 30, 6 pm

Description: Pay an evening call on the Calverts and enjoy refreshments, live music, and children's activities.

Cost: \$5/adult; FREE children 12 & under accompanied by an adult

Ages: All ages

Location: *Riversdale House Museum*
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

First Tuesdays at Abraham Hall

Occurs The First Tuesday of every month(s) effective 5/3/2012 until 5/1/2012 at 12:53 PM.

Date & Time: Monthly, First Tuesdays, 12 noon-2 pm

Description: Attend monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at Abraham Hall. Participants interested in Black History programs and exhibits in Prince George's County engage in lively discussions about African American topics while enjoying a brown bag lunch. Space is limited. RSVP required by the 25th of the preceding month.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: *Abraham Hall*
7612 Muirkirk Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544

PUBLICLY PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2012-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publicly Playhouse 2012-2012 season: On Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, the Playhouse hosts the international tour of the Russian National Ballet Theatre in a classical full-length presentation of "Cinderella" that is full of humor and features a large Russian company trained in the Bolshoi and Kirov traditions.

Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.

In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm. Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18.

Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.

Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students
Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class. On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.
The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit arts.pgprks.com

EARTH TALK ... Asthma Rates on the Increase."

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that asthma rates in the U.S. have doubled in the last three decades? What's behind this troubling trend and what can we do to reverse it?

-- Patrick, via e-mail

Asthma is on the rise across the U.S., doubling since the 1980s. According to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), most people who develop asthma likely have a genetic predisposition but also probably experienced "critical environmental exposures during the first years of life." Asthma rates are highest in urban areas where auto and industrial emissions make for difficult breathing. But air quality in U.S. cities has improved in the last few decades, leaving researchers puzzled as to what's behind the trend.

One theory is that better hygiene in developed countries means that Westerners have less exposure to bacteria, viruses and parasites, altering our immune response with the result being increased risk for allergic diseases like asthma. Indeed, Western asthma rates are 50 times higher than in rural Africa. While this "hygiene hypothesis" may be part of the story, researchers believe that there are also other factors.

Some studies have shown a correlation between asthma and obesity, though a direct link is hard to prove. Other research has shown that psychological stress can trigger asthma attacks in those already predisposed. Dr. Harold Nelson, pro-

fessor of medicine at the National Jewish Health in Denver, explained in a 2009 New York Times blog post that increased acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol) use in young children, exposure to household cleaning sprays, and lack of Vitamin D also likely contribute to rising asthma rates. But how?

Pediatricians recommend against giving young children aspirin today, given the increased risk of Reye's syndrome, so many parents now use acetaminophen to relieve pain and reduce fever. But acetaminophen lowers levels of the antioxidant glutathione, resulting in an increased asthma risk. A 2008 study found that use of acetaminophen in the first year of life was associated with a 46 percent increase in the prevalence of asthma symptoms among a study group of 200,000 six- and seven-year-olds.

In regard to household cleaners, frequent inhaling of the spray mist from glass cleaners and air fresheners among other products irritates the lungs and increases the risk of developing asthma. A 2007 study found that European adults who used spray cleaners four days a week faced double the risk of developing asthma symptoms, while weekly use of cleaners increased the risk by 50 percent.

The link between Vitamin D deficiency and asthma comes from several studies on the topic over the last decade showing that low levels of Vitamin D in pregnant mothers result in more asthma in offspring. Those who spend lots of time



CREDIT: ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Asthma rates have doubled since the 1980s, in spite of air quality in U.S. cities having increased over the same time period. This has led some experts to conclude that other factors -- including Vitamin D deficiency, obesity, overuse of acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol) and spray mist from glass cleaners and air fresheners -- are now playing a role.

indoors are particularly vulnerable to Vitamin D deficiency, as exposure to sunlight increases the body's ability to produce the important nutrient.

Dr. Nelson says that people can take steps to lower their exposure to these "new" asthma risk factors. For one, forego spray cleaners and air fresheners for liquids and pump sprays that don't produce a fine mist. Pregnant women might consider Vitamin D supplements. And parents should discuss pain relievers with their doctor and consider alternating different types so kids don't get overexposed to any particular one.

CONTACTS: EDF,

www.edf.org/health/air/asthma; "New Risks Linked to Asthma Rise" (New York Times, 2/12/09),

well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/12/new-risk-factors-linked-to-asthma-rise.

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Health reform foes' dismal vision *By: Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown*

The Supreme Court's recent decision to consider the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act has reignited the national debate about the future of health care reform. But in Maryland, we can see the value of health care reform every day.

The act has already saved seniors millions of dollars in prescription drug costs, made tax credits for insurance available to thousands of small businesses, helped hundreds of people with serious medical conditions get coverage and allowed young adults to remain on their parents' coverage as they gain their footing in this troubled economy.

An independent analysis showed that these health reforms are expected to help more than 350,000 uninsured Marylanders gain access to affordable coverage over the next several years — while strengthening our state's finances.

