

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 80, No. 41 October 11 — October 17, 2012 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## Casinos Spend \$26.7 Million on Both Sides of Referendum

By RACHAEL PACELLA  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - The debate over expanding gaming in Maryland will ultimately be decided by the people, but to help them pick, casino companies on both sides have now contributed more than \$26.7 million to campaigns for and against Question 7.

Question 7, the gaming referendum, would expand gambling in Maryland by extending casino hours, adding tables games and allowing an additional casino to be built at National Harbor in Prince George's County. The gaming referendum fight has been prominently featured in television ads.

A total of \$14.1 million has been contributed to the pro-expansion committee For Maryland Jobs and Schools Inc., most coming from MGM Resorts International, the potential operator of a casino at National Harbor.

A casino at National Harbor could take business away from surrounding casinos, including those owned by Penn National Gaming Inc. So far Penn National has spent \$13 million to campaign against expansion.

Penn National owns the Hollywood Casino Perryville in Maryland, but gaming analyst James Karmel said the company is really concerned about the effect gaming expansion in Maryland could have on its Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia 80 miles away.

"The millions they spend on ads could potentially be offset if they win,"

See CASINO, Page A5

## Undocumented Pin Hopes on Federal Deferred Action, State DREAM Act

By ERIN DURKIN  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON -- Veronica Martinez-Vargas, a 19-year-old illegal immigrant from Salisbury, couldn't believe it when she turned in her application for the Deferred Action program enacted in June by the Obama administration.

"It was overwhelming," she said. "I had my friend with me and we just hugged for a while."

The program either stops or prevents deportation proceedings for undocumented youths for two years and allows them to obtain a work permit. To apply, immigrants had to be under age 31 as of June 15, 2012, but at least age 15. They also must prove they entered the country before their 16th birthday and lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007.

Just 29 applications have been

See DREAM, Page A3

Folklore dancers in traditional Salvadoran dress entertain the inmates at the Prince George's County Department of Corrections Hispanic Heritage celebration.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY KELSIE LOOS

## County Jail Hispanic Fiesta Offers Hope, Unity

Bilingual Speeches from Outreach Ministries, Music and Dance Featured

By KELSIE LOOS  
Capital News Service

UPPER MARLBORO - The Prince George's County Department of Corrections celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month Friday with motivational bilingual speeches from outreach ministries, Latin music and dance.

For many of the inmates, it was not only a chance to break the monotony of their prison sentence, but to feel connected to other Latinos in and outside of the jail walls.

"It illuminates the fact that we're from different countries, but we're all brothers and sisters," said Bryant Jones, 24.

Jones was born in Panama and attended a bilingual school in Clayton, near the Panama Canal. He left for the United States at age 7 and still has family in Panama. He tries to write and call when he can, but it is difficult, he said. He will be serving at least another six years for a malicious wounding.

He said that the Latino inmates try to maintain a tight sense of community.

"The Latinos stick together. We have our Bible studies every night," Jones said.

Chaplain Filiberto E. Romero began the celebration four years ago as a way to bring inmates together and give them hope.

In addition to members of the faith community, Romero invited several speakers who had at one time been imprisoned to talk about how their faith helped them avoid the cycle of criminal behavior.

"Our future is not here. It is outside," said Sonya Ruiz, a speaker who had spent time in the Prince George's County facility.

Guadalupe Martinez said, "Everyone forgets us except God," adding, "Seek him and do not come back to this place."

A sense of hope pervaded the music as well. The band Sol y Rumba played Celia Cruz' "La Vida es Un Carnival," which features the upbeat lyrics "Anyone thinking that things will never change/ Needs to know that's not the case/ smile to the hard times, and they will pass."

Romero is pleased by the inmate's response to the event. "They love it. They cannot wait for us to do this event," he said.

There are about 230 Latino inmates at the Prince George's County Department of Corrections, about 15 percent of the total population, according to a spokeswoman.

The most recent census shows that Prince George's County has the second-highest percentage of Latino population in Maryland at 15.2 percent.

## Seed of Cartoonist Jeff Kinney's "Wimpy Kid" Started at the U. Md.

By ANNA WEAVER  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK--In the first "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book, protagonist Greg Heffley -- a skinny middle-schooler -- and his buddy Rowley try to build a gigantic snowman. Instead they end up rolling a snowball so big they cannot push it, tearing up a newly sodded lawn in the process.

Like many episodes in the Wimpy Kid series, that scene was borrowed directly from author Jeff Kinney's memories of growing up in Maryland.

"Those kinds of stories are things I like to put in my books -- the real childhood-feel kinds of stories," Kinney said in an interview before an appearance at the National Book Festival in Washington earlier this month.

So when you see Greg hiding from his swim coach in a locker room bathroom stall, wrapped in toilet paper to keep warm, you can imagine a young Jeff Kinney doing the same thing -- because he did.

Kinney, 41, was born on Andrews Air Force Base, and grew up in Fort

Washington. His father was an analyst at the Pentagon for most of his childhood and he went to Potomac Landing Elementary School before heading to Eugene Burroughs School in Accokeek for middle school.

"I think that my middle school experience was more scary than Greg Heffley's middle school experience," Kinney said. "I felt like we went from the safe confines of the elementary

See CARTOON, Page A7



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CLARA VAUGHN.

From left to right: Volunteers Lloyd Lewis, Christopher Puttock, Rochelle Bartolomei and Brian Servia prepare to hook four reef balls to the crane aboard the Patricia Campbell Friday. Around 50 concrete domes were dropped into the water at the Cook's Point oyster sanctuary near Cambridge, marking the end of a five-year project to restore habitat for oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.

## Projects Lay Groundwork for Oyster Recovery

By CLARA VAUGHN  
Capital News Service

COOK POINT - "Watch your toes."

Not proffered advice, but a command shouted over the hum of a crane, this is Capt. Lloyd Lewis' go-to phrase on the Patricia Campbell as the crew drops 100-pound concrete domes, called reef balls, into the

water.

On Friday, Lewis and other volunteers hoisted around 50 reef balls at the Memorial Stadium oyster sanctuary near Cambridge, creating habitat for oysters and other marine life.

The trip marked the end of a five-year project headed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which Capt. Karl Willey of the Bay Foundation hopes will help boost sup-

port for expanding oyster restoration.

### Hope for Recovery

It's no secret that oysters are suffering in the bay. Numbers still remain below 1 percent of their historic levels, according to a recent study from the University of Maryland.

"Bay oysters are virtually extinct,"

See REEF, Page A5

## INSIDE

### Student Loan Defaults

The U.S. Department of Education released official FY 2010 two-year and official FY 2009 three-year federal student loan cohort default rates. This is the first time the Department has issued an official three-year rate, which was a slight decrease from the trial three-year rate of 13.8 percent for the FY 2008 cohort.

Community, Page A3

### Stevie Wonder received "Living Legend" Award.

For more than 40 years, Stevie Wonder has gifted generations of Americans with his unequalled talents as a musician, songwriter and singer. Stevie has amassed one of the most prolific and recognizable song-books in the history of American music.

Opinion, Page A4

### Classroom Bullying

The U.S. Department of Education has released a free, training toolkit designed to reduce incidents of bullying, for use by classroom teachers and educators. The toolkit, supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, in collaboration with the NEA and the American Federation of Teachers.

Business, Page A5

### Movie Review "Looper"

And for his next trick, Rian Johnson delivers "Looper," a satisfying sci-fi thriller about time travel, telekinesis, and human weakness. It has a few superficial things in common with Johnson's previous work, but the most substantive element the three movies share are crafty, clever stories that transcend their genres.

Out on the Town, Page A6

### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

In recent years the hotel industry began to green up operations, but has it yet gone beyond leaving out little cards to encourage you to reuse your towels and linens?

-- Mason Singer,  
St. Louis, MO

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Morningside Chief of Police sworn in

Jeffrey S. Gray was sworn in as Morningside Chief of Police by Mayor Karen Rooker at the Town Meeting on Sept. 18.

Chief Gray comes to the Department after 27 years with the Prince George's Police Department where he served as patrol officer, detective and investigative supervisor. After retiring from the County Police, he spent eight years as senior investigator for the County State's Attorney's Office, and last year as special assistant to the chief of the New Carrollton Police Department. For the past 15 years he has headed a consulting company, J. Stewart Gray and Associates, and teaches classes in law enforcement and private security.

### Design a Suitland mural?

Qualifying artists will have a chance to win a \$1000 grand prize and the opportunity to design and lead the creation of a new mural for the Suitland Shopping Center, at the corner of Silver Hill Road and Suitland Road.

Prince George's County Art in Public Places program is partnering with CBS Radio/WPGC 95.5 FM for the "Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative Mural Contest." The contest is open to residents of metropolitan Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Interested artists can enter this contest at <http://wpgc.cbslocal.com/community-mural-initiative/>.

### Changing landscape

I often travel Greyhound, and in fact just did so in August when I bussed to Saginaw, Mich., for a visit with my brother and sisters. So, I am surprised to learn Greyhound has moved from First Street NE to Union Station. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and other VIPs cut the ribbon on the bus company's new terminal Sept. 25.

The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center

at National Harbor has a new manager, as of Oct. 1—Marriott International of Bethesda.

County Executive Rushern Baker will deliver opening remarks at 10 a.m. Oct. 5 for groundbreaking of the new District VII Police Station, 11108 Fort Washington Road in Fort Washington.

### Crab Feast, Open House coming up

Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is hosting Open House Sat., Oct. 20, noon to 5 p.m., with free hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, Moonbounce, fire-prevention and fire-fighter material, and smoke detector awareness, from noon to 5pm.

