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PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL S. HENDERSON (1899-1966) PAUL HENDERSON PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thurgood Marshall, who became the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice, receiving National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Life Membership Plaque from Carl Murphy, Editor of the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper in 1956. This and other historic Henderson photos will be exhibited at the Maryland Historical Society on February 23.

Civil Rights History Photos & Panel includes Reads Drug Store, Black Panthers and "The Wire" Feb 23

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Historical Society

Baltimore, Maryland (January 12, 2012) – The Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) will explore the Paul Henderson Photograph Collection (ca. 1930-1960) and the

McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project (1969-1977) in a Black History Month event on February 23 from 6-8pm. There will be a panel discussion and accompanying exhibition. The panelists will discuss their personal affiliations and expertise with the civil rights struggle in Maryland in relation to the collections. Dr. Helena Hicks, one of only three sur-

living members of the widely publicized sit-in at Read's Drugstore in Baltimore, will reveal the impromptu nature of the 1955 protest. The event is free and open to the public. Parking is free. For further information:

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New Method of Tracking Student Debt Unveiled

Facelift Designed to Help Students Determine Eligibility for Loan Forgiveness

By ROB BOCK
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - An easier, more intuitive method of tracking more student debt information was unveiled in a roundtable discussion at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus Tuesday, giving a much-needed facelift to a muddled system designed to help students determine eligibility for loan forgiveness.

Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Towson, and U.S. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter unveiled the "Student Debt Repayment Assistant," a new way for those working in public service to determine if they are eligible for amnesty on some part of their student loans.

See DEBT, Page A3

State of the State a Prelude to Tough Legislative Session Ahead

By DAVE NYCZEPH
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Gov. Martin O'Malley made his case for job creation and same-sex marriage Wednesday, promoting his most ambitious agenda to date in his sixth State of the State address.

O'Malley stressed his administration's goal of growing the middle class and family-owned businesses, labeling this year's budget a jobs budget.

To balance that budget, the governor has proposed \$800 million in spending cuts and reductions this year, but his new job creation initiatives would require new taxes on everything from income to gas. Cuts alone won't do it this year, he said.

"In fact, to achieve balance over the last three years, we have relied almost entirely on cuts," O'Malley said. "But with 84 cents of every dollar we invest allocated to public education, public safety, and public health - and with one of the smallest state government workforces in the country - every passing



PHOTO BY JAY BAKER AT ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Governor Martin O'Malley delivers the State of the State Address.

year leaves fewer and fewer responsible options for budget cutting."

O'Malley got a lukewarm reception from Republican critics.

"It shows he is totally out of touch with Maryland families," Sen. David Brinkley, R-Frederick, said. "It was not so much a state of the state as a state of his policies and his politics."

One of O'Malley's proposed increases would cap income tax deductions and phase out certain exemptions

for those he's dubbed Maryland's higher earners.

In addition, O'Malley believes he can double the flush tax yield by switching most households over to a consumption-based fee structure.

"Along these lines, my Republican predecessor called the 'flush tax' one of his most important accomplishments while in office," O'Malley said. "By allowing

See STATE, Page A5

Obama's Education Reforms Leave Md. Education Leaders Encouraged, Wary

President Called for Increasing Grants, Reducing Proposed Student Loan Rates, Doubling the Number of Work-study Jobs

By TIM EBNER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Maryland education leaders mostly praised President Obama's comments on education in his State of the Union speech, but they worried about his mandate to keep higher education costs affordable or face funding repercussions.

"This was in many ways a piece of the speech that was strong on the rhetoric and weak on the how-to," said Don Kettl, dean of the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

In the address, Obama called for increasing grants, reducing proposed student loan rates and doubling the number of work-study jobs to keep higher education accessible to the middle class.

"The president understands it's not just the lower-income

classes that need support. Middle-class Americans are also looking for ways to support their sons and daughters," said Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Hrabowski also said he agrees with Obama's education priorities.

"I was encouraged by his emphasis on affordable higher education. He was very clear that our future depends on education," Hrabowski said.

Mickey Burnim, president of Bowie State University, said that the reforms would reduce the number of students dropping out of school to raise money for tuition costs.

Yet it was the president's lack of specifics in the address that left Maryland education policy experts wary.

"So let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you

See EDUCATION, Page A5

Maryland Schools Test Evaluating Teachers on Student Performance

By TIM EBNER
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Maryland schools are moving closer to overhauling the way that they evaluate teachers, putting more emphasis on student performance and test scores.

The new evaluation system is currently being tested in Baltimore City and six counties, and will be expanded to the rest of the state in June.

Supporters of the new system, including Gov. Martin O'Malley, said the change was necessary because Maryland did not have a statewide teacher evaluation system that took student performance into account.

Under the new system, half of a teacher's evaluation score will depend on student performance and the other half on professional development.

In the seven districts where the new evaluation models are being tested - Baltimore city and Baltimore, Charles, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and St. Mary's coun-

ties - supporters said feedback from teachers has been positive.

But teachers' unions said close monitoring of the new program will be needed as it is expanded to other counties at the end of this school year.

While each district can develop its own evaluation model, it must comply with a state law passed in 2010 that sparked a complete overhaul of the system.

Teacher evaluations are used to determine pay increases and promotions.

Right now, the state rates teachers on the basis of principal observation, professional experience and the quality of their course material.

As the changes take effect, continual review will be needed to ensure that each district develops a sound evaluation model, said Betty Weller, vice president of the Maryland State Education Association, the state's largest teachers union.

See TEACHER, Page A3

INSIDE

A Go for Off Shore Wind Farms
A federal environmental assessment, conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, has deemed there would be no significant environmental impact to moving ahead with wind energy projects in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey.
Community, Page A3

Gov. Christie Distorts History
In recent weeks, outrageous statements targeted at minority citizens have come out of the mouths of a number of conservative politicians - everything from the assertion that African Americans prefer food stamps over pay checks to the claim that "black people" are using "other people's money" to get ahead.
Opinion, Page A4

First Time Homebuyers
To spur home sales and help homebuyers with down payments and closing costs, SECU is participating in two programs offered by the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB). FHLB's First-Time Homebuyer Program provides low and moderate income homebuyers with up to \$7,500 in matching funds for down payment and closing cost assistance.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review
Haywire You know, when someone decided that mixed martial arts champion Gina Carano should be a movie star, it would have been easy to showcase her fighting skills in some brainless, slapped-together action flick. Why waste a good screenplay and a good director on someone who might not be a good actor?
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk
Dear EarthTalk:
I was horrified to read recently that our oceans are actually becoming acidic, that the continued burning of fossil fuels is changing the chemistry of our seas. What's going on?
-- Kim Richardson,
San Diego, CA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Dr. Mudd's last grandchild dies at 100

Marie Carmelite Mudd Summers was born one hundred years ago, Dec. 28, 1911, the seventh of the nine children of Samuel and Claudine Louise Mudd. She died on Jan. 24, the last grandchild of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd.

She was born and grew up in the historic home of her grandparents, now the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House, a museum open to the public, near Waldorf in Charles County. It was in that house that Dr. Mudd set the leg of the fleeing John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln.

Carmelite (as I always knew her) was valedictorian of her high school class. After high school, she moved to Washington where she graduated from Strayer Business College. On July 3, 1934 she married George Mace Summers at St. Peter's Church in Waldorf.

As one of her children said at her funeral, his mother was "one of the early stars of the women's movement." And indeed her work history is impressive: the Census Bureau, 14 years with the FBI where she worked in the office of J. Edgar Hoover, ten years with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and 17 years for the mayor of Cheverly.

As a volunteer, she participated in the preparation for Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States in 1979 and she served with the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society. But most impressive was her volunteering at Prince George's Hospital Center for more than 30 years, five days a week, until the age of 96. The hospital awarded her the 2003 Strata Award for Volunteer Service. And at the Collington Life Care Community, where she lived in recent years, she received the Collington

Volunteer of the Year award.

Her husband Mace died in 1972. Survivors include five children, George Mace Summers Jr., Robert Summers, Allan Summers, Patrick Summers and Anita Adee, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Church in Mitchellville with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Know a County resident 90 or older?

The Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking information about Prince George's County residents ages 90 and older. A special spring event is coming up for them. Special recognition will be given to centenarians—residents 100 years old and older.

If you know someone who resides in the County and turned 90 or older in 2011, or before, call the staff at 301-446-3400 no later than February 27.

Neighbors

Mayor Karen Rooker administered the oath of office to a new Morningside police officer, Ronald Seldon, during the December Town Meeting.

In the Washington Post "Animal Watch" column. I note that one of my neighbors on Skyline Drive reported a squirrel inside her fireplace. An officer came and removed the "healthy brown squirrel and returned it to the wild."

Sadly, I've learned of the deaths of several friends and will pay tribute to them in future columns. They include Arnie Calhoun of Skyline, Bernie Gilchrist of Auth Village, and Judy Mammano of District Heights.

Valentine Dinner Dance

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Valentine Dinner Dance on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. in Sarto Hall,

3611 Stewart Road, Forestville. A live band, "4 of a Kind," will entertain while Topolino's caters dinner, including grilled salmon, manicotti, chicken primavera and seafood primavera. Admission, \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Call for information at 301-735-8855 or George Hoehl, 301-599-0307.