Opponents of this health reform act have taken aim largely at its minimum coverage provision, known as the "individual mandate," which is to take effect in 2014. They argue that requiring citizens to have insurance is tantamount to "regulating inac-

tivity" and exceeds Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce.

This argument is significantly flawed, however. We all need health care at various points in our lives, though exactly when, how much and how often is unpredictable. As Judge Laurence Silberman wrote recently in his circuit court opinion, it is "virtually inevitable" that every one of us will need health care.

People without health insurance are making the choice to let hospitals provide emergency treatment and then pass on the costs — which in 2008 reached \$43 billion — to others. Thus, we are all in the market for health care, and the reform law simply makes payment in this market fair and rational.

Yet the case against the health reform act suffers from more than legal flaws. It also reflects a dismal vision of who we are as a people. States are "injured," according to a legal brief submitted by Florida and 25 other states, when their citizens gain access to health insurance. In their petition to the Supreme Court, these states argue that the

"injury" allowing them to challenge the law is that millions of our most vulnerable Americans — children, the poor and people with disabilities — who are now eligible for Medicaid coverage, may actually sign up for it.

I see it differently. When Maryland citizens obtain health insurance, we all benefit. Parents can recover and return to work to support their families. Communities can take better care of those in need. Companies don't have to choose between staying afloat and providing health coverage for their workers.

Far from injuring states, this new health care act helps them by modernizing Medicaid and establishing transparent exchanges for individuals and small businesses to shop for affordable health insurance coverage. These tools and others help us tackle the health care system's twin challenges of cost and access.

For opponents of the law, however, access is not a fundamental value. Their case against the individual mandate provision relies on their argument that, in fact, hospitals should not be

required to treat uninsured citizens in a health emergency. Instead, they suggest that Congress impose "restrictions or penalties" on those who lack insurance at the time of accident or illness.

This proposal solves nothing. Who will be able to pay these penalties when faced with catastrophic hospital bills they already can't afford?

The experience of a young Maryland woman who spoke recently to our health reform council shows why. Stricken with a rare form of kidney disease, she lost her job and her insurance in the economic downturn. Repeated visits to the emergency room would not keep her healthy — even if she could pay. Only coverage through Maryland's high risk insurance pool, funded by the Affordable Care Act, made it possible for her to receive the care she needs.

Leaving people to suffer at the door of emergency rooms is the sad and constricted vision held by those who chanted "let him die!" at a Republican presidential debate. But it is not a vision worthy of our great nation.

Cameras from A1

Highway Safety, an independent, non-profit organization that conducts traffic research and aims to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities.

According to AAA Mid-Atlantic, a work-zone speed camera located on the Capital Beltway has issued 21,000 tickets in the last three months. Lon Anderson, a spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic, said that the cameras in work zones help discourage speeding and make the roads safer for workers and drivers.

However, Anderson said that some speed cameras in communities are being used more as a revenue generator rather than a tool for safety.

Grassroots organizations have sprung up in Maryland and across the nation in protest of speed and red light cameras.

"I don't think that the testi-

mony of a machine that is run by a company that makes money off the number of tickets issued should be sufficient to find me guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," said Ron Ely, founder of StopBigBrotherMD.org, a website that opposes automated traffic enforcement. "I am entitled to face my accuser, a human accuser."

His website and several others compile locations of speed and red light cameras.

For others, the cameras raise questions about fairness.

"The world is a complicated place. For every absolute rule that you set up there will always be circumstances that arise where an exception needs to be made," said Jay Stanley, a privacy and technology expert with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Police officers can use their judgment to decide whether or

not to issue a ticket, whereas cameras issue tickets indiscriminately.

"You don't want to mix up justice and profit," Stanley said.

But Fleming believes the revenue generated from tickets is ultimately a moot point.

"From a safety standpoint, the purpose of cameras is to convince people to obey the law, because if they don't they might get a ticket. Therefore the goal is for no tickets at all," Fleming said. "It should be anything but a ticket program, it's a deterrent program."

Studies have differed over the effectiveness of cameras in preventing accidents. For example, the Federal Highway Administration released a study on the effectiveness of red light cameras at preventing accidents in April 2005. The report studied 132 intersections with red light cameras in seven locations around the nation, including

Baltimore, Howard County and Montgomery County. The report found that there was a 25 percent decrease in total right-angle crashes, but a 15 percent increase in total rear-end crashes.

In Maryland, a red light camera ticket carries a \$100 maximum fine with no points, and a speed camera carries a \$40 maximum fine with no points.

Many choose to simply pay the fine rather than go through the trouble and expense of going to court, even if they have mixed feelings about the cameras. Clark said the speed camera that caught her was mounted just after an intersection where the speed limit drops drastically after the intersection.

But she didn't contest it and paid the fine.

"No I didn't, it's kind of hard to do that," she said.

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Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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"GIVE HOPE, GIVE BLOOD"

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.

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