Bells UMC, 6016 Allentown Road, is holding a Crab Feast Sat., Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. Something for everyone—Crabs, chicken, pulled-pork, hotdogs, hamburgers, corn-on-the-cob, string beans, potato salad, baked beans, sweet tea and lemonade. Advance sale only. Grand Feast, \$40; Crab Feast, \$30; Family Feast, \$20. For tickets: call Pastor Cogman, 301-437-1685; Claire Kennedy, 301-868-4154; Brittany Ford, 240-640-7852; or Courtenaye Nelson, 202-582-7909.

### Air Force, Amtrak retiree dies

William Everett "Bill" Keck, 81, twice retired, from the Air Force and from Amtrak, died Sept. 12. He had lived in Skyline since 1969.

A native of Graham, N.C., he graduated from Graham High School and attended North Carolina Central University in Durham. In 1954 he married his childhood sweetheart, Flossie Covington.

Bill joined the Air Force in 1951, which took him (and sometimes his family) around the world to Florida, Texas, Greenland, Italy, Panama Canal Zone, Thailand, New York, and both Bolling and Andrews AFB. He retired with 22 years service and then worked for Amtrak from 1973 to 1993.

He was a member and former officer in the Skyline Citizens Association, Warren Lodge #8 and the Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. He enjoyed bowling, fishing (and bragging) and loved to travel.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Flossie; son Randy Keck; daughters Rhonda Malloy and Rev. Renée Keck; and four grandchildren. Homegoing Celebration was at Hunter Memorial AME Church, in Suitland, where Bill served on the Trustee and Usher Boards for more than 20 years. Burial was at Lincoln Cemetery in Suitland followed by repast at Hunter Memorial.

### Mount Calvary librarian dies at 88

Phyllis Anne Denit, Mount Calvary School Librarian for many years, died Sept. 19, six days before her 89th birthday. She was a longtime resident of District Heights but in recent years lived in Mitchellville. A native of England, she never really lost her accent.

I enjoyed serving with this remarkable woman when we were both school librarians and members and officers of the elementary school division of the Catholic Library Association. Phyllis was a terrific person to discuss a book with!

She was the wife of the late John B. Denit; mother of Paul G. and Lyle R. Denit; mother-in-law of Julie K. Nelson; and grandmother of John Lucas N. Denit. She is buried at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Sue Gilmore and Muriel Ireson, Oct. 5; Carmen Buffington and George Nixon, Oct. 6; Dr. Alvin Thornton and Kam'Ron Blade, Oct. 7; Greta Chambers, Oct. 9; Marvin Burkhardt, Oct. 10; and Mary Deans, Oct. 11.

Happy 23rd anniversary to my daughter Elaine and Luke Seidman on Oct. 7.

## Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

### Reps. Edwards, Eshoo, Markey: Hacking Threats to Implantable Medical Devices Call For Improved FDA Oversight

(Washington, DC) — Reacting to the findings of a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report they requested last year, three senior House Democrats today are calling on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to improve its oversight of implantable wireless medical devices. In recent demonstrations, computer security experts revealed that some implantable medical devices can be remotely controlled by a hacker, posing potentially serious health risks to patients.

The GAO report, "MEDICAL DEVICES: FDA Should Expand Its Consideration of Information Security for Certain Types of Devices," found that both the FDA and medical device manufacturers have been slow to respond to this emerging threat. "FDA has not considered information security risks resulting from intentional threats," the GAO concluded. More specifically, the agency failed to consider "intentional threats" in the pre-market approval and evaluation of two devices that were successfully hacked, an implantable cardiac defibrillator and insulin pump. The GAO also found that the FDA has not utilized resources available from other government agencies, particularly the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which maintains a federal computer security vulnerability database and provides guidance and standards related to computer security.

The three lawmakers who requested the review were: Ms. Donna F. Edwards, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Technology

and Innovation, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Ms. Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Committee on Energy and Commerce and Co-chair of the House Medical Technology Caucus and Mr. Edward J. Markey, former Chairman of the telecommunications subcommittee and current senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

"It is unacceptable that the Food and Drug Administration is ignoring the resources of other government agencies in evaluating life-saving medical devices," said Rep. Edwards. "In the future, I expect the agency to utilize the computer security expertise offered by NIST and other federal agencies to assess the security risks posed by these devices. The FDA must address potential threats and close security gaps in order to have the full confidence of Congress and the American people."

"Wireless medical devices are susceptible to increasingly advanced hacking techniques that could threaten patient health," said Rep. Markey. "Patients need to be informed about whether the medical devices implanted in their bodies contain security vulnerabilities that could harm them so they can take appropriate precautions whenever possible. This report underscores the need to require manufacturers to acknowledge these threats and for FDA to address the risks before the devices are sold to the public."

"Even the human body is vulnerable to attack from computer hackers," said Rep. Eshoo. "Implantable medical devices have resulted in tremendous medical benefits for the patients who use them, but the demonstrated security



risks require a renewed emphasis by the FDA and manufacturers to identify, evaluate and plug the potentially rare but serious security holes that exist in these devices."

### GAO Recommendations

To address security issues, the GAO recommends in the report that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services direct the Commissioner of the FDA to develop and implement a more comprehensive plan to assist FDA in enhancing its review and surveillance of medical devices that more fully incorporates information security into these devices. The GAO listed four actions by the FDA that should be included in this plan:

- 1) The FDA should increase its focus on manufacturers' identification of potential unintentional and intentional computer security threats and vulnerabilities and strategies to mitigate these risks during its pre-market approval review process;
- 2) Utilize available resources, including those from other entities, such as other federal agencies;
- 3) Leverage its post-market efforts to identify and investigate information security problems; and
- 4) Establish a specific schedule for completing this review and implementing these changes.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

### CHICKEN WING BASKET SUNDAY

It's our Chicken Wing Basket Sunday on October 21, 2012. Adults pay \$5.00 (2 wings), Children- \$2.50 (1 wing), extra Wing cost \$1.00. Please preorders are appreciated. All wing baskets include chicken wings, potato salad and roll.

Benefit: St. Philip's Sunday School Rock Expenses. Point of contacts: Shirley A. Cleaves on (302) 690-4260, Michele Williams (202) 528-7422 and Djuana Turner (301) 379-9730.

### SUNDAY CASINO SLOTS FUN

It's another 2012 Extravaganza Sunday Casino Slots Fun to Midway-Harrington Raceway & Casino Slots in Harrington Delaware on Sunday, November 4, 2012. Bus leaves Park-N-Ride, Clinton Maryland at 10: 30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM and returns at approximately 7:00 PM.

Fun package includes a \$15.00 slot play rebate with a full Buffet Meal and Oldies but goodies, 50/50 Raffle. Cost is \$40.00. There will be absolutely no refunds. Pay early so you won't be left out. Purchase tickets by October 21, 2012. Points of contacts are Shirley A, Cleaves (302) 690-4260 and

Doretha A. Savoy (301) 372-6173.

### COLLEGE TOURS

The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in partnership with the Prince George's County Delta Alumnae Foundation is sponsoring the 2012 Fall Day Tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (for 7th, 8th, and 9TH grade students in Prince George's County) on October 29, 2012. Students will visit the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Delaware State University. Cost is \$30. For more information call 301-736-3250 or e-mail: [hbcu@pgcadst.org](mailto:hbcu@pgcadst.org).

The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in partnership with the Prince George's County Delta Alumnae Foundation is sponsoring the 26TH Anniversary Tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (open to 10th, 11th, and 12 grade students) from November 11-16, 2012. Students will visit Morehouse College, Spelman College, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Central University, Norfolk State University, Shaw University and more. Cost is \$450. For more information call 301-736-

3250 or email: [hbcu@pgcadst.org](mailto:hbcu@pgcadst.org).

### HARVEST FEST 2012

Come out and enjoy a day of music, crafts, pumpkin patch activities, costume contest, carnival games and many more activities at the Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM for ages 3-12. There is a \$5.00 fee for resident and a \$6.00 fee for non-resident.

The location for Harvest Fest 2012 is at Upper Marlboro Community Center 5400 Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro. Telephone number is 301-627-2828: TTY 301-203-6030.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
Call 301-627-0900 or Mail Your Name and Address to:  
**The Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

## Neighborhood Events

### Hoyer Attends Briefing with Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

LANHAM, MD — In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) attended a briefing today with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to discuss an innovative approach the organization developed to reduce violence. They also discussed the need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, which Congressman Hoyer has been calling on the House to address by passing the Senate's bipartisan bill.

"During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we must recommit ourselves to ending violence against women and improving the support we provide to its victims here in Maryland and across the country," stated Congressman Hoyer. "The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is leading efforts in our state and I commend them for their innovative approach to identify domestic violence victims and connect them with those who can help."

"Congress must also do its part to end domestic violence," continued Congressman Hoyer. "I was a proud cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994, and I continue to call on the House to take up a bipartisan reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that passed the Senate so we can continue to provide the resources needed to prosecute those who commit acts of violence against women, as well as the resources needed to help victims heal and move forward."

The bipartisan reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Senate provides grants to support state, tribal and local efforts to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; funds collaborations between victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors and

judges to address these crimes in a comprehensive manner; and includes protections for immigrants, tribal women, and victims in the LGBT community. The bill contains provisions strongly supported by law enforcement and advocates for victims of domestic violence, and passed with a bipartisan vote of 68-31.

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is a state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals who work to reduce intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects. The Network provides education, training, resources, and advocacy to advance victim safety and abuser accountability. The Network briefed Congressman Hoyer on their Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), which has helped bring down domestic homicides in Maryland by 40 percent since its implementation. The program identifies victims of domestic violence and immediately connects them to the domestic violence service providers in their area.