May they rest in peace

James Warren Goode, 86, formerly of Ridgecrest Drive in Skyline, died Jan. 4 at his home in Mechanicsville. He was retired as a carpenter at Button & Goode Construction in Silver Spring. Survivors include his wife Doris Redmond Goode, twin sons Donald and Ronald Goode, two brothers and two sisters, ten grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Service was at Christ Episcopal Church in Chaptico with burial in the church cemetery.

Maj. William "Bill" Anthony Nogay, USAF retired, 91, of Hillcrest Heights, a decorated World War II B-17 pilot who flew 48 combat missions, died Jan. 14. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, he joined the Army Air Corps at 19 and became a pilot. He also worked as a cost analyst. His wife of 66 years, Mary Agnes Nogay, five children and 10 grandchildren survive him. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Church. Burial will be at Arlington at 11 a.m. on Feb. 23.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; Mary Graham, Feb. 4; Adam Cook, Feb. 5; Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter and my granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9.

Happy 62nd anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on Feb. 4.

301-446-3321.

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTERS

There are five senior activity centers that offer a wide range of services and programs for age 60 or older. Educational classes, recreation classes, special events, and social activities are offered Monday-Friday. The Department of Family Services, Aging Service Division provides limited transportation and nutritious hot lunches at the centers. Call 301-265-8450 for more information and reservations.

For more information about senior programs, please visit www.pgpark.com>Things To Do>Senior Activities or e-mail seniors@pgparks.com.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, MD will have their Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (5:00 PM-7:00 PM). Adults pay \$7.00, children \$5.00 (12 years and under) children free (5 Years and under). Benefit for St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish.

Neighborhood Events

Van Hollen Opening Statement at Hearing on the State of the U.S. Economy with Chairman Bernanke

Washington, DC — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, today delivered an opening statement at a hearing on the State of the U.S. Economy with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Van Hollen's opening statement, as prepared for delivery, is below.

Thank you very much, Chairman Ryan, and welcome, Chairman Bernanke.

We must use all the tools at our disposal to help put people back to work, and I commend you and your colleagues at the Federal Reserve for using various forms of monetary policy to promote higher levels of employment and stable prices. I find it troubling that, at a time when millions of Americans are still out of work, some of our Republican colleagues want to strip the Federal Reserve of that part of its mandate that focuses on full employment and putting people back to work.

Obviously the Federal Reserve must not waver in its commitment to price stability, but to deprive you of the tools necessary to boost employment would be a huge mistake. Indeed, without those tools, the economy today would be in much worse shape.

Chairman Bernanke, as you testified previously before this Committee, the measures taken by the Federal Reserve, the politically unpopular but economically necessary TARP legislation engineered by the Bush Administration, and the Recovery Act by the Obama Administration, averted "an extraordinarily severe downturn, perhaps a great depression."

Indeed, the day that President Bush left office, the day that President Obama was sworn in, the economy was collapsing at an even faster rate than originally thought. The gross domestic product was plummeting at a rate of 8.9 percent, in other words negative 8.9 percent GDP, and we were losing more than 840,000 jobs a month. Three years later, conditions have improved. The economy grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the last quarter, and 3.2 million private sector jobs have been created since March of 2010. Reports and findings by the Congressional Budget Office confirm your earlier assessments — that the passage of the Recovery Act, coupled with actions to save the auto industry and efforts by the Federal Reserve, helped end the free fall and began the climb upward toward economic growth.

Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office has told us that the Recovery Act helped save or create up to 3 million jobs in the year 2010 and lowered unemployment by up to 1.4 percentage points in 2011, compared to what it would have done if the Congress had not taken action. It is clear that we were on a huge downhill cascade and action taken by the Federal Reserve and President Obama helped end the economic freefall and turn the corner.

Still, we know that while the economy has improved, millions of Americans are still out of work, and the unemployment rate remains unacceptably high. Our economy is still vulnerable to outside shocks, from the Japanese Tsunami last year to the brewing European debt crisis, which has been ongoing. That is why our first priority has to be nurturing this fragile economy and making sure we do what we can to help small business and put people back to work.

So I commend you, Chairman Bernanke, for articulating in your prepared testimony that in pursuing medium- and long-run fiscal sustainability, we ought to take care not to do so much budget-cutting in the short-term that we impede the current economic recovery. In fact, you note that the two objectives — long-run fiscal sustainability and short-run stimulus — are mutually reinforcing.

Clearly, some policymakers in Europe are coming to this notion a little late. The British economy, for example, contracted 0.2 percent last quarter due in part to the severity of government spending cuts, according to a January 31 article in the Wall Street Journal. Christine Lagarde, Director of the International Monetary Fund, was quoted by BBC News in Davos, Switzerland as saying "[The IMF is] not suggesting there should be fiscal consolidation across the board." Ratings agency

Standard & Poor, in a note explaining the rationale behind their January 13th downgrade of nine Eurozone nations, noted, "A [budgetary] reform process based on a pillar of fiscal austerity alone risks becoming self-defeating, as domestic demand falls in line with consumers' rising concerns about job security and disposable incomes, eroding national tax revenues."

These are all reasons why we should take immediate action in this House on the jobs plan the President submitted to the Congress last September, including his significant infrastructure investments to help rebuild our infrastructure around the country.

We should also finish the job with respect to extending the payroll tax cut for 160 million Americans and making sure that unemployment insurance is there for people who have lost work through no fault of their own. And, Mr Chairman, I'm going to apologize to both you and Chairman Bernanke, because after this statement I'm going to have to go to the conference committee on that issue and I hope that conference committee will move forward quickly and without delay to get that job done.

As we nurture the fragile economy, we should also take immediate action to enact a plan to reduce the out-year deficits and debt in a stable, balanced, predictable way. The question is not whether we do that, but how. I support the kind of balanced framework proposed by bipartisan commissions like Simpson-Bowles and Rivlin-Domenici.

Mikulski to Lead Bipartisan Senate and House Leaders in Introducing Legislation to Fight Chronic Health Diseases

Bill Spurs Research and Drug Development into Most Deadly, Costly Diseases Like Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON — On Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, will be joined at a press conference by Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Representatives Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Chris Smith (R-N.J.), and George Vradenburg of USAgainstAlzheimer's to unveil the Spending Reductions through Innovations in Therapies (SPRINT) Act, bipartisan legislation which would spur innovation in research and drug development for chronic health conditions such as Alzheimer's, that are leading causes of death as well as the most costly to taxpayers.

The SPRINT Act will help speed the development of drugs and therapies to combat the most deadly and costly chronic diseases, including Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes and heart diseases. It invests in public-private partnerships to ensure scientists and researchers are able to develop new safe and effective drugs.

The bill compresses the product development timelines and increases the volume of drugs in the development pipeline so that priority is given to the most promising pharmaceuticals. Additionally, it expedites the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process so that drugs can be brought more quickly to market to the patients who need them.

The legislation saves the federal government and taxpayers by working to cure the diseases that bear the greatest health care costs. It requires that every \$1 in federal funds is matched by \$2 in private investment so that federal dollars are best spent on market-tested and market-ready drugs. Alzheimer's disease alone will cost the nation \$183 billion in 2012, 70 percent of which is covered by Medicare and Medicaid.

Indoor Track: Taivon Jacobs Leads Suitland at Prince George's Meet

Speedsters battled it out Thursday at Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover in the county championships, and the result was the latest crop of nationally elite times. Taivon Jacobs was one of the headliners. The Suitland junior took apart the field in the 300-meter dash before becoming a major contributor on the Rams' winning sprint relay teams.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Senior Kenton Connors who attends Forestville Military Academy is scholar of the week. His GPA is 3.66 and Academics are AP Calculus AB, AP Psychology, TRIO Program (Educational Talent Search), John Hopkins CTY (Center for Talented Youth).

Kenton extracurricular activities include National Honor Society, College Summit Peer Leader, Special Olympics Volunteer, Varsity Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field and Varsity Football.

Kenton has been accepted to Rochester Institute of Technology and Syracuse University. His goal is to become a successful engineer and give back to his community. He has received many awards and recognitions. Kenton received the Prince George's County All-Star Soccer Team Award, Clearwater Nature Center Volunteer Award, and First Lieutenant in JROTC program.

SOUL FOOD FESTIVAL

It's our Soul Food Dinner on Saturday, February 18, 2012

(12 Noon until all dinners are sold) at St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD. Dinners are Chicken \$11.00, Chitterlings or Pig Feet \$13.00, Fish or Barbeque Spare Ribs \$13.00. All dinners include potato salad, sweet potatoes, green beans, black-eyed peas and bread.

The Festival is sponsored by St. Philip's Church and Asbury United Methodist Church. Points of contacts are Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260/ (301) 888-1475 or Michele K. Chase (301) 888-2510. Please call (301-888-1536) day of dinner.

CHANGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Many volunteer opportunities can be found through the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation. Volunteering is a healthy habit and if you would like to volunteer in your community you can get a complete list of opportunities, visit www.pgpark.com/Volunteers. To get more information, contact the Department's Volunteer Services and Community Partnerships Coordinator at

It Pays to Advertise!
Call Brenda Boice at
301 627 0900

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Talking Finances with Your Valentine



As you and your spouse celebrate Valentine's Day over a candle-lit dinner, you may want to avoid romance-killing topics like, "Honey, let's talk about our financial future." But you really should have that conversation sooner rather than later to keep your relationship on a healthy footing.

