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Md. Basketball Great Juan Dixon Looks for 2nd Chance

COLLEGE PARK - Juan Dixon couldn't help but feel a bit nostalgic as he sat in a red Comcast Center seat late last month.

The Terrapins men's basketball icon had spent the past 20 minutes discussing life after College Park. He had touched upon a failed drug test, the ups and downs of playing abroad and the NBA comeback attempt that ultimately landed him alongside the newest generation of Terps.

Then he paused. A slight smile began to form on the 34-year-old shooting guard's face as he glanced at the rafters above him.

"That's possible," Dixon said as he pointed at the 2002 national championship banner. "The reality is, not everybody can make it to the NBA. But that banner, that's possible. Everybody on the team just has to know their role."

Much has changed for Dixon since he cemented his place in Terps history as the first — and so far, only — player to lead his hoops teammates to a national title. He has two young sons, Corey and Carter. He is divorced and now shares his days with a woman he calls the "love of my life." He is no longer the immature 23-year-old who often took his fame and talents for granted.

After an eight-year NBA career and a European voyage that spanned three professional teams, Dixon has returned to College Park humbled and motivated. He is training daily with the Terps' staff in hopes of restarting his NBA career, using the untapped potential he believes is still remaining in his 6-foot-3 frame.

"He's different now," said Cris

See **DIXON**, Page A5



PHOTO BY E

Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown

Lt. Gov. Brown Announces New Domestic Violence Program at GBMC

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

BALTIMORE, Md. (November, 2012) — Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown was joined by State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger, health care representatives, domestic violence advocates, community members, and state and local officials to announce the launch of a new Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program at Greater Baltimore Medical Center

(GBMC) in Baltimore County.

GBMC currently provides the only Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) program to treat adolescent and adult victims (ages 13 and older) of sexual assault in Baltimore County, and has expanded services for victims with the implementation of their new Domestic Violence Program. GBMC is receiving over \$27,000 in state funds to support both programs, including \$16,796 for the new domestic violence

program. Additionally, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield presented a check for \$15,000 to support the program.

The GBMC program will be Maryland's seventh hospital-based domestic violence program designed to meet the goals of the Governor's 2010 Executive Order, "The Maryland Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and

See **BROWN**, Page A3

Liquor Sales Stagnate This Year, Industry Says Marylanders Going Out Of State

By RACHAEL PACELLA
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS- Liquor sales in Maryland have stagnated in the past year, showing almost no growth since 2011, a change the industry attributes to an increased alcohol tax driving Marylanders to cross state lines in search of cheaper booze.

David Ozgo, chief economist for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, said the group compared figures from 2011 to figures from 2012 and saw a .2 percent increase, which Ozgo said is below national averages.

Their analysis compared deliveries, or how much alcohol by the gallon is delivered to retailers in Maryland from wholesalers.

Cecil County has been particularly hard hit by the tax, missing out on business that used to come from Pennsylvania and losing local business to Delaware.

In September, deliveries for all alcoholic beverages were down 20 percent from last year in Cecil County, and deliveries

for distilled spirits were down 57 percent, according to figures from the Comptroller's office.

"There is very, very strong evidence that the poor performance in Maryland package stores is the direct result of Maryland's decision to increase the beverage alcohol sales tax to 9 percent in 2011," Ozgo said.

Ozgo said another analysis from his organization, a trade association representing some of the nation's top distilleries, showed an increase of sales in Delaware by 8.8 percent, based on data collected from member companies.

"A lot of Virginia residents who used to come into Maryland in search of lower prices are simply staying home, and many Maryland consumers are voting with their feet and making their purchases in Delaware," Ozgo said.

In July 2011, the state tax on alcoholic beverages increased from 6 percent to 9 percent. The tax was imposed

See **LIQUOR**, Page A5

Website Calls Out Authors of Racist Anti-Obama Posts

By CARL STRAUMSHEIM
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON -- A new blog that exposes racial slurs on social media about President Barack Obama's re-election could draw the attention of the U.S. Secret Service, even though most of its subjects -- two of whom are from Maryland -- appear to be of high school and college age.

The website "Hello There, Racists!" which has only existed since Nov. 11, had "outed" 77 subjects by Thursday afternoon. Its creator, who has not been identified, did not respond to an electronic request for comment.

The blog, which is hosted by the popular microblogging platform Tumblr, welcomes its visitors with a challenge:

"The (un)official motto of the GOP is 'personal responsibility' -- so with publicly available information, let the words, names, and faces of these racists be documented so that they may be responsible for them," the message reads.