### Van Hollen Service Academy Application Process Underway

Rockville, MD — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Service Academy application process for the entering Class of 2013 is underway. Students from Maryland's Eighth Congressional District who wish to attend one of the Uniformed Service Academies should obtain an application packet from his website at <http://vanhollen.house.gov/constituent-services/serviceacademynominations.htm>. All applications and supporting materials must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the Congressman's Rockville Office by Friday, October 19, 2012. For additional information, please call (301) 424-3501.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Money-saving open enrollment tips



Over the next few weeks, millions of Americans will receive their 2013 open enrollment materials. Although it's tempting to simply check "same as last year," that can be a costly mistake — especially if your employer is offering different benefit plans next year or your family or income situation has changed.

Plus, an important feature of health care flexible spending accounts, which many people use to reduce their tax bite, is changing next year (more on that below).

#### Here's what to look for when reviewing your benefit options:

Many benefit plans — especially medical — change coverage details from year to year. If you're offered more than one plan, compare features side by side (including plans offered by your spouse's employer) to ensure you're choosing the best alternative. Common changes include:

Dropping or replacing unpopular or overly expensive plans.

Increased monthly premiums for employee and/or dependent coverage.

Increased deductible and/or copayment amounts for doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospitalization, dental or vision benefits, etc.

Revised drug formularies.

Doctors and hospitals sometimes withdraw from a plan's preferred provider network.

Raising maximum yearly out-of-pocket expense limits.

If offered by your employer, health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs) can significantly offset the financial impact of medical and dependent care by letting you pay for eligible out-of-pocket expenses on a pre-tax basis; that is, before federal, state and Social Security taxes are deducted from your paycheck. This reduces your taxable income and therefore, your taxes.

You can use a health care FSA to pay for IRS-allowed medical expenses not covered by your medical, dental or vision plans. Check IRS Publication 502 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for allowable expenses. Dependent care FSAs let you use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible expenses related to care for your child, spouse, parent or other dependent incapable of self-care.

Here's how FSAs work: Say you earn \$42,000 a year. If you contribute \$1,000 to a health care FSA and \$3,000 for dependent care, your taxable income would be reduced to \$38,000. Your resulting net income, after taxes, would be roughly \$1,600 more than if you had paid for those expenses on an after-tax basis.

#### Keep in mind these FSA restrictions:

Important: Effective January 1, 2013, employee contributions to health care FSAs are now limited to \$2,500 a year; however, if your spouse has FSAs at work, you still may contribute up to \$2,500 to each account.

The dependent care FSA limit remains unchanged at \$5,000. Health care and dependent care account contributions are not interchangeable.

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

Outside of open enrollment, you can only make mid-year FSA changes after a major life or family status change, such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or dependent, birth or adoption of a child, or a dependent passing the eligibility age. If one of those situations occurs mid-year, re-jigger your FSAs accordingly for maximum savings.

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

Also remember that if you marry, divorce, or gain or lose dependents, it could impact the type — and cost — of your coverage options.

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

## First Official Three-Year Student Loan Default Rates Published

Department continues efforts to help students better manage their debt.

By PRESS OFFICER

### U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education released official FY 2010 two-year and official FY 2009 three-year federal student loan cohort default rates. This is the first time the Department has issued an official three-year rate, which was 13.4 percent nationally for the FY 2009 cohort, a slight decrease from the trial three-year rate of 13.8 percent for the FY 2008 cohort. For-profit institutions had the highest average three-year default rates at 22.7 percent, with public institutions following at 11 percent and private non-profit institutions at 7.5 percent.

"We continue to be concerned about default rates and want to ensure that all borrowers have the tools to manage their debt," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "In addition to helping borrowers, we will also hold schools accountable for ensuring their students are not saddled with unmanageable student loan debt."

The Department is in the process of switching from a two-year cohort default rate to a three-year measurement as required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. The national two-year rate rose to 9.1 percent for the FY 2010 cohort, from 8.8 percent in FY 2009.

Congress included this provision in the law because there are more borrowers who default beyond the two-year window, and the three-year rate captures a more accurate picture of how many borrowers ultimately default on their federal student loans. In particular, for-profit colleges demonstrate a large

increase in borrowers who defaulted during year three.

To help students access the tools and resources they need to avoid the negative consequences of defaulting on their student loans, the Department has redoubled its efforts to make borrowers aware of their student loan repayment options, including plans like Income-Based Repayment, which allows borrowers to cap their monthly student loan payments at 15 percent of their discretionary income. The Department also recently released an interactive financial aid counseling tool that helps borrowers with their college financing decisions, including information on flexible loan repayment options. For more information on Income-Based Repayment and the online counseling tool, students can visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

Calculation and breakdown of the rates

The two-year cohort default rates (CDRs) announced today represent a snapshot in time, with the FY 2010 cohort consisting of borrowers whose first loan repayments came due between Oct. 1, 2009, and Sept. 30, 2010, and who defaulted before Sept. 30, 2011. More than 4.1 million borrowers from nearly 6,000 schools entered repayment during this window, and almost 375,000 defaulted for an average of 9.1 percent.

The two-year CDR increased over last year's rates for both the public and private non-profit sectors, rising from 7.2 percent to 8.3 percent for public institutions, and from 4.6 percent to 5.2 percent for private non-profit institutions. CDRs decreased for for-profit institutions from 15.0 percent to 12.9 percent, though the sector still has the highest average two-

year rate.

The FY 2009 three-year rates announced today capture the cohort of borrowers whose loans entered repayment between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009, and who defaulted before Sept. 30, 2011. More than 3.6 million borrowers from over 5,900 schools entered repayment during this window of time, and approximately 489,000 of them defaulted.

Sector differences also exist when comparing the increase in the CDR from the two-year to the three-year rates for the FY 2009 cohort, with for-profit schools displaying the biggest jump in rates from year two to year three. The Department reported the two-year CDR for the FY 2009 cohort last year. The increases from the two-year to the three-year rates were 7.2 percent to 11 percent for public institutions, 4.6 percent to 7.5 percent for private non-profit institutions, and 15.0 to 22.7 percent at for-profit schools.

#### Sanctions

Two schools are subject to sanctions for having two-year default rates of 25 percent or more for three consecutive years: Centro de Estudios Multidisciplinarios in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Tidewater Tech in Norfolk, Va. As a result, these schools face the loss of eligibility in federal student aid programs, unless they bring successful appeals.

No sanctions will be applied to schools based on the three-year rates until three annual rates have been calculated. During this transition period, sanctions will continue to be based on the two-year CDR. However, any school with a three-year CDR of 30 percent or more must establish a default prevention task force and submit a default man-



"We continue to be concerned about default rates and want to ensure that all borrowers have the tools to manage their debt," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "In addition to helping borrowers, we will also hold schools accountable for ensuring their students are not saddled with unmanageable student loan debt."

agement plan to the Department. There were 218 schools that had three-year default rates over 30 percent, and 37 schools had three-year default rates in excess of 40 percent.

Borrowers who need assistance in repaying their federal student loans can visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) or can contact the holders of their loans to learn about repayment options. For help locating their loan holders, borrowers may access [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) or contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243).

Information on the national student loan default rate, as well as rates for individual schools, states, types of postsecondary institutions, and other sectors of the federal loan industry are available at [www.fsadatabase.ed.gov](http://www.fsadatabase.ed.gov).

### Dream from A1

approved nationally, of more than 82,000 who applied since the program opened in August. It's unknown how many Maryland students applied or are eligible, however, more than 350 Maryland students qualify for the Maryland Dream Act, according to the Department of Legislative Services, which shares many of the same requirements.

When Martinez-Vargas came from Mexico to the U.S. at age 10, she did not understand the gravity of her status. It wasn't until she tried to volunteer at a hospital years later and was rejected for failing to include a Social Security number on her application that she realized her delicate status.

She dreamed of going to universities such as Loyola, but because she does not qualify for government aid, she could not afford them. Now 19, she is a biochemistry major at Wor-Wic Community College, paying out-of-state tuition, despite living in Maryland for nine years.

While she's delighted by the Deferred Action program, she's realistic, too.

"This is a placeholder, but not a solution," she said. "It is exciting though, to be able to receive a work permit and finish school."

Deferred Action may give some undocumented immigrants breathing room, but their status remains unstable.

Robert Koulish, a visiting government and politics professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, said the program is not law. It was created by President Barack Obama through an executive order, which provides much less certainty to the program.

"If Romney is elected in November, come January he could revoke it," he said. "This is not permanent and immigrants are still left in a precarious position."

Despite the low number of approvals, the processing of applications has gone relatively fast compared to other immigration programs, said Caroline Clark, president of the

Immigration Law and Policy Association at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Other applications submitted to the UCIS could take as long as five years to approve, she said.

The limitations of Deferred Action makes passing the Maryland Dream Act, and even the Federal Dream Act, very important, said Clark.

"It is just a pause in removal proceedings," she said. "It does not lead toward citizenship and every two years you have to reapply."

The federal Dream Act has remained in legislative purgatory for more than 10 years. The most recent version of the bill creates a path to citizenship for immigrants who graduate from an institution of higher learning, attend at least two years toward a bachelor's or higher degree of learning, or served in the military for at least two years.

It is unlikely that will pass in the next four years, Clark said, regardless of who is elected.

While programs like Deferred Action or the

Maryland Dream Act would solve part of the immigrant youth program, until an overall federal immigration reform bill passes, little things -- as simple as transportation -- will remain problems.

Just getting around is a nightmare for Eliel Acosta, a Deferred Action applicant brought to the U.S. at age 2, who is a junior in psychology at Mount St. Mary's University. He makes the 40-minute drive from his home near Gettysburg, Pa., without a driver's license. Luckily, he said, he has not been pulled over.

"It is too stressful," he said. "Being in college and driving without documents is a very stressful situation."