Major life changes may require you to reassess how you manage the family finances. Unfortunately, many couples don't make time to plan ahead and are later caught off guard around issues like having children, aging parents, planning for emergencies and changing career and retirement goals.

If you haven't had a financial heart-to-heart lately and aren't sure what to do next, here are a few suggestions:

Make a financial "date." Even if you're in complete agreement on money matters, the family "accountant" should keep his or her spouse in the loop — if nothing else, so they can easily take over in an emergency. Set up regular meetings to discuss bill payments, progress or setbacks regarding savings goals, budgeting for upcoming expenses, and strategies for coping with unforeseen expenses.

Don't postpone uncomfortable discussions. Should one of you accidentally bounce a check or miss a payment, don't wait until your next powwow to address it or try to hide the problem. You'll only make matters worse and create an atmosphere of mistrust. Fess up and deal with the issue right away — you might even save yourself additional late fees or penalties.

Be united. When the news isn't good — say your 401(k) balances tanked last quarter or one of you got laid off — communication is all the more important. Whether you need to temporarily tighten the budget or make a major life-altering decision like postponing retirement, talk it through and be prepared to compromise so neither party becomes the bad guy.

Reaffirm your goals. Couples often start out with one game plan but then life deals an unexpected hand and goals change. Touch base periodically on how you both feel about such major issues as family size, home ownership, career changes, financing college for your kids (or yourselves), financial risk appetite, when and where you'll retire, and taking care of elderly parents.

Update legal documents. Make sure your legal and financial documents are up to date and reflect your current wishes, including wills, financial and medical powers of attorney, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, investment funds and any other accounts where beneficiaries or people who control your health or finances are named.

Follow your budget. Some of the worst marital disagreements occur when one or both parties sabotage the family budget. If you don't already have a budget, many free tools are available. Check out the U.S. Treasury Department's www.mymoney.gov, www.mint.com and Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management site run by Visa Inc. (www.practical-moneyskills.com).

Seek help. If you discover that you've gotten off track or need help realigning your financial goals, a number of outside resources are available:

The NFCC can help you locate a free or low-cost credit counselor.

You can find a financial planner or advisor through the Financial Planning Association (www.fpnet.org), the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (www.cfp.net), or the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (www.napfa.org).

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

Feds Give Offshore Wind Farms a Positive Review

By ELLEN STODOLA
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE- A federal environmental assessment, conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, has deemed there would be no significant environmental impact to moving ahead with wind energy projects in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey.

Gov. Martin O'Malley, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Tommy P. Beaudreau made the announcement in Baltimore Thursday.

Offshore wind is one of O'Malley's top priorities this legislative session. President Obama also supports the push for clean energy on a national level.

Wind energy legislation supported by O'Malley failed to get through the General Assembly last year. But this year's bills include more incentives for ratepayers and stakeholders.

For example, the potential increase on Maryland residents' energy bills to fund the projects will be capped at \$2 a month, and companies investing in the offshore wind market will be able to earn renewable energy credits for their commitment to the industry.

There is still much to be done, but the environmental assessment makes it possible that leases in these wind energy zones can be offered as early as this year, Salazar said.

Offshore wind is touted by proponents as a way to produce clean, domestically generated energy.

Last year, the United States relied on less imported oil, said Salazar, stressing the importance of focusing on domestic energy sources.

Renewable energy will play an important role in these efforts, with renewable energy in the United States nearly doubling in the last few years, Salazar said.

Likewise, in Maryland, use of renewable energy has increased. Solar energy production has nearly tripled in the past few years, O'Malley said.

"The only way we're going to get to our renewable energy portfolio is if we harness the most available and abundant source of renewable energy in our state, which happens to be the Atlantic wind," O'Malley said.

By 2022, under the Maryland renewable energy and portfolio standard, it's required that 20 percent of the energy that state electricity suppliers generate must be derived from renewable sources.

The uncertainty that comes

Debt from A1

The new web-based system is designed to help current and potential borrowers to evaluate their options for both federal and private student loan programs.

"Education is the key to reigniting the American dream," Sarbanes announced in a news release.

"I view the federal student loan program as a powerful mechanism to make college affordable for all Americans. We should do everything we can to keep interest rates low, provide reduced monthly payments and target loan forgiveness after graduation," Sarbanes said in the statement.

In 2007, Sarbanes authored the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Option, a provision of the federal College Cost Reduction Act which provides loan forgiveness for people who enter careers in public service and the nonprofit sector.

Teacher from A1

"I suspect that we are going to learn more things when all 24 districts are piloted," Weller said.

Weller also co-chairs the Maryland Council for Educator Effectiveness, a panel appointed by O'Malley to guide the development of a statewide evaluation system.

Though the MCEE is scheduled to issue its final set of recommendations about the new system in June, Weller said she wants the council's oversight to continue indefinitely.

"My concern is that we don't call this a finished product this year, but that we continue to monitor and watch the new evaluation model for several years," she said.

While teachers have expressed concern over what a new evaluation system could mean for their careers, so far overall feedback has been positive, Weller said.

"When they [the teachers] hear that it's not supposed to be a 'gotcha,' I don't think 100

percent of them believe it's not a 'gotcha,' but they still feel a lot better about it," she said.

In Prince George's County, a pilot program to test a new evaluation system has been in place for the last six months. Approximately 120 teachers from schools across the county are being evaluated.

Prince George's County is using a model to assess teachers that combines student test scores with in-class observation by administrators.

The county was well prepared for the change and is working closely with local teacher unions, said Bonita Coleman Potter, deputy superintendent for Prince George's County Public Schools.

"We are about two years ahead of the curve," Bonita said. "Many in the district see this as something that will increase the capacity of teachers," she said.

Coleman, who serves on the MCEE, said school districts face a challenge in evaluating different types of teachers. That includes those

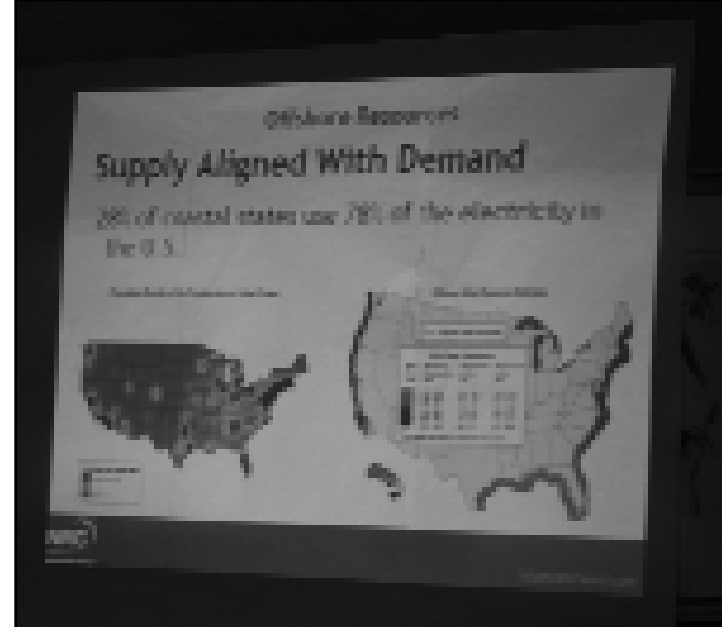


PHOTO BY CHESAPEAKECLIMATE
Offshore Wind Development and Supply Details for the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey.

with tapping into offshore wind energy still has some worried, but O'Malley said every step cannot be easily predicted.

"We did not get to the moon overnight, and we won't erect offshore windmills overnight," O'Malley said.

The plan has the possibility of bringing 1,200 jobs over a five-year period, with 250 ongoing maintenance jobs once the wind turbines are constructed, said Abigail Hopper, O'Malley's energy advisor.

Salazar also stressed the importance of job creation, saying that offshore wind energy

could bring thousands of jobs to America.

"By harvesting our domestic energy — solar, wind, geothermal, natural gas and oil — it's part of the president's vision of how we're going to stand our economy back up," Salazar said.

"I think this is a very timely boost for the bill in the General Assembly," said Delegate Tom Hucker, D-Montgomery, and a supporter of O'Malley's wind energy bill.

This is a great endorsement, said Hucker, and if we don't pass the bill this year, it would have been a wasted opportunity.

Additionally, he said, the rise or fall of demand for different jobs might mean rewarding people for jobs that are no longer viable.

It will be five years before anyone is eligible under the 2007 policy.

By using the new repayment system, applicants can easily track their potential candidacy for the program by recording payments and registering public service work places that qualify.

Currently, the average student loan is \$25,250, according to a November 2011 report from the Institute for College Access & Success' Project on Student Debt.

The student loan interest rate is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent in July, an action President Obama urged Congress to block during last week's State of the Union address.

The Student Debt Repayment Assistant can be viewed at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov>.

evaluations ... we know that this is a system that we will have to continue to review and continue to look at," she said.

Beginning in June, all local school districts will have approximately a year to develop and test their own model for evaluation on a small group of teachers. In July 2013, all teachers will be evaluated under the new model.

If a district does not create its own model, it will automatically adopt the state's framework.