Although its subjects clearly oppose Obama's re-election,

not all of them explicitly identify themselves as Republicans. Some also state specifically that they are not racist.

Some entries involve racial slurs or threats of secession; others advocate openly for the assassination of Obama. One user posted a picture of Obama's face on a shooting target.

"Obama's president again," one message said. "Everybody put your stocks in Home Depot. Rope will be selling like crazy." Other posts are much more offensive.

One Maryland teenager posted two tweets calling Obama a racial slur, and he shared a photo of a person wearing a novelty mask resembling the 44th president performing a crude hand gesture. After being confronted with the website, the teenager deleted the messages, claiming his Twitter profile had been hacked.

Another Marylander posted "I demand a recount" 10 minutes after NBC News called

See **WEBSITE**, Page A8

Infidelity Not Among Top Worries of Military Families

By ANNA WEAVER
Capital News Service

ROCKVILLE - When Army Cpt. Stuart Hobbs joined the military two years ago, he and his wife Vanessa Hobbs worried about the strain of moving, the possibility of long separations and whether she would be able to find work.

Not at the front of their minds: fears of infidelity, an issue highlighted by Gen. David Petraeus' extramarital affair. But Stuart Hobbs said that the Petraeus case still highlights the pressures that military couples face.

"It definitely does say something about how tough it can be to maintain a relationship especially when you're deployed like that," said Stuart Hobbs, who lives in Rockville. "But to an extent, it does stereotype [military families] because I don't think [infidelity is] as common as that would imply."

Instead of infidelity, members of the military and their

spouses said in interviews that they are more concerned about the difficulties of keeping up their careers when their partner's assignments lead to moves every few years and family issues such as dealing with temporary single parenthood.

Military couples on average spend long periods of time apart, often with limited communication. Petraeus is an extreme example of this, as he spent more time than most military personnel overseas and away from his wife of 38 years, Holly, during his long military career.

Infidelity in the military is probably not as prevalent as people think, said Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, the director of the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University.

"My sense is that within military families there is a lot of worry about infidelity," she said. "And outside of military families I think there are a lot of stereotypes about military fami-



(CNS Photo/ Anna Weaver)

Vanessa Hobbs, Army Cpt. Stuart Hobbs and their daughter Audrey outside their Rockville, Md., home on Nov. 16.

lies [and infidelity]. And one high profile case doesn't help to fix either of those things."

While it is hard to find solid research on military infidelity rates, recent studies on the military divorce rate show it's similar to the average U.S. divorce rate. A 2012 Journal of Family Issues study found that, "Despite the fact that divorce rates have been rising within the military in recent years, service members are still no more likely to be divorced than comparable civilians." Recent RAND Corporation studies also backed

up this finding.

While military families said they don't relate as much to the Petraeus infidelity issue, they do relate to anxiety over being separated.

Vanessa Hobbs said fear of potential deployments was one of the first things that came to her mind when her husband first talked of joining the Army. It turned out that as a biochemist who does research at the Uniformed Services University

See **MILITARY**, Page A7

INSIDE

Fires in Non-hydrant Areas

Most firefighters can relate to responding on a first due/arriving house fire. Prior to their arrival at the reported location they have identified the closest fire hydrant. Imagine responding on a first due house fire and you only have the water in your tank. This is a day in the life of a firefighter working in non-hydrant areas.
Community, Page A3

The Dream Act

Republicans are considering their own legislation to compete with the DREAM Act. Sen. Kay Hutchinson (R-TX) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) have put forward the ACHIEVE Act, which would offer a type of legal status for undocumented youth. Undocumented youth, we will not take anything less than a direct path to citizenship.
Opinion, Page A4

Health Care Update

The Maryland Health Care Commission's most recent update to the Maryland Hospital Performance Evaluation Guide shows that Maryland hospitals have continued to make significant progress in reducing serious but preventable infections that occur in Intensive Care Units.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review "LINCOLN" B+

Well, of course Steven Spielberg's history lesson about the abolition of slavery is entertaining, big-hearted, and soul-stirring. With its clear-cut moral issues and patriotic significance, "Lincoln" is right in Spielberg's wheelhouse, and Daniel Day-Lewis' warmly captivating lead performance is a perfect fit.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
What are the new nutrition standards for school lunches that have some students boycotting their cafeterias and discarding the food?
-- Melissa Makowsky,
Trenton, NJ
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Stephanie Roper Highway honors crime victims' advocates

Signs are going up on Pennsylvania Avenue (Route 4) changing 5.2 miles of the avenue to Stephanie Roper Highway, beginning at Water Street in Upper Marlboro and ending at Bay Front Road in Bristol, in Anne Arundel County. Gov. Martin O'Malley issued the proclamation on October 20, renaming these five miles in honor of Stephanie Roper and the extraordinary efforts of her parents Roberta and Vincent Roper.