Acosta received help from his local priest to attend school. If he were to be deported he said he would have trouble working since his Spanish is not the best. Even though the program is only for two years, deferred action has given him, "a lot of hope that I can finish my education and possibly become a professor."

### Come see how SU is as distinctive as you!

The Princeton Review's  
Best 377 Colleges

U.S. News & World Report's  
Best Colleges

Kiplinger's  
Personal Finance  
"100 Best Values  
in Public Colleges"

To register for campus tours, information sessions and open houses visit [www.salisbury.edu/admissions](http://www.salisbury.edu/admissions) or call 410-543-6161.

Salisbury  
UNIVERSITY

## JOURNALISM STUDENT?

— PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS —

The Reese Cleghorn Internship program offers paid internships at MDDC newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

- News reporting
- Copy editing
- Photojournalism

APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
Friday, November 16, 2012

Visit [www.MDDCPress.com](http://www.MDDCPress.com) for information & applications.

## WET BASEMENTS STINK !!

Mold, mildew and water leakage into your basement causes health and foundation damage. What can be done to fix the problem? Allstate American Waterproofing is an honest, hardworking local company. We will give you a FREE evaluation and estimate and a fair price. We have repaired thousands of basements in the area; we can provide local references. When your neighbors needed waterproofing, they called Allstate American. Why don't you? Call now to receive a 20% discount with your FREE ESTIMATE. MHIC#36672

CALL 1 800 420 7783 NOW!

# COMMENTARY

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

### Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



## Deceptive Voter Practices Cannot Be Tolerated

Voter suppression and intimidation are still very much alive in our nation. From misleading and fraudulent information about elections to voter intimidation and robocalls designed to suppress the vote, deceptive voting practices are often aimed at depriving minority communities of their voice in our democracy. The U.S. Constitution guarantees and protects the right of every American citizen to vote, and we have a duty to protect and ensure that right.

Unfortunately, we have seen a resurgence of deceptive voter practices in recent years. In 2006, during my own election to the U.S. Senate, thousands of minority voters in Maryland were targeted for misleading information designed to suppress their vote. Nationwide, there have been numerous reports of efforts to suppress the minority vote by putting out wrong information about election dates and location of polling places, along with suggestions that voters who had outstanding parking tickets would be arrested if they tried to vote.

To put an end to this type of deceptive voter practice, I recently joined with U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) in re-introducing the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2011. This bill is designed to protect voters across the nation from election fraud and voter intimidation by creating criminal penalties for deceptive voting practices and by giving individual voters the right to take action.

My bill would specifically allow for criminal penalties of up to \$100,000 and up to five years imprisonment for those found guilty of decep-

tive campaign practices. If deceptive practices are found to have occurred before Election Day, the U.S. Attorney General can take corrective action to halt distribution of such information and to set the record straight. After federal elections, the Attorney General also would be required to report to Congress on the allegations of deceptive practices and the actions taken to correct such practices.

Deceptive voter practices are not pranks and they threaten our democracy. Since the end of the Civil War, there have been numerous efforts to ensure the right to vote for all citizens. In 1870, Congress ratified the 15th Amendment to the Constitution stating "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race [or] color. ..." The Amendment also gave Congress power to enforce the article by "appropriate" legislative action.

Unfortunately, for another 100 years African Americans faced poll taxes, literacy tests and outright harassment and violence when they attempted to vote. It took the passage of the 24th Amendment in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to end the discrimination of Jim Crow laws and regulations denying African Americans their full voting rights.

Deceptive voting practices are not a matter of free speech or a First Amendment right. In reality, such practices threaten the very integrity of our electoral process by attempting to rob voters of their right to vote. It is time for Congress to act once again to put an end to tactics that are deliberately intended to suppress or mislead voters.

### To Be Equal

### Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



## Stevie Wonder: National Urban League Living Legend

*"Prejudice, hatred, starvation...I'm tired of praying for things we don't want to change."*  
- Stevie Wonder

From start to finish, the 2012 National Urban League Conference in New Orleans was hotter than a New Orleans summer. It also may have been our most successful gathering ever. The Conference opened on July 25th with a major domestic policy speech by President Obama in which he announced a new initiative promoting educational excellence for African Americans. And it closed on July 28th, with words and songs of inspiration by American musical icon, Stevie Wonder, who, along with Attorney General Eric Holder, received a National Urban League "Living Legend" Award.

For more than 40 years, Stevie Wonder has gifted generations of Americans with his unequalled talents as a musician, songwriter and singer. From his days as the harmonica playing, hand clapping 12 year old "Little Stevie Wonder" in the early 1960's to his status as a multiple-Grammy-winning icon today, Stevie has amassed one of the most prolific and recognizable songbooks in the history of American music. His repertoire is full of the lyrics of love and music meant to lift the spirit, challenge injustice, heal the soul, and promote peace. In the early 1980's, Stevie was a leader in the campaign to declare Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. The song he wrote and recorded about that effort, "Happy Birthday," became an anthem of the King Holiday movement and its chorus has since become a standard sing-a-long at African American birthday parties.

In recent years, Stevie has expanded his social

activism even further beyond the stage and studio. He has lent his voice and some of the proceeds from his songs to ending South African apartheid, helping people with disabilities, fighting against hunger and homelessness and aiding the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. For 16 years, he has provided toys for children and families in need with his annual House Full of Toys benefit concert. In 2009, United Nations Secretary-General Ban ki-moon named Stevie Wonder a United Nations Messenger of Peace.

Upon accepting his Living Legend award during our Whitney M. Young Awards gala, Stevie delivered a heartfelt appeal for people around the world to come together to end prejudice, hatred and starvation and to live up to the high ideals that are the focus of so much prayer and so little action. He said "It's time to get beyond those things that have crippled us for centuries." One of those crippling drawbacks is voter suppression which has once again reared its ugly head. Guaranteeing the right to vote for every American is the focus of the National Urban League's "Occupy the Vote" campaign. It was also the theme of our Conference.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Stevie could not resist sitting down at the piano and inviting the rapt audience to join him in a medley of some of his greatest hits, including "Don't you Worry 'Bout a Thing," and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." It was a fitting way to end our Conference. The Living Legend award honors those who most exemplify the ideals of the Urban League movement. We could not have chosen two better recipients this year than U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the legendary Stevie Wonder.

### SOJOURNER TRUTH ROOM

Oxon Hill Library  
6200 Oxon Hill Road  
Oxon Hill, MD  
301-839-2400

The Oxon Hill Library is built on the site of the Sojourner Truth Elementary School. The Sojourner Truth Room was established in 1967 and named in honor of the great activist for the rights of African Americans and women.

It contains a collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, photographs, and other material on African American history and culture.

It is one of the two largest African-American research collections in Maryland, comparable only to the State Library Resource Center in Baltimore.

The library is open to the public. Call for additional information and operating hours. (D)

Open to the Public



### Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Families Struggle: Child Poverty Remains Epidemically High

The U.S. Census Bureau's new poverty data for the states show millions of families struggling mightily to keep their heads above water in the wake of the Great Recession. Fourteen states saw statistically significant increases in their child poverty rates, 26 states saw small increases, and nine states and the District of Columbia saw small declines in child poverty rates last year. But the morally scandalous bottom line is clear: 16.1 million children are poor in our rich nation with more than seven million living in extreme poverty, too often scared, hungry, and homeless.

New Data Show Black and Hispanic Children Suffer Most

Although there are more poor White than Black or Hispanic children, Black and Hispanic children suffer most. In 25 states and the District of Columbia, at least 40 percent of Black children were poor; in four states, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, and Ohio, 50 percent or more of Black children were poor. Thirty-three percent or more of Hispanic children were poor in 32 states.

Children are the Poorest Age Group in America

In 2011, more than one in five children were poor in over half the states and the District of Columbia. In half of these states more than one in four children were poor. Children are the poorest age group in America, and the younger they are the poorer they are. More than one in four children under six were poor in 21 states and the District of Columbia during their years of greatest brain development. In 30 states and the District of Columbia, 10 percent or more of infants, toddlers, and kindergarteners lived in extreme poverty which means an annual family income of less than \$11,511 for a family of four.

The 13 states and the nation's capital with child poverty rates 25 percent or higher are:

- Mississippi 31.8%
- New Mexico 30.7
- District of Columbia 30.3
- Louisiana 28.8
- Arkansas 28.1
- South Carolina 27.8
- Alabama 27.6

- Kentucky 27.4
- Arizona 27.2
- Texas 26.6
- Georgia 26.3
- Tennessee 26.3
- West Virginia 25.8
- North Carolina 25.6

These shameful child poverty levels call for urgent and persistent action. Citizens must demand that every political leader state what they will do now to invest in and protect vulnerable children from hunger, homelessness, and poor education and to prepare them to be competent future workers. It's way past time to eliminate epidemic child poverty and the child suffering, stress, homelessness, and miseducation it spawns.

A number of leading economists and researchers agree that investing in children today is the best way to prepare and create a strong America tomorrow. As Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told participants at the Children's Defense Fund's national conference in July: "Economically speaking, early childhood programs are a good investment with inflation-adjusted annual rates of return on the funds estimated to reach 10 percent or higher. Very few alternative

investments can promise that kind of return. Notably, a portion of these economic returns accrues to the children themselves and their families, but studies show that the rest of society enjoys the majority of the benefits, reflecting the many contributions that skills and productive workers make to the economy."

Do most Americans really want our children to get poorer while the rich get richer and to allow our budget to be balanced on the backs of poor babies while millionaires and billionaires receive hundreds of billions in more huge tax cuts they do not need? If you do not, speak up and vote for a more just America for every child.