But that option is not necessarily a good fit for individual counties, Weller said.

"I tell them [district leaders] that you don't want to take the state model ... it is not going to focus on the specific needs of the district," she said.

Gable said she is confident that district and union leaders will work to develop their own evaluation models.

"This cannot happen without collaboration," she said. "We've come quite a distance in the last six months, and we'll continue to work collaboratively."

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COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST
A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Robert Folan-Johnson
Editor Healthy Living News

Low HIV Blood Levels Reduce Risk

Two new studies verify that blood levels of HIV are important in determining risk of HIV sexual transmission and the success of HIV therapy.

The first study revealed that the risk of HIV transmission is greatly diminished when HIV blood levels, also known as viral load, are at low levels. That study also confirmed a recent breakthrough advance in HIV prevention.

Published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, the study included 3,297 HIV-discordant heterosexual African couples (where one person is HIV-infected and the other is not). Viral load levels were frequently measured in the infected partner along with HIV genetic testing to link any transmitted virus by the HIV-infected partner to the uninfected one.

The study reveals that in the infected partner, the lower the viral load, the lower the risk of sexually transmitting the virus to the uninfected partner. Each log level decrease was associated with a three fold decrease in transmission risk.

The study also indirectly confirms the results of the breakthrough "Treatment as Preventions" study released last year. That study, known as HPTN 052, proved that lowering viral load through early initiation of HIV therapy reduces transmission of the virus to uninfected partners by up to 96%.

But can Treatment as Prevention be improved upon further through treatment and technology?

Another study reveals that treatments that suppress HIV to very, very low levels may guarantee the long-term success in treating the virus and preventing its transmission to others.

The study, published in Clinical Infectious Disease, examined how well newer viral load tests predict HIV treatment failure. Tests used by many clinics still measure viral load down to 50 HIV copies per a milliliter sample of blood. But newer tests detect viral load down to even lower levels. So the question was asked, what are the levels of treatment success and failure among those measured with these newer tests?

The study tested 1247 patients using the old ultrasensitive and the newer ultra-ultrasensitive viral load tests. For those who tested below 50 copies, or undetectable on the old test, 211 eventually experienced a rebound in viral load to detectable levels above 50. Before they did, a third of them whose virus rebounded (34%) measured between 40 and 49 HIV copies on the ultra-ultrasensitive tests. For those with even lower viral loads between 39 and about 10 copies, 11% eventually broke through to above 50. For those down to under 10 HIV copies, or undetectable levels on the ultra-ultrasensitive test, only 4% eventually rebounded above 50.

Putting it another way, those with an ultra-ultrasensitive viral load between 39 and 10 HIV copies were twice as likely to rebound to above 50 than those testing undetectable on the new test. Those who tested between 40 and 49 were more than a four-times as likely to rebound.

Other studies show that for those on treatment, viral load levels consistently higher than 50 lead to HIV drug resistance. Forty of those in the study whose viral load broke through eventually had viral load increases above 400. Those in the study with ultra-ultrasensitive levels between 40-49 also tended to be less compliant in taking their medications.

Those who had been on HIV therapy longer, however, tended to suppress HIV to the very lowest levels on the new tests.

It should be noted that being HIV undetectable on any viral load test does not mean being cured of HIV. Studies show there is no guaranteed "safe" level of HIV viral load, only levels that show a reduced risk of transmitting the virus. HIV is still, in theory, transmissible even if your viral load is undetectable. Very low amounts of HIV may still be in the blood and larger amounts are still in the lymph nodes, spleen, or brain and possibly even semen. Viral load levels can also spike from an infection or after a vaccination.

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



Gov. Christie Distorts Civil Rights History

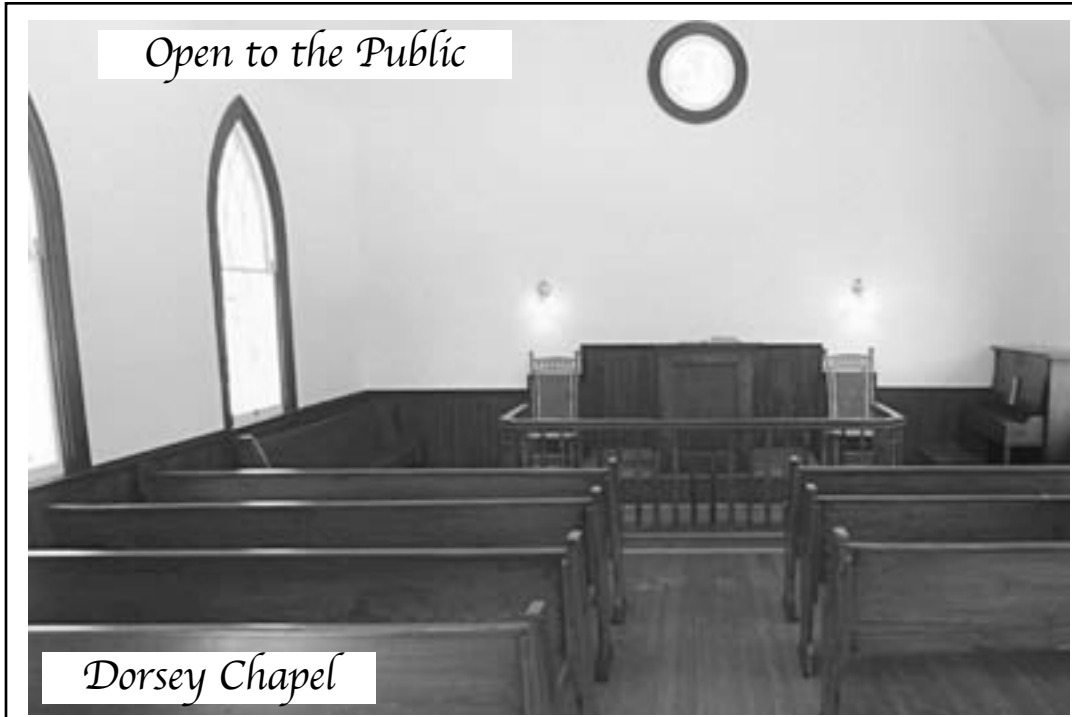
"No minority should have their rights subject to the passions and sentiments of the majority. This is the fundamental bedrock of what our nation stands for." Newark Mayor, Cory Booker

In recent weeks, outrageous statements targeted at minority citizens have come out of the mouths of a number of conservative politicians — everything from the assertion that African Americans prefer food stamps over pay checks to the claim that "black people" are using "other people's money" to get ahead.

But last week, Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey may have topped them all when he declared, "People would have been happy to have a referendum on civil rights rather than fighting and dying in the streets in the South." The Governor's statement was made in the context of his proposal that the issue of same-sex marriage in New Jersey be settled by a voter referendum. But his words amounted to an insult to generations of men and women who put their lives on the line for equal rights. They also ignore the fact that the sole purpose of any civil rights struggle is to gain rights for minority citizens that the majority has historically and consistently denied.

The nonsense of Christie's statement was made all the more apparent by the fact that during the heyday of lynchings, poll taxes and "separate but equal schools", any referendum on voting rights and civil rights for African Americans would have excluded many of the very people seeking those rights. In fact it was only because the majority for centuries had first enslaved and then discriminated against African Americans that it became necessary for people of conscience to

organize in protest against such treatment. Christie should remember that in the 18th century, it was not a referendum but a revolution that formed the United States of America. In the 19th century, it was not a referendum, but a civil war that ended slavery and unified our nation. And in the 20th century, it was not a referendum, but a series of non-violent civil rights struggles that defeated Jim Crow and secured voting rights for women, African Americans and other disenfranchised minorities. □Sheila Oliver, New Jersey's first African American woman Assembly Speaker, correctly saw Christie's proposal to submit same-sex marriage rights to the whims of voters as a shirking of responsibility. She said, "The major issues of our time such as women's suffrage and civil rights were rightly decided legislatively. We are elected by the people of New Jersey to protect civil rights. We do not pass on such tough decisions." Oliver also took issue with Christie's characterization of the civil rights struggle, adding, "Governor, people were fighting and dying in the streets of the South because the majority refused to grant minorities equal rights by any method. It took legislative action to bring justice to all Americans, just as legislative action is the right way to bring marriage equality to all New Jerseyans." It is almost unthinkable that a sitting governor would either be so uninformed so callous to suggest that civil rights movements have not played a necessary and positive role in ensuring that the promise of freedom, equality and democracy is made real for every citizen. We think the Governor owes the people of New Jersey and all Americans a clear explanation.