Stephanie, a Frostburg University art student and La Reine High School graduate, was abducted after her car broke down on a dark road thirty years ago, April 3, 1982. She was raped, tortured and murdered. April 3 has been named Crime Victims' Advocates Day.

After the Ropers were not permitted to attend the trial of the two men accused of this terrible crime, they put crime victims' rights on the Maryland and national map by helping organize The Stephanie Roper Committee, now the Crime Victims' Resource Center, headquartered in Upper Marlboro.

Russell P. Butler, Director of the Center, announced, "The State of Maryland has appropriately recognized the efforts of the Ropers by renaming part of Route 4 and placing Stephanie Roper's name on the Maryland State Highway Map."

Neighbors

Russell Butler, by the way, grew up in Morningside. An attorney, he has worked for crime victims and their families for several years and is currently director of the Crime Victims' Resource Center, taking over from Roberta Roper who founded and previously headed the organization.

Condolences to Mary Leonard, of Skyline, on the death of her "last brother," Frank Lester Evans, on

September 9. He lived in Upper Marlboro and was 98 years old.

Jean Glaubitz, former first lady of Morningside, is proud of her great-grandson Dillon Lee, on his scholarship to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

I have been invited to be a judge of the Gingerbread Houses now on display at Darnall's Chance House in Upper Marlboro. You can view the edible gingerbread houses on these weekends: Nov. 23-25, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, and Dec. 6-9 and see if I judged well. Hours each day are noon 5 p.m. Admission, \$1. Information: 301-952-8010.

Colonial Handbell Ringers in concert

Bethany Christian Church invites you to their Holiday Concert, presented by The Colonial Handbell Ringers on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 1 p.m. The concert is free but donations are always appreciated. Refreshments will be provided after the concert. The church is at 7128 Allentown Road in Fort Washington. Info: 301-248-4600.

From the Oxon Hill Pantry

The Oxon Hill Food Pantry started back in 1970 as The Interfaith Community Action Council, Inc. (ICAC), founded by several congregations. It began as a counseling program. But by 1984, the ICAC Board recognized the need to provide emergency food and a pantry was started.

The Pantry has moved several times but now is housed at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 4915 St. Barnabas Road. It has provided food for several thousand hungry children and adults. Local churches, schools, civic associations and individuals help support it, including the Skyline Citizens Association.

ICAC, Inc. officers for 2012-2013 are: Sylvia Green, president; Joe Vlcek, vice president; Betty Cottrell, secretary; Albert Herbst, treasurer; and Brenda Garland, assistant treasurer.

Mary Davis, 301-292-9210, handles volunteer scheduling. And, indeed, the Pantry urgently needs volunteers! Call, if you can help.

The Board is sad to announce the death of Tom Alexander, founder and first treasurer of the Oxon Hill Food Pantry. He was an active member also of Oxon Hill Methodist Church, Boy Scouts, Oxon Hill Lions Club, County Schools, Meals-on-Wheels, and professional chemist organizations. He died Oct. 28. It's hard to lose someone so dedicated.

One Maryland One Book

The Maryland Humanities Council selected *The Cellist of Sarajevo* as the 2012 One Maryland One Book, a literary activity "designed to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book." The novel is based on the true story about the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s and a musician who played his cello in a bombed-out Sarajevo square for 22 days in memory of 22 people killed in a mortar attack. It's a good book.

Morningside Memories

Forty years ago, in 1972, the Senior Citizens of Morningside club was organizing. Sponsored by the District Heights chapter, it was seeking members from Morningside, Skyline and surrounding areas. Interested seniors could call Louis Benner, Louise Rousseaux or Helen Shaw for information.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Leslie Greene, Nov. 23; Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24; Ray Call, Avanna Williams, Andrew Gryskewicz and Mary Gaither, Nov. 25; Darryl Moss, Nov. 26; Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28; Devin Kane Blade, Nov. 29; Karen Windsor, Ramona Britt and Patricia Branch, Nov. 30.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline on Nov. 28.

Neighborhood Events

Council Member Ingrid M Turner Presented With Excellence in County Leadership Award

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner (D) – District 4, is the honored recipient of the Bowie State University College of Education and College of Education Advisory Board Excellence in County Leadership Award, recognizing her as a community trailblazer who represents excellence in County leadership. Council Member Turner was presented with the award during the Bowie State University First Annual Scholarship Jazz Brunch event held on November 10, 2012, in Bowie.