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](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

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

### The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260  
Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147  
Contents © 2012, The Prince George's Post

<b>Publisher</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Subscriptions</b> Liz Brandenstein
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Editor</b> Legusta Floyd
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kylar Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association.  
The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.  
Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2.  
Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.  
Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

# BUSINESS

## Small Business Spotlight

### County Encourages Firms to Build Prime-Supplier Relationships

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III joined Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, County Council Chair Andrea Harrison (D-District 5), Councilman Derrick Davis (D-District 6) and Prince George's County Public School Board Member Rosalind Johnson (District 1) to welcome 500 small and minority firms, government and resource agencies, and prime suppliers at the 2012 Prince George's County Business Conference and Expo.

"It is important for small and minority businesses to form alliances to improve their image and credibility, and to strengthen their competitiveness," said Baker. "Our small and minority companies play a key role in the economic development of Prince George's County and I encourage you all to position yourselves to be more successful and to become significant enterprises that future generations will remember."

"Primetime Business with Prime Contractors," the conference theme, was focused on showcasing the small and minority firms in Prince George's County through vendor exhibits. The Expo also focused on actively helping companies propel their businesses through new prime-supplier relationships and access to potential second tier opportunities.

The Conference also featured our recently launched "MEET THE PRIMES" forums, which covered Construction, Information Technology, Architect and Engineering Consulting Services, and Health and Human Services."

Additionally, three Prince George's County contract award recipients were recognized for positioning and preparing themselves to compete and win contracts during the luncheon program: Momentum, Inc., Procure Ambulance of Maryland, Inc. and Sheladia Associates, Inc.

This conference was made possible because of a host of sponsoring partners: Eastern Food; Center for Minority Business Development; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Lanier Electronics Group; K. Neal International Trucks, Inc.; M&M Welding and Fabricators, Inc.; Pepco; Northrop Grumman; Governor's Office of Minority Affairs; M&T Bank; Gaylord; MGM Resorts International; Elocen Group, LLC; Bazilio Cobb Associates and Early Morning Software, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY GIANT FOODS

**Giant Food Store Manager Scott Sims (second from left), cuts the ribbon along with Giant Food District Director Tim Baker (left), Albert Turner, Carrollton Enterprises (second from right), and Maryland State Senator James C. Rosapepe (right) to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Beltsville Giant. Joining them are several Giant associates.**

The Beltsville Giant Food located at 11701 Beltsville Drive in Maryland celebrated a re-opening Friday, September 29 with community members, Giant associates, and shoppers. The Beltsville Giant underwent a major remodel and now features a brand new bakery offering a full array of fresh baked goods including Giant's exclusive line of Madelyn cakes and lattice pies. Customers will also enjoy a redesigned produce department featuring a greater selection of fresh fruits and vegetables and an assortment of natural, organic, and gluten free options, including variety of Giant Nature's Promise items.

## U.S. Department of Education Provides Guidance to Help Classroom Teachers Combat Bullying

By PRESS OFFICER  
U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education has released a free, two-part training toolkit designed to reduce incidents of bullying, for use by classroom teachers and educators. The toolkit was developed by the Safe and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, in collaboration with the NEA and the American Federation of Teachers.

Teachers care about bullying in the classroom, but many don't know how to effectively intervene and prevent it, according to data collected by the National Education Association (NEA). The toolkit is designed to provide classroom teachers with the knowledge and skills to intervene in bullying behavior and to de-escalate threatening behaviors at school. It includes two modules: "Understanding and Intervening in Bullying Behavior" and "Creating a Supportive Classroom Climate." "Teachers play a critical role in identifying, addressing, reporting and intervening in bullying behavior in their classrooms," David Esquith, director of the Office of Safe and Healthy Students, said. "These modules will certainly help those teachers who don't know what to do when these situations arise, and will strengthen the skills of those who do."

Module 1 consists of step-by-step instructions, including a preparation guide and trainer's outline, for conducting workshops with teachers, educators and school personnel who work



PHOTO BY DOE

**The toolkit is designed to provide classroom teachers with the knowledge and skills to intervene in bullying behavior and to de-escalate threatening behaviors at school.**

with students in a school environment. Materials for the workshop focus on:

Understanding what bullying behavior is and is not

Understanding what bullying behavior may look like in the classroom

Exploring ideas for responding to bullying behavior and

Becoming equipped with specific strategies for addressing and reporting bullying behavior.

Module 2 provides state-of-the-art information on how to build a supportive classroom climate. Research shows that classrooms that have strong relationships and are respectful of diversity have less bullying. Participants in the module will:

Consider what a supportive classroom climate looks like and how it can prevent bullying

Examine the role of teacher-to-student and student-to-student relationships in building a supportive classroom climate

Explore strategies for preventing bullying in the classroom, including establishing a culture of respect for differences

among students

Consider how a web of positive support among students and other adults across the school community can help prevent bullying.

"Teachers often get frustrated because they truly do care about their students and want to help stop bullying in their classrooms, but they don't know what to do," Deborah Temkin, the Department's bullying prevention coordinator, said. "These modules are based on the best available research and practices to give teachers effective tools to not only respond to bullying, but also to stop it before it starts."

The training modules build upon the success of training materials previously released for school bus drivers in June 2011. Since that time, the school bus training materials have been used to train more than 100,000 of the nation's bus drivers. The classroom teacher modules were developed as a result of feedback from attendees at annual Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention summits the last

three years. The summits were hosted by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students in conjunction with the departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Defense, Agriculture, the Interior, the Federal Trade Commission, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and the National Council on Disability. Teachers, educators and others from around the country attended the summits that focused on stopping bullying in schools and communities.

More than 33 percent of students who are bullied report it happening in classrooms, according to research from the National Center for Education Statistics. And the NEA reports that only 55 percent of teachers have received training on bullying policies at their schools. The training toolkit will help enhance teachers' existing skills in building supportive classroom climates while sharpening the skills of others who work with students in school settings.

### Casino from A1

Karmel said.

The most recent campaign finance statement from the pro-expansion committee For Maryland Jobs and Schools Inc., released Wednesday, shows MGM has contributed an additional \$3 million since a report issued last week. That puts MGM's total contributions to the pro-gaming expansion campaign since August at \$11.4 million.

Some of MGM's contributions were in-kind, meaning they provided services and then reported the monetary value of those services as contributions.

For Maryland Jobs and

Schools Inc. has also received \$2.3 million from CBAC Gaming LLC, a group led by Caesars and Rock Gaming that was granted a license to operate video lottery terminals at a location in Baltimore this summer. Peterson Development Companies, the developers of National Harbor, have also contributed \$400,000. They've spent \$13.6 million.

Penn National has contributed \$13 million to the committee against expansion, Get the Facts-Vote No on 7. They've spent \$10.9 million.

Through its own committee Penn National Gaming Inc. has spent \$36,401.

Jared DeMarinis, the director

of Candidacy and Campaign Finance for the Maryland State Board of Elections, said both committees have been consistent and accurate in reporting their expenditures. He said they are required to report everything in Maryland.

He said a more detailed report will come out Oct. 12, showing how the money has been spent.

Some observers have noted the irony in seeing casinos spend money on both sides of a gambling debate.

"There's a touch of hypocrisy quite often in the kind of marketing that's been done," said Bill Edington, director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial

**Some observers have noted the irony in seeing casinos spend money on both sides of a gambling debate.**

Gaming at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Right now opinion on the issue is tied, according to a poll of registered voters released Wednesday by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. The poll shows opponents of gaming expansion leading by only 1 percentage point.

### Reef from A1

Willey said.

Yet there is reason to hope for their recovery.

"They're such a resilient animal that the populations left in the bay have been able to stay at fairly level amounts," Willey said.

Historically over-harvested and hard-hit by diseases in the 1980s, oysters are now developing disease-resistance through natural breeding processes, Bay Foundation Communications Coordinator Tom Zolper said.

A recent focus on aquaculture may also take pressure off oyster reefs by creating an alternative source for fisheries.

Oysters continue to struggle against poor water quality in the bay and low reproduction rates -- both problems that can be ameliorated by adding more oysters.

**Living Habitat**

There are three components

to oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay: establishing no-harvest oyster sanctuaries, restoring natural oyster reefs and expanding aquaculture, Willey said.

Projects like Memorial Stadium -- created with rubble from the Baltimore Orioles' former stomping grounds -- rely on artificial materials to rebuild oyster reefs.

The once large oyster reefs -- living towers of oysters tall enough to ground ships -- were virtually wiped clean from the bay by overharvesting. Without them, tiny, free-swimming oysters sink to the sea floor, where sediment covers and suffocates them.

Reef balls mimic natural oyster reefs, providing surfaces that attract young oysters to settle. Not unlike the castles that adorn pet store fish tanks, the hollow, concrete balls also provide habitat for fish and crabs.

Each adult oyster can filter around 50 gallons of water each

day, clearing sediment and improving water quality as they reform lost habitat.

"Oysters are the cornerstone to rebuilding the marine fisheries of the bay," said Bay Foundation volunteer and member of Chesapeake Natives Christopher Puttock.

**Blueprint for the Bay**

Small-scale oyster restoration projects in the 1990s laid the groundwork for larger projects like Memorial Stadium.

While the Bay Foundation runs this project, volunteers form the backbone of oyster restoration, from the schoolchildren who helped assemble the reef balls to Lewis, who guides them into the water.

"What it takes is a lot of hard work," Willey said. "We could not operate at our oyster restoration center efficiently without our volunteers."

The Bay Foundation team is measuring success with different reef ball-to-acreage ratios and the number of oyster spat

per reef ball, hoping to improve restoration practices and draw state and non-profit funding to expand projects in the future.

"It's not leaps and bounds every year, but it's grown," Willey said of oyster restoration's progress in the bay. "It's a drop in the bucket, but we're helping create a blueprint to save the bay."