Open to the Public

Dorsey Chapel

Dorsey Chapel, 10704 Brookland Road., Glenn Dale, MD 20769
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This small frame meetinghouse-style church is distinguished by its steeply pitched gable roof and late Victorian ornamental treatment of its principal gable front. The upper gable has alternating courses of sawtooth and rectangular shingles, a quatrefoil bulls-eye ornament, and a turned wooden finial at the ridge. Each of the chapel's side walls is lighted by three gothic-arch windows that have delicate tracery in the upper sashes. Initially scheduled for demolition in 1980, the Friends of Dorsey Chapel organized efforts to preserve and restore the church. Dorsey Chapel was ultimately designated a Prince George's County "historic site" by the Historic Preservation Commission. Restoration of the Chapel was undertaken by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994, and the facility was re-dedicated and opened to the public on September 11, 1996. The Chapel is available for rental for small weddings, recitals, and meetings.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Rescuing the American Dream

In his State of the Union address, President Obama spoke about his grandparents, who were part of the World War II "generation of heroes" who "built the strongest economy and middle class the world has ever known." The President said, "My grandfather, a veteran of Patton's Army, got the chance to go to college on the GI Bill. My grandmother, who worked on a bomber assembly line, was part of a workforce that turned out the best products on Earth. The two of them shared the optimism of a nation that had triumphed over a depression and fascism. They understood they were part of something larger; that they were contributing to a story of success that every American had a chance to share—the basic American promise that if you worked hard, you could do well enough to raise a family, own a home, send your kids to college, and put a little away for retirement. The defining issue of our time is how to keep that promise alive."

For decades, the cornerstone of fulfilling the American dream has been getting a good education. But that cornerstone has crumbled for millions of America's children. The President said making sure students graduate from high school and are able to go to college must be a priority. He said, "Higher education can't be a luxury—it is an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford." The economic imperative of graduating from high school and college is especially critical for the 16.4 million poor children if they are to have the best opportunity to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty. But instead of leveling the playing field, inequities in funding, resources, and access to high quality teachers for public schools place millions of poor children in low-performing schools with inadequate facilities and often ineffective teachers. Thirty-five percent of Black and 29 percent of

Hispanic high school students attend the more than 1,600 "dropout factories" across our country where 60 percent or fewer of the freshman class will graduate in four years with a regular diploma. For these students, the cost of tuition might be just one more thing on top of poor preparation that makes college seem like another impossible barrier separating them from the rapidly disappearing American dream.

Getting a high school and college degree and achieving the American dream could easily have seemed impossible to eighteen-year-old Toni Thomas. Toni gets up each morning in the small room she shares with her mother in Mom's Place, a transitional housing shelter for the homeless in Detroit, Michigan, and takes the bus to Wayne County Community College. She plans to transfer to Wayne State University in two years to study engineering. Her goal sounds a lot like the President's definition of the basic American promise: "having a good job and my own house and my own

car and my own money." Unlike many teenagers her age, Toni has had none of these. As Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Julia Cass learned when she met Toni and her mother while on assignment for the Children's Defense Fund, Toni grew up moving from place to place in poor neighborhoods in a once booming but now poor city. Her mother, Linda Dinwiddie, describes herself as "lost in drugs for a long time." Toni said, "Until last year, until I was 17, pretty much she'd been on drugs most of my life. I wanted her to get off of it. Her using meant we had to get up and move. Sometimes we didn't have food." Extended family gave what support they could—especially Toni's grandmother, who died several years ago—but Toni and her sister, who is now 26, often scraped by on their own. Throughout it all, Toni kept one goal in mind: "I wanted to graduate from high school on time."

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Business Exchange

by William Reed



A Star is Born

Dez Bryant provides a good economic example of what is happening to Blacks across America. In heavy debt after leveraging his first-year salary to pay for "bling-lifestyle" amenities, during the National Football League (NFL) lockout, the 24-year-old wide receiver had to turn to payday lenders to help him keep up his game. Desmond Demond "Dez" Bryant started spending on his salary as a NFL player for the Dallas Cowboys when he was drafted in the first round of the 2010 NFL Draft.

During the 18 months before Bryant signed with the Dallas Cowboys, he bought at least seven men's watches and two more for women. He paid \$65,500 for a diamond cross made of white gold and \$60,000 for a custom charm. He ordered a set of dog tags made of white gold and diamonds, and all sorts of other rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces in various shades of gold. Bryant got it all through a line of credit with the understanding that he'd settle up once he signed the pro contract that paid him \$8.5 million.

While we hold them out to be "successful", most people don't know that a third of NFL players live paycheck to paycheck. Or, that by the time NFL players have been retired for two years, 78 percent have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce. Within five years of retirement, 60 percent of former NFL players are broke.

We all don't have to be buying gold grills; but Bryant shows how cash and credit poses problems for not only rich Black athletes but, normal folks in the hood as well.

More people are using payday lenders to secure essentials critical to daily life, and pay for medical emergencies, tuition fees and house bills that include water and electricity. There are more payday lending stores than McDonald's and Starbucks combined. Payday lending has grown into a \$40 billion industry.

The popularity of the short-term loan product has grown significantly since the early 1990s. America has 23,000 pay-

day loan stores and there seems to be an increasing demand for them. Nearly 20 million Americans use payday lenders that charge, on average, \$16 for a \$100 two-week loan.

If you have a job, it's easy to get one of these high-interest loans. No credit check, car title or other collateral is needed. All you generally need is some proof you have a steady job, a driver's license and a checking account. Usually, you're asked to write a post-dated personal check payable to the lender for the amount you want to borrow, plus a fee. You either repay the loan before your next payday or the lender cashes your check.

Prudent thinking is recommended before you sign up for a "payday" type of loan. If you're having trouble paying the rent, mortgage payment or other monthly bills, talk to current creditors to develop a new payment plan. If you must pursue a payday loan; shop several lenders, find the best loan, then read the loan application/contract carefully and correct any errors. Never make inaccurate statements about your financial condition. Walk away from any lender who offers to falsify information or asks you to sign a loan application where spaces have been left blank. Understand what you sign - be sure that the terms of the loan as written in your contract match what the lender has told you.

On the other hand, it would be wise to look at opportunities to participate in ownership and the profits of payday loan stores and kiosk locations. Half of America's payday loan stores are owned by independent entrepreneurs who put together approximately \$25,000 to open their store.

Payday operators can expect to break even in 15 months if they are able to plan and pay out \$8,000 a month to pay rent, utilities, one to two employees, signage, advertising, payroll taxes, software, computers, and office supplies and are able to build up to a portfolio of \$60,000 in loans.

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

SECU Partners With FHLB to Help Homebuyers

Program Provides Low and Moderate Income Homebuyers Matching Assistance

By Ray Weiss

LINTHICUM, MD -- To spur home sales and help homebuyers with down payments and closing costs, SECU - Maryland's largest financial cooperative - is participating in two programs offered by the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

FHLB's First-Time Homebuyer Program provides low and moderate income homebuyers with up to \$7,500 in matching funds for down payment and closing cost assistance. Borrowers have to come up with at least \$1,000 and FHLB will match that amount up to four times for a maximum grant of \$7,500.

"The First-Time Homebuyer program is available to any SECU member in Maryland, DC, or Virginia with a maximum income of less than 80% of the HUD Median Income, adjusted for family size,"

explains SECU CAO and Senior Vice President of Lending Michael Gordy.

The second program, FHLB's Community Stability Program, also provides up to \$7,500 in matching funds for the same SECU members to purchase and/or rehabilitate an existing home. "The difference here is that the member does not have to be a first-time homebuyer and the home must be located in a zip code that has been targeted for stabilization funds by the state or local government," notes Gordy.

Gordy emphasizes that SECU members do not have to repay funds provided through either the First-Time Homebuyer Program or the Community Stability Program so long as they stay in the homes for at least five years.

"These programs offer just one more example why SECU offers a different direction and a better way for people to manage their finances," according to



PHOTO by Helpful InvestingBY R

New Home in Prince George's County, Maryland

Gordy.

SECU recently processed its first mortgage for a member who will also receive a FHLB Grant to assist with the down payment and closing costs.

SECU recently announced that it has been experiencing unprecedented account and member growth. SECU currently has 94 ATM locations and 19 branches throughout Maryland.

For more information visit secumd.org.

ABOUT SECU:

Founded in Baltimore in 1951, SECU is the largest financial cooperative in Maryland. SECU is ranked among the top 47 credit unions for total assets in the U.S. As of August 2011, assets were \$2.4 billion.

Cardin praises senate passage of bill to bring increased transparency to congress

Bill Prohibits Insider Trading by Members of Congress, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch Officials

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) today praised Senate passage of S. 2038, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act, which passed with a vote of 96-3. Senator Cardin cosponsored an initial ver-

sion of the legislation, which prohibits federal lawmakers and their staffs from trading stocks based on nonpublic information they have obtained in the course of their congressional work as a means for making a private profit. The legislation passed by the Senate includes a 30-day reporting requirement on all investment activity of more than \$1,000, and requires that the infor-

mation as well as annual financial disclosure forms be published online to ensure public access to the information.

"Public service is a trust that should not be used for personal gain. Passage of the STOCK Act helps bring greater transparency and accountability in Congress, reinforcing the spirit and the letter of current law," said Senator Cardin.

"Members of Congress need the utmost trust from the American people to be effective public servants, and the STOCK Act's reporting requirements will help increase that trust. President Obama and the American people asked Congress to pass this bill, and I'm proud to say that today in the Senate we got it done. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same."

Education from A1

can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down," Obama warned.

In-state tuition in most Maryland public institutions was frozen by the Board of Regents from 2006 to 2010 under policies put forth by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Since then, in-state tuition has risen approximately 3 percent each year.

O'Malley's most recent budget proposal would increase the University of Maryland, College Park's tuition 3 percent for the third straight year, with other state universities likely to

follow.

Bowie State's in-state tuition for fiscal year 2012 is \$4,547, up from \$4,286, where it held from 2006 to 2010.