The Bowie State University College of Education and College of Education Advisory Board hosted the event to honor individuals who represent excellence in leadership, community service, professional school coordination, and student advocacy. Council Member Turner is the first to receive the recognition from the University.

"I am humbled to receive this honor from the Bowie State College of Education acknowledging my leadership," said Council Member Turner. "During my time of service on the County Council, I have had a number of opportunities to partner with Bowie State University and the College of Education to enhance educational opportunities for the leaders of our future. Each experience reinforces my commitment and determination to ensure that all citizens have the foundation and tools to succeed. This award is a great honor which has very special meaning for me."

Bowie State College of Education and College of Education Advisory Board leadership honorees also included Congressman Steny Hoyer for Excellence in National Leadership, and Delegate Carolyn Howard for Excellence in State Leadership.

Prince George's County Delegation hosts public hearing Dec. 1 Bills for 2013 session posting on website

The Prince George's County House Delegation will hold a public hearing on Saturday, Dec. 1 at Prince George's County Community College.

The hearing begins at 10 a.m. in the Queen Anne Theater on campus.

Bills are being posted on the delegation website, [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/housedelegation.com](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/housedelegation), under the "Legislation" menu. Bills will be added as they are drafted and approved by sponsors.

In addition to public comments at the hearing, citizens are encouraged to submit written testimony to the delegates by e-mailing pg2@mlis.state.md.us.

The Prince George's County House Delegation meets on Friday mornings in Annapolis during the regular legislative session scheduled to begin on January 9, 2013. For more information,



PHOTO BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University College of Education Honors Turner

contact Legislative Director Daniel Valentine at 301-858-3074 or e-mail pg2@mlis.state.md.us.

Maryland Insurance Administration Announces Consumer Opportunities for Prince George's County

The Maryland Insurance Administration, a state regulatory agency, offers a variety of consumer materials on all types of insurance products from annuities to title insurance and health, auto and homeowners insurance.

Trained staff will be available to answer consumer questions at the following locations in December:

Hyattsville District Court, 4990 Rhode Island Ave. in Hyattsville, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Laurel Regional Career Center, 312 Marshall Ave., Suite 504 in Laurel, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"A key aspect of the Maryland Insurance Administration's mission involves educating the citizens of our state about the choices available to them as consumers of insurance products," says Therese M. Goldsmith, Maryland Insurance Commissioner. "The more informed consumers are, the better equipped they are to make purchasing decisions that are right for them."

A schedule of agency outreach activities and consumer materials is available on our website, www.mdinsurance.state.md.us, at various community events, and by calling 410-468-2360.

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), founded as the Maryland Insurance Division in 1872, is an independent state agency located in downtown Baltimore.

This agency regulates Maryland's \$26 billion insurance industry and makes certain that insurance companies, health plans and producers (agents and brokers) comply with Maryland insurance law.

The MIA also licenses more than 110,000 producers and approximately 1,500 insurance companies, regulates insurance rates, monitors insurer solvency, investigates consumer complaints and travels across the state providing consumers with educational materials on insurance.

These materials also may be found at:

www.mdinsurance.state.md.us

Cardin Encourages Shoppers to Buy Local on "Small Business Saturday" Senator Again Cosponsors Successful Senate Resolution to Promote Post-Thanksgiving Small Business Saturday

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, again is urging consumers to shop at local, independently owned businesses on the nation's third annual "Small Business Saturday," which falls between Black Friday and Cyber Monday during the heaviest shopping weekend of the year. Senator Cardin recently cosponsored a resolution (S. Res. 589) that designated November 24, 2012 as Small Business Saturday.

"Small, locally owned businesses are the driving force behind job creation in America, but they need our support. Buying local is one of the best things we can all do to help foster our economic recovery," said Senator Cardin. "Small Business Saturday is a great chance for all of us to support small, independently owned businesses during that help sustain local communities in Maryland and all across America. This November 24 - and every day of the year - we can all play a part in growing America's economy by giving small businesses on Main Street a helping hand."

Maryland is home to almost 517,000 small businesses. Employing 1.1 million workers, they represent 97.6 percent of all employers and 52.1 percent of the entire private-sector workforce. Nationwide, for every \$100 spent with locally owned, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through local taxes, payroll, and other expenditures.