The Bay Foundation runs its oyster restoration project with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and in partnership with the Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishermen's Association, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative.

To learn more about oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, visit [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org). Email Maryland Oyster Restoration Assistant Dan Johannes at [djohannes@cbf.org](mailto:djohannes@cbf.org) to volunteer in oyster restoration projects.

Does Your Business **NEED TO JAZZ THINGS UP?**

Place a business card-size ad in 96 Maryland, Delaware and DC newspapers for one low price!

• Over 4 Million Readers • Only \$1,490 per week!

**SAVE UP TO 85%**

CALL MDDC PRESS SERVICE  
410-721-4000 X19 • [www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com)

Frequency discounts and ad size options also available.

**MDDC 2x2 DISPLAY AD NETWORK**

**DONATE YOUR CAR**

to the Outreach Center "Car for Kids" Program

• Free Pick-up and Tow  
• Any Model or Condition  
• IRS Tax Deductible

Help Kids in Need

**1-800-601-7171**

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review "Looper"

"Looper"

Grade: A-

Rated R, some harsh profanity, some strong violence, a little nudity

1 hr., 58 min.

And for his next trick, Rian Johnson – writer/director of the high-school noir "Brick" and the whimsical con-men caper "The Brothers Bloom" – delivers "Looper," a satisfying sci-fi thriller about time travel, telekinesis, and human weakness. It has a few superficial things in common with Johnson's previous work, but the most substantive element the three movies share is more substantive and elemental: they are crafty, clever stories that transcend their genres.

Set in a not-too-futuristic 2044, "Looper" stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Joe, a seemingly ordinary fellow who earns a living as a special kind of Mob hit man. Thirty years hence, after time travel has been invented and outlawed, crime bosses will dispose of enemies by sending them back to 2044, where guys like Joe kill them. (What better place to hide a corpse than 30 years in the past?) There is no bright future in such a career, no climbing up the corporate Mob ladder, and Joe is well aware of this. As he observes in the hard-boiled narration that gives the film its noir-ish edge, people in his line of work tend not to be forward-thinkers.

These hit men are known as Loopers. The only way a Looper can really screw up his job is if

his target gets zapped back to 2044 and he fails to immediately kill that person. The last thing you want is somebody from the future running around in the present, causing rifts in timelines and such. You go to the appointed place at the appointed time; you wait for the target, already bound and gagged, to appear before you; and you execute him. You do this even if the target is your own future self.

Do you see where this is going? Trust me, you don't. OK, maybe a little. Joe's future self, played by Bruce Willis, is sent to him to be executed, and Old Joe escapes before Young Joe can do the job. This puts Young Joe in hot water with his boss, Abe (an evilly sardonic Jeff Daniels), and soon both Joes are on the run. Old Joe claims to have a good reason for escaping, though, beyond the obvious reason of not wanting to die. Something in the future is wrong. Having been sent back in time, albeit as a condemned man, perhaps he can fix it.

While I enjoy a ripping time-travel yarn as much as the next guy, what I enjoy even more is one like "Looper" that focuses on telling a suspenseful, human story instead of fixating on time-travel paradoxes. (There's a moment where Old Joe pointedly tells his younger self not to worry so much about the details.) Johnson devotes sufficient creative energy to laying out the rules of this world, but he's not interested in the "how" of time travel (which is fair, since time travel is impossible), nor does he care about conjuring puzzles to



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

**In the futuristic action thriller *Looper*, time travel will be invented - but it will be illegal and only available on the black market. When the mob wants to get rid of someone, they will send their target 30 years into the past, where a "looper" - a hired gun, like Joe (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) - is waiting to mop up. Joe is getting rich and life is good... until the day the mob decides to "close the loop," sending back Joe's future self (Bruce Willis) for assassination. -- (C) Sony**

bend our brains (though there's some of that too). For him, the subjects of time travel and telekinesis – oh yeah, telekinesis is a thing in 2044 – are merely the setting for an ingenious story about bigger things.

Joe's addiction to a futuristic drug seems incidental at first, but then it hints at the movie's larger messages about history repeating itself and our efforts to break the cycles we get stuck in. This is demonstrated viscerally in a chilling sequence concerning a Looper named Seth (Paul Dano) who discovers that what happens to him now immediately manifests itself in the body of his older self. We see it also in the fiercely protective mother (Emily Blunt) who is determined to guard her son (Pierce Gagnon) against anything that might hinder his future.

Bruce Willis is characteristi-

cally good in the role of a fast-moving action hero, but it's Joseph Gordon-Levitt whose performance is most remarkable. Aided by makeup to enhance the physical resemblance, JGL adopts Willis' speech and mannerisms to an uncanny degree. We have no problem buying that these are two different versions of the same character, and that their fates are intrinsically connected.

This is the real deal, folks – intelligent, humorous, exciting entertainment that happens to be sci-fi but is by no means limited to that genre's target audience in terms of appeal. Anyone who appreciates good fiction, science- or otherwise, will find much to enjoy in what amounts to the latest proof that Rian Johnson is one of the best up-and-coming filmmakers in America.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### It's Over: The NFL's Union Referees Return to Work in Style

The NFL referee lockout is over and we now have an answer to the question, "What does it take to pierce the shame-free cocoon of unreality where NFL owners reside?" All you need, it seems, is condemnation across the political spectrum ranging from the President of the United States to small-town mayors, to even anti-union corporate lickspittles like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. All you need is one of your flagship teams, the Green Bay Packers, publicly threatening to strike or "take a knee on every play." All you need are your star quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees blasting your product. All you need are online petitions with miles of signatures and 70,000 fans calling the league offices in the 24 hours following the debacle of a Monday night game between the Seattle Seahawks and the Green Bay Packers. All of this collective scorn finally punctured the owners' magical mental space, bringing them to the negotiating table to settle.

The deal is damn near a slam dunk for the NFL referees. Remember the root of this lockout was two-fold: the league wanted to end the pension system and ban refs from holding jobs outside of the sport. Now the league will continue—and even increase—the pension payouts for the next five years before a negotiated transfer to a 401K. Refs will also be given a 25% hike in pay starting next year, with more salary increases until the end of the seven-year agreement. The NFL owners wanted to hire 21 more officials to phase in as full-time employees. The refs agreed to seven new full time hires, and no restrictions on their own abilities to take outside work. In other words, Roger Goodell and the owners were shellacked by the same people they locked out, dismissed, and disrespected. The now infamous words of NFL VP Ray Anderson, "You've never paid for an NFL ticket to watch someone officiate a game", is now the league's version of "You're doing a heckuva job Brownie."

But there is a bigger story here as well: the entire country received a High Def, prime time lesson in the difference between skilled, union labor and a ramshackle operation of unskilled scabs. When Scott Walker is sticking up for the union, you know we've arrived at a teachable moment worth shouting from the hills. People who care about stable jobs with benefits and reversing the tide of inequality in the United States should seize this moment. We should ask not only the Scott Walkers of the world but politicians of both parties drinking from the same neoliberal fever-swamp: why do you think we need skilled union labor on the football field but not in our firehouses, our classrooms, or even our uranium facilities? Similarly players need to be asking questions to the owners: how can you actually posture like you care about our health and safety ever again after subjecting us to this hazardous environment the first three weeks of the season, or as Drew Brees put it on twitter, "Ironic that our league punishes those based on conduct detrimental. Whose CONDUCT is DETRIMENTAL now?"

Lastly, it's another embarrassment after a year of embarrassments, for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. He has through his arrogance created an asterisk on this season, left an indelible mark on his legacy as commissioner, and created a crisis of confidence in his ability to do his job. He learned that people may not pay to watch referees but they do pay to watch a competently officiated contest. He also hopefully learned that if there's one thing people don't pay to watch, it's him: sweating before the cameras and doing his damndest to make the NFL a reflection of the worst corporate arrogance. Hear the message Roger. This nine billion dollar league? This unprecedented popularity? This limitless national audience? You didn't build that. Your owners didn't build that. The sponsors didn't build that. It was built by the blood, sweat, and tears of those on the field of play including the referees. It was built by fans who invest their passion and the tax payers who have underwritten your archipelago of mega-domes in cities across the country. I can't wait for the union refs to be cheered when they take the field this weekend. We may go back to booing them after the firstplay, but it will be with respect: respect earned because they stood as one and beat the NFL bosses.

For more on the referee lockout, watch Dave Zirin talk about how the dispute highlighted the problem of class in the US on Democracy Now!



**Don't Keep it a Secret!  
It Pays to Advertise!  
in The Prince George's Post  
Call Brenda Boice  
301 627 0900**

# GREENBELT COMMUNITY

## PERFORMING & CREATIVE

# ARTS FESTIVAL!

SCHEDULE:

MONDAY: DRAMA

TUESDAY: BAND

WEDNESDAY: CHOIR

THURSDAY: STRINGS

FRIDAY: PIANO/GUITAR & DANCE

ART EXHIBIT EVERY NIGHT!

Featuring performers from Greenbelt ES, Springhill Lake ES, Glenarden Woods ES and Magnolia ES, Greenbelt MS, R. Goddard MS and Eleanor Roosevelt High School

**WHEN: OCTOBER 22-26, 2012**

**7 PM - 8 PM**

**WHERE: The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Auditorium**

**COST: AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME!**

# Calendar of Events

October 4 - October 10, 2012

## Fall History Lecture Series

Date and Time: Wednesdays, September 19, October 17 & November 21, 7:30 pm

Description: Just like the Spring Lecture Series, the Fall Series features enlightening talks, a relaxed atmosphere, and delicious refreshments. Speakers and topics to be announced.