Putting another hold on tuition, Burnim said, "seems to be unfair."

"If the president's action would eliminate that possibility altogether, it could put a strain on our university," Burnim said.

There's no simple, "one-size-fits-all" answer to the matter of keeping tuition steady across schools nationwide, according to Nancy Shapiro, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs of the University System of Maryland.

"There are costs associated with running an institution that

an institution can't manage by itself," Shapiro said. "But I think that keeping tuition manageable should be a high priority for a public university."

Kettl said Obama's call to increase state education support should impact Maryland less than other states thanks to Maryland's continually high level of education support over the past decade.

Maryland is budgeting \$9.5 million in state funding for fiscal year 2013 to keep in-state tuition from rising no more than 3 percent for in-state undergraduates at University System of Maryland institutions.

Whether or not this will be enough to cover any potential

losses in federal funding remains unclear pending specific details about Obama's policies.

But Shapiro thinks Maryland's track record of supporting education puts it in a good position to reap the benefits of Obama's reforms in the coming years.

"I think Maryland is a really strong education state; everything the president said resonates well with Maryland's economic policies. Maryland is the poster child for Obama's policies," she said.

Obama is expected to reveal more details about his plans in a speech about college affordability today at the University of Michigan.

State from A1

us to make green upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, we have greatly reduced the pollution flowing into our bay."

Seeking to increase transportation funding for construction and repair projects that would create jobs, O'Malley intends to submit a bill repealing the sales tax exemption on a gallon of gasoline - phasing it out by 2 percent each year unless the price of gas spikes.

"It's going to be an extremely tough sell," said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., who has advised O'Malley to meet with delegations and various elected officials if he hopes to see the tax increased at all in these difficult times.

Aware that legislators are wary of governors transferring money from the Transportation Trust Fund in order to balance the budget, O'Malley said he would like to safeguard future investments in the fund.

"My understanding is the governor is very receptive to people wanting to protect those funds," said Donald Fry, a former state senator and president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "There will be some sort of legally enforceable way to ensure the money in the transportation fund is used for transportation purposes."

Fry is also a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding, which recommended a state constitutional amend-

ment, or "firewall", to keep those funds from being used for other purposes.

O'Malley is pursuing an equally aggressive social agenda, having presented his same-sex marriage bill at a Senate Judicial Proceedings committee hearing Tuesday. In his State of the State, he argued that same-sex marriage could be balanced with religious interests.

"It is time to join with clergy, faith-based organizations, civil rights organizations, community leaders and individuals across our state to pass a civil marriage law that protects religious freedom and civil marriage rights equally," O'Malley said.

Because of the scope of his agenda, O'Malley is certain to

have plenty of fights on his hands this legislative session.

O'Malley's defense of the same-sex marriage bill is where the political corner is likely to receive national attention, said Todd Eberly, assistant professor of political science at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

"He needs a high profile legislative session for his political resume," Eberly said.

O'Malley appeared ready to rise to the occasion.

"Asking our fellow citizens to do more will not be popular," O'Malley said. "But without anger, fear or meanness, let's ask one another: How much less do we think would be good for our children's future?"

Capital News Service's Mali Krantz contributed to this report.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Haywire"

Haywire

A-

Slick, well-organized, butt-kicking fun.

You know, when someone decided that mixed martial arts champion Gina Carano should be a movie star, it would have been easy to showcase her fighting skills in some brainless, slapped-together action flick. That's been the practice with plenty of other athletes-turned-actors, and it makes a certain amount of business sense. Why waste a good screenplay and a good director on someone who might not be a good actor?

But Haywire shows that our mothers were right: anything worth doing is worth doing well. Carano, indeed, is nothing special as an actress — but darned if it matters when she's supported by a killer screenplay, a sharp cast, and Steven Soderbergh's unmistakably sly, mordant direction. They could have put a robot in the lead (as long as it could fight) and still ended up with a blissfully entertaining 93 minutes of butt-kicking and snark.

Carano plays Mallory Kane, a highly skilled mercenary who works for an unnamed company that is frequently contracted by the U.S. government to perform sensitive, dangerous missions like hostage extractions. But we don't know any of that at first. What we know at first is that Mallory is in a breakfast diner in upstate New York, speaking casually but intensely with a man named Aaron (Channing Tatum), who is evidently a colleague of some kind. The smart, whirling screenplay — by Lem Dobbs,



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

This dynamic action-thriller directed by Steven Soderbergh boasts a talented cast that includes Channing Tatum, Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender, Antonio Banderas, Bill Paxton, Michael Douglas, Michael Angarano; and introduces MMA superstar Gina Carano as Mallory Kane, in a demanding lead role that has her performing her own high-adrenaline stunts. Mallory Kane is a highly trained operative who works for a government security contractor in the dirtiest, most dangerous corners of the world. -- (C) Relativity Media

who wrote another fantastic Soderbergh film, The Limey — hooks us immediately by hinting at the characters' shared history. They talk about what happened in Barcelona, what happened in Dublin, what "he" (whoever "he" is) told Aaron to say to Mallory. We don't know what's going on, but our instincts tell us finding out is going to be a lot of fun.

Our instincts are correct. With an innocent bystander (Michael Angarano) as her witness and audience, the on-the-run Mallory spends the first two-thirds of the film catching us up on what already happened. You don't want to know the details from me, of course, but I can tell you there was a mission, a double-cross, and the other sorts of complications you expect to find in an espionage caper. The players include Mallory's boss and for-

mer lover, Kenneth (Ewan McGregor); a Spanish client named Rodrigo (Antonio Banderas); a British secret agent (Michael Fassbender) with whom Mallory did a job; an older businessman called Coblenz (Michael Douglas); and Mallory's soldier-turned-novelist father (Bill Paxton).

On paper (or on the computer screen where you just read it), nothing about that outline sounds notable. Even the fact that the chief butt-kicker is a female girl lady woman is barely newsworthy. But several things elevate the film to well-above-average, almost-even-great status. Soderbergh has a knack, demonstrated especially in the Ocean's movies, for being inventive without showing off, and Haywire has this in spades. Infused with the director's cool, jazzy style, it's complemented perfectly by Dobbs'

effortlessly droll dialogue and the cast's eagerness to have some slick, well-organized fun.

Despite those strengths, it's possible that what viewers will enjoy most are the many, many scenes of people beating the crap out of each other. Soderbergh doesn't disappoint here, either, taking full advantage of Carano's real-life combat skills to deliver smashing sequences of marvelous violence. This is some of the most entertaining and cleanly choreographed hand-to-hand fighting I've seen in a while, and Soderbergh is careful not to diminish the fun by letting it get vicious or brutal. Could Carano carry a movie that required more nuanced acting than this one does? Hard to say. She could definitely carry a few more Mallory Kane films, though, and I'll be happy to watch them if she does.

Brothers Create Superhero to Defend Eastern Shore

By ANA SEBESCEAN
Capital News Service

SNOW HILL - Batman defends Gotham City. Superman keeps Metropolis safe from criminals.

"The Fall," a new superhero created by brothers Mat and Josh Shockley, patrols the small towns and beaches of a less glamorous place -- Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The two Snow Hill artists -- who began drawing comics more than two decades ago -- run PLB Comics, an independent, six-year-old enterprise centered on a mystical character who defends a real place that rarely appears in comic stores.

"You hear about superheroes in big cities all the time and we just wanted to put (The Fall) down here," said Mat Shockley, a 29-year-old high school art teacher. "It's kind of easier to write about the area you know."

With the help of several local contributing artists, PLB Comics has published six anthology issues, two of which were solely dedicated to The Fall character.

From the Ocean City Boardwalk to the docks in Salisbury, Eastern Shore locations -- where the brothers grew up -- serve as a backdrop for the vigilante hero's exploits.

"Ocean City, she is mine," The Fall thinks aloud at the beginning of one issue.



"The Fall," a new superhero created by brothers Mat and Josh Shockley, patrols the small towns and beaches of a less glamorous place -- Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"Forever feeding me and my relentless hunger for man's atonement...and tonight, I'm going to get my fill."

"Crime really happens everywhere, no matter if you live in a big place or a small place," said Josh Shockley, 32, who also works as an administrator at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. "It's kind of universal."

All issues are priced between \$2 and \$3, depending on the prevailing comic prices in the seven stores in Maryland, Delaware and Texas that sell them.

Billy Vogt, who owns Capital Comics in downtown Annapolis, sells PLB Comics on consignment.

"Obviously, it's not going to sell as much as your average Marvel or DC book -- those are like the two biggest companies -- but there is definitely a market for that kind of stuff," he said.

From the beginning, each issue of PLB Comics has sold enough to keep printing new issues, Josh Shockley said.

The digital revolution is bringing change to the comic book market, but PLB Comics

said they have no plans to turn all digital.

"We're always going to print a book," said James Dufendach, PLB Comics' editor. "We are never going to go all digital."

The Shockleys -- who both have art degrees from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore -- said that their comics remain, "a labor of passion."

"You really, really have to enjoy what you are doing and just be incredibly dedicated to it," Mat Shockley said. "Because sometimes the money is just not there."

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Occupy the Super Bowl: Now more than just a slogan

The sheer volume of the Super Bowl is overpowering: the corporate branding, the sexist beer ads, the miasma of Madison Avenue produced militarism, the two-hour pre-game show. But people in the Labor and Occupy movements in Indiana are attempting to drown out the din with the help of a human microphone right at the front gates of Lucas Oil Stadium. The Republican-led state legislature aims to pass a law this week that would make Indiana a "Right to Work" state. For those uninitiated in Orwellian doublespeak, the term "Right to Work" ranks with "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and "Fair and Balanced" as an phrase of grotesque sophistry. In the reality-based community, "Right to Work" means smashing the state's unions and making it harder for non-union workplaces to get basic job protections. This has drawn peals of protest throughout the state, with the Occupy and labor movement front and center from small towns to Governor Mitch Daniels's door at the State House. Daniels and friends timed this legislation with the Super Bowl. Whether that was simple arrogance or ill-timed idiocy, they made a reckless move. Now protests will be a part of the Super Bowl scenery in Indy.

The Super Bowl is perennially the Woodstock for the 1%: a Romney-esque cavalcade of private planes, private parties, and private security. Combine that with this proposed legislation, and the people of Indiana will not let this orgy of excess go unoccupied. Just as the parties start a week in advance, so have the protests. Over 150 people -- listed as 75 in USA Today, but I'll go with eyewitness accounts -- marched through last Saturday's Super Bowl street fair in downtown Indianapolis with signs that read, "Occupy the Super Bowl!" "Fight the Lie" and "Workers United Will Prevail." Occupy the Super Bowl has also become a T-shirt, posted for the world to see on the NBC Sports Blog.

The protests also promise to shed light on the reality of life for working families in the city of Indianapolis. Unemployment is at 13.3%, with unemployment for African American families at 21%. Two of every five African American families with a child under 5 live below the anemic poverty line. Such pain amidst the gloss of the Super Bowl and the prospect of Right to Work legislation is, for many, a catalyst to just do something.

April Burke, a former school teacher and member of a local Occupy chapter, said to me, "I see Right to Work for what it is: an attack on not only organized labor but on all working class people... Because strong unions set the bar for wages, RTW laws will effectively lower wages for all. Rushing the passage of RTW in the State of Indiana on the eve of the Super Bowl is an insult to the thousand of union members who built Lucas Stadium as well as the members of the National Football League Players Association who issued a statement condemning the RTW bill."

As April mentioned, the NFLPA has spoken out strongly against the bill. When I interviewed Player Association president DeMaurice Smith last week, he said,

"When you look at proposed legislation in a place like Indiana that wants to call it something like 'Right to Work,' I mean, let's just put the hammer on the nail. It's untrue. This bill has nothing to do with a 'right to work.' If folks in Indiana and that great legislature want to pass a bill that really is something called 'Right to Work' have a constitutional amendment that guarantees every citizen a job. That's a 'right to work'."

What this is instead is a right to ensure that ordinary working citizens can't get together as a team, can't organize, and can't fight management on an even playing field. So don't call it "Right to Work". If you want to have an intelligent discussion about what the bill is, call it what it is. Call it an anti-organizing bill. Fine... let's cast a vote on whether or not ordinary workers can get together and represent themselves, and let's have a real referendum."

But Gov. Mitch Daniels, who was George W. Bush's budget director didn't get this far by feeling shame or holding referendums.

This is the same Mitch Daniels who said in 2006, "I'm not interested in changing any of it. Not the prevailing wage laws, and certainly not the right to work law. We can succeed in Indiana with the laws we have, respecting the rights of labor, and fair and free competition for everybody." In other words, he's that most original of creatures: a politician who lies.

If Daniels signs the bill before the big game, demonstrations sponsored by the AFL-CIO in partnership with the Occupy Movement will greet the 100,000 people who can afford the pilgrimage to Lucas Oil Field. The NFLPA, I've been told by sources, will also not be silent in the days to come. As Occupy protester Tithi Bhattacharya said to me, "If the bill becomes law this week then it is very important for all of us to protest this Sunday. We should show the 1% that the fate of Indiana cannot be decided with the swish of a pen by corporate politicians - the Super Bowl should be turned into a campaign for justice and jobs."

Occupy the Super Bowl. Now it's more than just a slogan.

Calendar of Events

January 26 - February 1, 2012

Annual Bridal Show

Date and Time: Sunday, January 29, 1-4 pm
 Description: Plan your wedding from start to finish by meeting florists, photographers, bakers, wedding coordinators and more!
 Cost: \$5/person Ages: All ages
 Location: Newton White Mansion
 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville 20721
 Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-446-6802

Rivers and Memories

Date and Time: Monday, January 30-Saturday, March 24
 Public Reception: Saturday, February 4, 4-7 pm
 Event Description: Please join us as we celebrate the art of E.J. Montgomery and Lilian T. Burwell, two long-time, prominent artists who have had great influence on our art community. Each with their own approach, their artworks are a lyrical, rich, and highly developed explorations into the expressive elements of color and space.
 Ages: All ages
 Fee: FREE
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange at Gateway Arts Center
 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood 20722
 Information: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Basketball League Registration: Boys or Girls - Select Teams

Date & Time: Ongoing through February 9, 2012
 Description: Boys & Girls ages are invited to register teams for a competitive basketball league. Competition is open to all teams including AAU, Boys & Girls Club, CYO, M-NCPPC Community Center, County and Non-County teams. The schedule will consist of 8 regular season games and playoff games.
 Ages: Ages groups: Girls: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7; Boys: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7
 Fee: \$600/team. Please no individual registrations.
 Information: Byron Thompson at 301-446-6818 or Paul Hall at 301-446-6811.

Black History Month 2012 Exhibit: "Reading, 'Riting and Race Revisited: Rosenwald Schools in Prince George's and Surrounding Counties"

Date and Time: Monday, January 23-Saturday, March 17;
 Public Reception: Sunday, February 5, 2-4 pm
 Event Description: This year's exhibit will profile African American schools built with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. Through historic photos and artifacts, the exhibit highlights a list of Rosenwald schools that were featured in "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2002. The exhibit's centerpiece includes the recently renovated Ridgeley Rosenwald School, which is considered to be one of the county's best examples of this type of educational facility.
 Ages: All ages Fee: FREE
 Location: Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
 Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

PUBLICLY PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2012-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publicly Playhouse 2012-2012 season: 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.pgpc.com

EARTH TALK ... "Carbon emissions are making our oceans acidic."

Dear EarthTalk:

I was horrified to read recently that our oceans are actually becoming acidic, that the continued burning of fossil fuels is changing the chemistry of our seas. What's going on?

-- Kim Richardson,
San Diego, CA

It's a known fact that our oceans are becoming more acidic as a result of the increasingly large load of human-generated carbon dioxide (CO2) entering our atmosphere. About 25 percent of all the CO2 we send skyward out of our tailpipes and smokestacks ends up in the world's oceans, where it triggers chemical reactions in the water column that lead to increased acidification. Researchers estimate that the acidity of our seas has increased 29 percent since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. If we do not slow down the pace of greenhouse gas emissions, our oceans could be two to three times as acidic in 2100 as they already are today, which could prove disastrous to marine ecosystems and the world's food chain.

"When carbon dioxide is absorbed by seawater, chemical reactions occur that reduce seawater pH, carbonate ion concentration and saturation states of biologically important calcium carbonate minerals," reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These calcium carbonate minerals, typically abundant

in areas where most marine life congregates, are the building blocks for the skeletons and shells of many marine organisms, from oysters to coral. "However, continued ocean acidification is causing many parts of the ocean to become undersaturated with these minerals, which is likely to affect the ability of some organisms to produce and maintain their shells," adds NOAA. The process will not only wreak havoc on the shellfish we eat, but also on smaller marine organisms that are key components on the lower end of the marine food chain.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading green group, coral reefs around the world may face an even greater risk than shellfish because they require very high levels of carbonate to build their skeletons. "Acidity slows reef-building, which could lower the resiliency of corals and lead to their erosion and eventual extinction," they write. This would be an unmitigated environmental disaster, given that an estimated one million marine species depend on healthy coral reefs for survival.

"Such losses would reverberate throughout the marine environment and have profound social impacts, as well—especially on the fishing and tourism industries," NRDC reports. "The loss of coral reefs would also reduce the protection that they offer coastal communities against storms surges and hurri-



CREDIT: ISTOCK PHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Ocean acidification is likely to affect the ability of some shellfish to produce and maintain their shells. This process will not only wreak havoc on the shellfish we eat, but also on smaller marine organisms that are key

canes—which might become more severe with warmer air and sea surface temperatures due to global warming."

Researchers are working on strategies to protect aquaculture farms from further losses due to acidic water, but any large-scale effort to address ocean acidification will require the slowing down or phasing out of fossil fuels. Powering our cars, heating our homes and running our machines and appliances all require burning fossil fuels which generate greenhouse gas emissions and in turn cause acidification. Cutting back on our consumption of oil, gas and coal and switching to renewable energy sources—solar, wind, biomass and others—will be a necessary part of the strategy to counteract ocean acidification.

We can all help by driving less and walking/biking more;

upgrading our vehicles, light bulbs and appliances to more energy efficient versions; patronizing companies that work to reduce their carbon footprints; and pushing our state and federal governments to enact binding reductions in CO2 pollution.