Cost: FREE; No reservations required. Ages: 12 & up

Location: *Montpelier Mansion*

9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708

Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

## Beltsville/USDA Farmers Market

Date and Time: Thursdays through October 25, 10 am-2 pm

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted  
Location: *5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Parking Lot B, Beltsville 20705*

Contact: Carletha Mcgriff at 301-504-1776 or carletha.mcgriff@usda.gov

## Laurel Farmers Market

Date and Time: Thursdays, June 7-October 25, 9 am-4 pm

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted  
Location: *300 block of Main Street, Laurel 20708*

Contact: Gail Reinhardt at 301-483-0838 or grr1054@aol.com

## Riverdale Park Farmers Market

Date and Time: Thursdays through November 15, 3-7 pm

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted  
Location: *Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park 20737*

(MARC station parking lot)

Contact: Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973

www.rpfarmersmarket.org

## Crossroads Farmers Market

Date and Time: Wednesdays, May 16-October 31, 2:30-6:30 pm

Location: *7676 New Hampshire Avenue, Langley Park 20912*

Contact: Allison Milchling at 301-891-7244 or crossroadsmarket@gmail.com

www.crossroadsfarmersmarket.org

## College Park Farmers Market

Date and Time: Saturdays, May 5-November 17, 7 am-12 noon

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted

Location: M-NCPPC, Wells-Linson Complex (parking lot)  
5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park 20740

Contact: Phil Miller at 301-399-5485 or smmiller64@aol.com

## Fort Washington/Oxon Hill National Harbor Farmers Market

Date and Time: Saturdays, May 26-October 27, 10 am-2 pm

Location: *American Way (Waterfront & Fleet Streets), Oxon Hill 20744*

Contact: Phyllicia Hatton at 301-910-8076

www.americanmarketnh.com

## Branch Avenue in Bloom Farmers Market

Date and Time: Saturdays through November 17, 9 am-2 pm

Description: Branch Avenue in Bloom is a unique economic development project designed to rejuvenate Branch Avenue, St. Barnabas and the Naylor Road Metro business corridors by leveraging local assets from cultural and architectural heritage to local enterprises and community pride.

To learn more about Branch Avenue in Bloom, visit <http://www.facebook.com/branchavenueinbloom> or contact the Maryland Small Business Development Center at 301-403-8300.

Location: Iverson Mall Parking Lot

3737 Branch Avenue, Hillcrest Heights 20748

Contact: Fleming Thomas, 301-219-7929; fthomas@umd.edu

## Bowie Farmers Market

Date and Time: Sundays, May 20-October 28, 8 am-12 noon

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted

Location: *Bowie High School parking lot at 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie 20715*

Contact: Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorely@cityof-bowie.org

www.cityofbowie.org/LeisureActivities/farmers\_market.asp

## Greenbelt Farmers Market

Date and Time: Sundays, May 13-November 18, 10 am-2 pm

(closed Labor Day weekend, Holiday market December 16)

Description: FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted

Location: *Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot*

*101 Centerway, Greenbelt 20770*

Contact: Nancy Soloman at 240-476-8769 or info@greenbelt-farmersmarket.org

www.greenbeltfarmersmarket.org

## Fall Into Fun!

Date and Time: Saturdays & Sundays, October 13, 14, 20 & 21, 1-4 pm

Description: Bring your family and friends and celebrate fall at Watkins Regional Park. Ride the train and meander through the woods to see fall leaves. Stop and visit the animals at Old Maryland Farm. Horse around on the carousel. Climb aboard the tractor-pulled wagon for a hayride. Stop by the Nature Center to make a fall craft and enjoy popcorn. Please note: all activities are subject to weather conditions and may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Admission sales available for purchase the day of the event at the Ticket Booth at the Train and Carousel, and are good for that day only. Everyone must pay admission to participate. VISA, MasterCard and Cash accepted.

Cost: Resident \$5/person; Non-Resident \$6/person

Ages: All ages

Location: *Watkins Regional Park*

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

# EARTH TALK ... Greening up the hotel industry

Dear EarthTalk:

*In recent years the hotel industry began to green up operations, but has it yet gone beyond leaving out little cards to encourage you to re-use your towels and linens?*

-- Mason Singer,  
St. Louis, MO

Some hotels and hotel chains take sustainability more seriously than others, but the industry as a whole has certainly become greener in recent years. Those little cards may seem like token environmentalism, but they can actually result in significant water, waste and cost reductions. The website Economically Sound reports that a 150-room hotel can conserve 72,000 gallons of water and 480 gallons of laundry soap every year by placing the cards in its guest rooms. The Marriott chain reported saving as much as 17 percent in hot water and sewer costs at its hotels thanks to implementation of its Linen Reuse Program.

While many hotels and chains print up their own cards, thousands more purchase them from the Green Hotels Association, a non-profit launched two decades ago to bring together hotels around the U.S. and elsewhere that share a commitment to the environment and sustainable use of natural resources. The organization's Catalog of Environmental Products for the Lodging Industry contains a wide range of environmentally friendly energy- and water-saving products. For example, 500 laminated copies of the group's best selling card (asking guests to consider not having sheets changed every day) costs hoteliers just \$200. Another exam-

ple is the toilet tank fill diverter, which saves about 3/4 of a gallon of water per flush while remaining invisible to guests. The little gadgets cost hotels around \$1 and as such pay for themselves in no time thanks to reduced water bills. The catalog also features dispensers that eliminate the waste of stocking every bathroom with soap bars and little bottles of hair and skin care products.

Another group promoting a greener hospitality industry is the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), which works to improve the quality of tourism around the world. Under its Environment Initiative, WTTC aims to solidify a global vision on how the tourism industry can foster sustainable development. It has been especially pro-active around the mitigation of carbon emissions and last year, along with the International Tourism Partnership (ITP) and 12 major hotel chains including Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott and Starwood, launched the Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative, which aims to help hotels reduce, measure and communicate their carbon footprints. This is particularly relevant, says WTTC, for hotels' corporate clients who want to quantify the carbon footprints of their hotel stays, meetings and events.

Another positive trend is the Four Seasons' 10 Million Trees Initiative. The hotel chain is celebrating its 50th anniversary by planting 10 million trees across the 34 countries in which it operates with the hope that the effort will help combat deforestation and global warming and attract more customers concerned about the state of the planet.

Beyond what the major chains are doing, eco lodges run by or in partnership with native



CREDIT: ALAN LEVINE/FICKR

**Those little cards urging you to reuse towels and linens may seem like token environmentalism, but they actually result in significant water and waste reductions. The website Economically Sound reports that a 150-room hotel can conserve 72,000 gallons of water and 480 gallons of laundry soap every year by placing the cards in its guest rooms.**

people or tribes have popped up all over the tropics and beyond; examples include Guludo Beach Lodge in Mozambique, Africa and Posada Amazonas in the Peruvian Amazon. Staying at such a place is a good way to ensure that locals can benefit from tourism and not be tempted to pillage their region's natural resource base.

CONTACTS: Economically Sound, [www.economicallysound.com](http://www.economicallysound.com); Green Hotels Association, [www.greenhotels.com](http://www.greenhotels.com);

WTTC, [www.wttc.org](http://www.wttc.org); ITP, [www.tourismpartnership.org](http://www.tourismpartnership.org).

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine ([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com). Subscribe: [www.emagazine.com/subscribe](http://www.emagazine.com/subscribe). Free Trial Issue: [www.emagazine.com/trial](http://www.emagazine.com/trial).

## Cartoon from A1

school to the really scary, almost prison yard environment of middle school. So it was terrifying for me."

Despite his not-so-fond memories of middle school, Kinney said he chose to set the Wimpy Kid books during that period because having characters who are twice the size -- and half as mature -- as other characters makes for great comedy.

Greg is one of the smaller kids. He's a slight boy with only three hairs on his head. He isn't into sports, but he loves video games. He gets picked on by his older brother Rodrick and tries to maintain a decent reputation in his rough-and-tumble middle school hallways.

Kinney described Greg as "this kind of not fully formed person."

"He's full of imperfections, but he's frozen in this kind of pre-adolescent amber forever," he said.

Greg doesn't always do or say the right thing. That's why young readers relate to the books, which are designed to look like the doodle-filled journal of a tween boy. His young fans have kept the Wimpy Kid series on the bestseller lists since the first book appeared in 2007.

There also has been a trio of successful, live-action Wimpy Kid movies. A seventh book, "The Third Wheel (Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Book 7)," comes out on Nov. 13. It focuses on Greg trying to get a date for a Valentine's Day dance.

Like Greg, Kinney has had a long-standing interest in cartooning. After graduating from Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville in 1989, Kinney went to Villanova on an Air Force ROTC scholarship, where he published his first comic strip, "Igdoof." After a year, he transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park.

Kinney had been interested

in computer programming since his mother bought an Apple II computer in his early teenage years. He decided to major in computer science at Maryland. He also won a competitive spot for a cartoon strip in Maryland's campus newspaper, The Diamondback, where he revived "Igdoof."

Igdoof, the title character of the strip, was "a really awkward looking freshman with a huge nose and huge ears, but he had three strands of hair on top of his head," Kinney said.

The character liked to draw cartoons, hated to study and enjoyed immature practical jokes.

"A lot of the DNA of my 'Igdoof' cartoons ... have made their way into my Wimpy Kid books," Kinney said.

One notable example: Igdoof's self-portrait looked remarkably similar to Greg from the Wimpy Kid books.

Kinney was an enterprising guy and one of the most popular cartoonists The Diamondback has ever had, said Michael Fribush, general manager of Maryland Media, Inc., the newspaper's parent company.

"I think he related to students in a very good way," Fribush said. "We got a lot of reader response, more than we usually do for cartoonists."