CONTACTS:
 NOAA,
 www.noaa.gov;
 NRDC, www.nrdc.org.

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History from A1

Jennifer Ferretti, 410-685-3750; jferretti@mdhs.org

Dr. Helena Hicks was a Morgan State College student in 1955. She and other black students were denied service at the Read's Drug Store in downtown Baltimore and decided to stage a sit-in, one of the earliest in America. "It was completely impromptu," says Dr. Hicks. A front-page headline in the Afro-American newspaper read, "Now serve all" after the success at Read's. Its impact sparked a firestorm of protests resulting not only in the desegregation of Read's but also the shut down of the White Coffee Pot restaurant chain where patrons refused to cross picket lines. "We led the way," says Dr. Hicks, "and it was a direct result of Lillie Carroll [Jackson]. She had put into us as youngsters that you had to stand up, you were equal, and you had to make the rest of the world understand and respect that. Don't let anyone take freedom away from you."

Dr. Skipp Sanders, the Interim Director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, will introduce the panel and John Gartrell, the Archivist at the Afro-American Newspapers Archives and Research Center, will moderate.

Dr. Hicks, currently a commissioner of the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), will be joined by Larry Gibson, Professor of Law at University of Maryland; Dr. Barry Lanman, Professor and Director of the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and initial interviewer in the McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project; Dr. Michelle Scott, an associate professor at UMBC; and William F. Zorzi, former reporter and editor for nearly twenty years at The Baltimore Sun newspaper and co-writer for the HBO series "The Wire".

Paul Henderson (1899-1966) was an African American photographer who worked in Baltimore from the 1930s to 1960s. Much of his career was spent at the Afro-American newspaper. Henderson documented both significant events and every day life in Baltimore's African American

communities, leaving behind a collection of over 6,000 photographs never seen in its entirety. A selection of Henderson's photography will be on display outside of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library.

Henderson captured images of Paul Robeson, concert singer, protesting the Jim Crow admissions policy at Baltimore's Ford Theatre, a protest that lasted seven years. He photographed significant leaders such as Juanita Jackson Mitchell, the first African American woman to practice law in the state of Maryland and Thurgood Marshall, council to the NAACP before becoming the first African American Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Morgan State College (now University), vocational schools, church and civic organizations are also well represented in the collection.

The McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project is an inquiry into the civil rights movement in Maryland during the mid 20th century focusing on the roles played by two Maryland leaders, Governor Theodore McKeldin and Dr. Lillie Carroll Jackson. From 1974 through 1977, volunteers conducted eighty-five interviews with civil rights activists and leaders, as well as those who opposed the movement. Interviewees discuss their involvement with the NAACP, Maryland politics, law, education, and their relationship with Governor McKeldin and Dr. Jackson.

Theodore R. McKeldin was Mayor of Baltimore (1943-1947, 1963-1967), Governor of Maryland (1951-1959) and an advocate for civil rights. McKeldin was born in Baltimore, MD in 1900 and graduated from Baltimore City College. He earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1925. McKeldin was an ardent supporter of civil rights and was a recipient of the Sidney Hollander Award, an award given to those who have worked diligently towards equal rights for all Americans. He was re-elected as Mayor of Baltimore in 1963 and returned to public service with a focus on urban renewal and the Baltimore Inner Harbor until his death in 1974.

Dr. Lillie Carroll Jackson was a pioneering civil rights leader beginning in the 1930s and an

organizer of the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP. Jackson was also born in Baltimore, MD in 1889. She believed in non-violent resistance to racial segregation. Her daughter, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, became the first African American woman to practice law in Maryland. Her son-in-law, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., was a lobbyist for the NAACP for nearly 30 years. She sponsored the Baltimore City-Wide Young People's Forum, founded by Juanita Jackson Mitchell, which conducted a campaign to end segregation. The campaign encouraged African American residents of Baltimore to only shop where they could work. She became president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP in 1935, a position she held until 1970. In 1942, Jackson organized a movement to encourage black residents to register to vote. Jackson was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

Paired with the Paul Henderson Photograph Collection, the McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project provides context and feeling for an important part of the American story. Together, these collections recreate an era. For more information on the Paul Henderson Photograph Collection and McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project visit: http://mdhsseenheard.wordpress.com

Larry Gibson, raised in Baltimore, attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. from 1960-1964 where he was student body president and Chairperson of D.C. Students for Civil Rights. His long career as a civil rights attorney, professor of law, and political advisor includes defending the Black Panther Party (1971), becoming University of Virginia's first black law professor, and serving as the Maryland State Chairman of the Clinton/Gore presidential campaign. Most recently, he has traveled internationally serving as an advisor to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia and Africa's first democratically elected female president.

Dr. Barry Lanman was one of the original interviewers for the McKeldin-Jackson Oral History Project. Among his notable interviews were James Hepbron, Police Commissioner of Baltimore in the 1950s; Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland;

David W. Zimmerman, Former Deputy Superintendent of the State Department of Education; and Governor McKeldin's son, Theodore R. McKeldin Jr. Lanman received his doctorate from Temple University, served as the first chair of the Oral History Association's Committee on Education and is a founder and past-president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Dr. Michelle Scott is an associate professor at UMBC whose work specializes in the study of race and ethnicity in the American experience, with emphasis on African American history, black musical culture, and women's studies. Dr. Scott has contributed to the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, volumes 2-4, and the forthcoming Columbia Guide to African American history from 1939 to the present.

William F. Zorzi was a reporter and editor at The Sun of Baltimore for nearly 20 years before leaving the newspaper to write for television in 2002. Zorzi, a Baltimore native, wrote for the last three seasons of "The Wire" television program on Home Box Office (HBO) and also acted in the series, portraying an ill-tempered reporter named Bill Zorzi in a fictional Sun newsroom. He and partner David Simon are now developing a miniseries for HBO about the volatile events surrounding a federal public housing desegregation case in Yonkers, NY, in the 1980s and 1990s. The two also are at work on a book about the rise of the drug culture in Baltimore, using Pennsylvania Avenue and its habitués as the vehicles to tell the story.

The Maryland Historical Society was founded in 1844 and is the largest museum and library dedicated to the history of Maryland. Occupying an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore, the Society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage." The Society is home to the original manuscript of the Star-Spangled Banner and publishes a quarterly titled Maryland Historical Magazine. More information about the Maryland Historical Society can be found online at http://www.mdhs.org

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Child Watch from A4

During Toni's junior year, her mother Linda was gone—first hospitalized with asthma attacks and blood clots, and then staying in a residential drug treatment facility. "She gave me and my sister her food stamp card so we could eat and everything," Toni said. "She's a good person, a caring person. She just got hooked on drugs." Before their mother left, they'd been living in an abandoned house that their cousin had lost in a foreclosure. Toni and her sister continued to live there while their mother was gone. The utilities had been shut off although someone in the neighborhood illegally hooked up the electricity for the stove and small heaters. "In the winter-time, we'd scoop up snow to get water, put it in pots and boil it so it would be like sterilized," she said. "We put sheets up around the windows to keep the rooms warmer. The beds and stuff had got moldy so we slept on the couches." Her sister cooked. At the end of the month when the food stamps ran out, "we tried to get food any way we could or go to somebody's house," she said. Sometimes, Toni would spend the night with one of her two closest friends and go to school from there. "They had a better environment in their house than I did."

She stayed in school and tried to keep up. At one point she failed three classes but took them over in summer school so she could graduate on time.

Then she got in trouble for fighting and transferred to West Side Academy, an alternative school. "It's a school for a second chance. It helps you get your grades up and do better," she said. There, she got on the student council, went to Lansing for a student government meeting, and met the governor. "It was fun. It was interesting," she said. A science teacher encouraged her to join the robotics team where students build robots and compete with teams from other schools. "I'd go after school and on weekends helping build the robots," she said. "I learned how to use tools. That's how I got interested in engineering."

In May 2010 after Linda got out of the treatment facility, Toni and her mother moved into Mom's Place, part of Cass Community Social Services. "I'm proud of her. I'm proud she got off drugs," Toni said. Linda said she is very proud of Toni for not getting into trouble and for finishing school "in spite of what I put her through. She kept herself together."

Last summer, Toni got an AmeriCorps job with the Detroit Parent Network, going door to door giving information about the organization. "It's about helping parents get their kids in better schools," she said. It provided a salary and \$1,100 towards college.

Toni has a distance to go to graduate from college with an engineering degree. West Side Academy is one of Detroit's 44 persistently low achieving schools, and in her first year in

community college, she is taking mostly remedial courses, including pre-algebra. "I'm not sure I can handle it, but I'm going to try my best," she said of college. "That's what I been doing, trying my best."

Toni is a role model for all the struggling young people like her who continue striving and trying their best despite the overwhelming odds stacked against them. Countless other struggling children have not been able to overcome the same odds the way Toni has and have been sucked into our nation's Cradle to Prison Pipeline™. We must reroute all children into a pipeline to college and productive work with investments in early childhood, education, out of school programs, and youth and parental jobs. Each child should have a chance to reach their God-given potential. The AmeriCorps program and a caring teacher made a difference in Toni's life. How many young people will never get the chance to see how far their best can take them? We don't have a moment or a child to waste.

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*.

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