John Mortenson, a multimedia designer at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and a 1995 Maryland graduate, started his own Diamondback cartoon strip, "Campus Interruptus," a little over a year after Kinney's "Igdoof" strip began.

Mortenson remembered Kinney as a soft-spoken, nice guy with a wry sense of humor. Kinney encouraged him and showed him some drawing tricks.

"People would come up to me and say, 'Oh, your cartoon is so well drawn,'" he said. "They would come up to (Kinney) and say, 'Your cartoon is hilarious.' I would have preferred the hilarious comments."

"Igdoof" was eventually picked up at three other West Coast colleges, according to a 1994 Washington Post profile about Kinney's hopes to make the cartoon a syndicated comic strip.

Kinney tended to work right up to the deadline for his daily strips, Mortenson said.

He once asked Kinney how he'd come up with the idea for a clever strip set almost entirely in a pitch black room. "I ran out of time to do anything else but two eyeballs in a dark room," Kinney told him.

Kinney also said his drawing technique has changed since his days at Maryland, when he would ink pencil drawings for "Igdoof." He now creates all-digital drawings on a tablet.

Three and a half years into his computer science degree, Kinney said he was close to failing out because of all the time he spent cartooning.

He interned at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives during school breaks, and thought he might become an ATF agent. He decided to switch his major from computer science to criminal justice.

After graduating in 1993, Kinney hoped his newspaper cartooning career would take off. Instead he received a lot of rejection letters and took jobs doing newspaper layout, software production, and web design.

He eventually moved to New England, got married, and had two sons, now ages 7 and 9. And Kinney continued cartooning, keeping a notebook filled with his sketches and story ideas that would eventually become the Wimpy Kid series.

Some of the first Greg Heffley stories appeared on a children's education game site (Funbrain.com) for which he was an online designer. Success finally came at the 2006 Comic Con convention in New York where Abrams Books picked up the Wimpy Kid idea.

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid" was published in April 2007 and became a New York Times bestseller. Together, all six books have sold 75 million copies, according to the publisher.

In a Library of Congress book festival podcast this month, Kinney said he would like to see a "Wimpy Kid" TV cartoon.

And he has no plans to end the book series starring the perpetual middle-schooler.

"What I've decided is that these books don't have to end," he said. "I've just realized that the DNA of these characters is in comic strips so they can live forever."

## Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding Day

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ekklesia Family Life & Worship Center, 4205 37th Street, Brentwood Maryland 20722. Please join us as we observe Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding Day. There will be guest speakers, resources and representatives from area mental health organizations to discuss the services they offer.

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

## UNITED METHODIST

### WESTPHALIA

#### United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"  
9363 D'Arcy Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Two Worship Services:**  
**8 and 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:30**

**(301)735-9373**

**Fax: (301) 735-1844**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,**  
**Pastor**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Web Site:**  
**www.westphaliaum.org**

## BAPTIST

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

**'A Bible Based, Christ Centered  
& Spirit Led Congregation'**

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD  
20785 **(301) 773-6655**

Sunday Biblical Institute:

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship:

7:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

**'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS**

**WITH JESUS':**

12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

**"A Time of Prayer, Praise,  
Worship, & The Word"**

**Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor**

**www.fbhp.org**

## BAPTIST

### First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus  
Christ Is Lord and King  
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road  
College Park, MD 20740

**301-474-3995**

**www.fbc-cp.org**

*Sunday School 9:30a.m.*

*Sunday Worship 11a.m.*

*Holy Communion 1st Sunday*

*Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.*

*Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.*

## UNITED METHODIST

### Union

#### United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-5088**

**Sunday School:** (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, Pastor**

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

### WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

*"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and  
Jesus is Lord"*

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD  
(301) 864-3437

**Intercessory Prayer:**Sundays - 8:30 a.m.

**Church School:** - 9:15 a.m.

**Morning Worship Celebration-** 10:30 a.m.

**Wed. Night Bible Study -** 7:45 p.m.

**Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor**

## BAPTIST

### Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.

6371 Oxon Hill Road

Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.

Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.

Office (301) 839-1166

Fax (301) 839-1721

E-mail: Office [FHBC@verizon.net](mailto:FHBC@verizon.net)

Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

## BAPTIST

**Church Directory  
Advertisements are paid ads.  
Please call the  
Prince George's Post today  
and have your Church  
information published in our  
Directory.  
Call Today! 301-627-0900**

## THE PRINCE

### GEORGE'S

#### POST

#### CALL

**301-627-0900**

#### FAX

**301-627-6260**

Editorials &

Calendar

EMAIL:

[PGPOST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PGPOST@GMAIL.COM)

**Have a Safe**

**Weekend**

**Remember,**

**Don't**

**Drink**

**Alcohol and**

**Drive!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## AUTOMOBILE DONATION

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S. LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Your donation helps local families with food, clothing, shelter. Tax deductible. MVA licensed. [LutheranMissionSociety.org](http://LutheranMissionSociety.org) 410-636-0123 or toll-free 1-877-737-8567.

## AUCTIONS

Wanted To Purchase Antiques & Fine Art, 1 item Or Entire Estate Or Collection, Gold, Silver, Coins, Jewelry, Toys, Oriental Glass, China, Lamps, Books, Textiles, Paintings, Prints almost anything old Evergreen Auctions 973-818-1100. Email [evergreenauction@hotmail.com](mailto:evergreenauction@hotmail.com)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Franchise Opportunity Inside Major Retailer. Call for Details: 866-622-4591. Or email: [franchiseopportunity@hotmail.com](mailto:franchiseopportunity@hotmail.com)

ADVERTISE YOUR NEXT AUCTION in 105 Maryland, Delaware and DC newspapers for one low cost of \$495. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 4.2 million regional and local readers. For more information call Wanda at 1-855-721-6332 x 6 with the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association

2.8 Million Eyes will read your ad - 5 days per week - Monday thru Friday in the DAILY CLASSIFIED CONNECTION for just \$199 per day. Join the exclusive members of this network today! Place your ad in 14 MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS in Maryland, Delaware and DC. Call 1-855-721-6332x6 or visit our website: [www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com) Buy 4 Weeks/Get 2 Weeks Free of Charge

## EDUCATION SERVICES

## EDUCATION SERVICES

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. \*Medical, \*Business, \*Criminal Justice, \*Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 877-206-4290 [www.CenturaOnline.com](http://www.CenturaOnline.com)

## HELP WANTED

UtiliQuest is hiring Utility Line Locators in your area. Paid training. HS/GED, Drug Scr. Background req. Utiliquest is an EOE. [www.utiliquest.com](http://www.utiliquest.com)

## HELP WANTED-DRIVERS

Drivers - HIRING EXPERIENCED/INEXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS! Earn up to \$.51 per Mile! New Fleet Volvo Tractors! 1 Year OTR Exp. Req. - Tanker Training Available. Call Today: 877-882-6537 [www.OakleyTransport.com](http://www.OakleyTransport.com)

Teams Split \$.513 per mile Solos Earn \$.437 per mile Teams sign on \$7,500 Solo sign on \$2,000 1 yr OTR Exp. CDL-A-HazMat 877-628-3748

## HELP WANTED - SALES

WANTED: LIFE AGENTS: Earn \$500 a Day; Great Agent Benefits, Commissions Paid Daily; Liberal Underwriting; Leads, Leads, Leads LIFE INSURANCE, LICENSE REQUIRED. Call 1-888-713-6020

## MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINE MECHANIC - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (866) 823-6729.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Canada Drug Center. Licensed, safe and affordable. Up to 90 percent savings on your medication needs. Call 1-888-472-5280 (\$25.00 off 1st prescription & free shipping).

## REAL ESTATE

Retirement and Future move? Discover Delaware and our gated community. Single family homes from the mid \$30's! Brochures available 1-866-629-0770 Or search [www.coolbranch.com](http://www.coolbranch.com)

## LAWN AND GARDEN

**Arborvitae Fall Sale!** For beautiful Privacy Hedges. Dark Green or Emerald 6ft only \$69.99 each or 8ft for \$119.99 each. FREE delivery and planting. Call 443-742-0844 or visit [cttrees.com](http://cttrees.com)

## VACATION RENTALS

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Best selection of affordable rentals. Full/ partial weeks. Call for FREE brochure. Open daily. Holiday Real Estate. 1-800-638-2102. Online reservations: [www.holidayoc.com](http://www.holidayoc.com)

## BRONCO CONSTRUCTION

**Call 301-855-4700**

**Commercial and**

**Residential**

**Licensed and Bonded**

**Framing, Drywall,**

**Acoustical Ceiling, etc.**

# BRAND CLOTHES IN DUNKIRK!

**Why travel to a mall?  
Stay local and SAVE \$\$\$\$!**

*consignments*  
by judi coyle

For you and your home... better brand and designer clothes, home decor and local artist consignments

**We have brand clothes from  
Chicos • Ann Taylor • Lucky  
Abercrombie • Twenty One  
Gap, St. John • and more**  
**We carry high school spirit wear too!**

**We also sell:**

- Purses, Shoes, Jewelry & Accessories
- Lamps, Pictures, & Small Furniture
- Pottery, Seasonal, Holiday and Home Decor Items & More!

**For more details visit us online at [www.consigncalvert.com](http://www.consigncalvert.com)  
or email us at [info@consigncalvert.com](mailto:info@consigncalvert.com).**

**Dunkirk Safeway Shopping Center  
10358 Southern Md Blvd • Dunkirk, MD 20754 • 301-327-5133**

**STORE HOURS\***

Monday & Tuesday, 11 am - 7 pm, Thursday, 11 am - 8 pm, Friday, 11 am - 7 pm, Saturday 11 am - 4 pm,  
and Sunday (Oct. - Aug.) 1 pm - 5 pm. Closed Wednesday and Sunday.

\*Please note store hours are subject to change.