According to the National Retail Federation, an estimated 226 million shoppers spent \$52.4 billion on consumer purchases during Thanksgiving weekend last year. By designating November 24, 2012 as Small Business Saturday, Congress is again encouraging shoppers to make a greater percentage of their purchases from local businesses, increasing the benefit to our local communities.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

FREE Christmas Play: "The Uncut Coming of Christ"

Featured Special Guest Artists Include Pastor Kim Burrell, Isaac Carree & Anyasha Figueroa-Cooper

WHO: First Baptist Church of Glenarden Music & Arts Ministries Department, under the direction of Minister of Music Stephen Hurd

WHAT: "The Uncut Coming of Christ" is an original play written by Joshua Jenkins, the son of Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr. Full of life and vitality, the play puts a modern-day twist on the events leading up to the birth of Christ. The play features gospel psalmists Pastor Kim Burrell, Isaac Carree and newcomer Anyasha Figueroa-Cooper. Original scores are provided by gospel artist Anthony Brown.

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 at noon & 6 p.m.; AND Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: FBCG Worship Center, 600 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

It's time for our Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, December 8, 2012 8:30 AM at St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish. The church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road

Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

Pastor Cornelius Bethea, III Abundant Life Ministries 5533 Livingston Road Forest Heights, Maryland, 20745 will deliver the message. Theme: 'Let Us Rejoice in Peace and Love for each other as he loves us'. Adults pay \$10.00 and children (12 and under) pay \$5.00. The breakfast is sponsored by St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish Episcopal Church Women. Chairpersons: Shirley Cleaves and Henrietta Wright.

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Shabnam Ahmed who is a senior at Bowie High School with a 4.2 GPA. Her academics include AP Government, AP Biology, AP Literature, AP World History, AP Psychology, AP English Language Composition, AP Physics BC, AP Calculus BC, AP Human Geography, Guitar and Spanish. Her extra-Curricular activities are Pep Band, Ladies with Class, Music Honor Society and It's Academic.

Shabnam plans to apply to the University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore, Bowie State University, Harvard University, Howard University and Princeton University. She plans to major in physiology and neurobiology. Shabnam was recognized by Maryland Governor

Martin O'Malley for her community public service. She is the Student Member of the Board.

CITRUS FRUIT SALE 2012-2013

It is again time for the Annual St. Paul's Parish Citrus Fruit and Nut Sale. H & S Citrus will supply the same excellent quality fruit as usual. Annie's House of Nuts, Fruits and Candies will provide delicious goodies for baking and eating. All are fresh products and on sale at reasonable prices. Rada Knives and Utensils also will be on sale. St. Paul's will also have a BAKE SALE each month on the day scheduled for fruit pick up. Available are Pink Grapefruits (Nov.-Mar.), Navels (Nov.-Dec.) (Jan. Subject to availability), HoneyBell/Tangelo (January only) and Temples (Feb. & March only). Prices and varieties are subject to change.

Sale hours are from 9:00 AM -12Noon. Order deadline December 7 and pick-up date December 15, deadline January 18 and pick-up-date January 26, deadline February 15 and pick-up date Feb. 23. For information or to place an order please call Jack & Julia 301-579-6877, Wanda G. 301-888-9217 or Mary Jane 301-579-2230. Please tell your family, friends and co-workers about our fruit and nut sale. Thank you for your continued support.

COMMUNITY

New Dry Hydrant Construction by Prince George's County Firefighters in Rural-Tier

By MARK E. BRADY
Fire/EMS

Most firefighters can relate to responding on a first due/arriving house fire. Prior to their arrival at the reported location they have identified the closest fire hydrant to lay a line from to establish an adequate and continuous water supply to fight the fire. Firefighters are familiar with fighting fire and utilizing hydrants that supply endless amounts of water, however, imagine responding on a first due house fire and you only have the water in your tank to fight the fire; this is a day in the life of a firefighter working in non-hydrant areas. There are portions of southern Prince George's County on the "rural-tier" that do not have the luxury of a domestic water supply system or hydrants and local firefighters are getting creative to develop new sources of a water supply.

Battalion Chief Denise Dickens is the 7th Battalion Commander. This battalion covers a large portion of the non-hydrant areas in the Southern portion of Prince George's County. She is a long-standing member of the Rural Tier Water Supply Committee and has overseen, in addition to volunteer firefighters, several projects that have improved the water supply issue in portions of the rural-tier including the installation of underground water storage tanks and the recent addition of dry hydrants.

The "rural-tier" is exactly that — a rural setting with high environmental integrity that outlines the southernmost borders of Prince George's County. There are many privately owned larger homes with acres and acres of property that were used for tobacco planting. Numerous waterfront properties and roadways throughout the area yield scenic views of the sprawling open space that has made this area desirable for residential development.

The installation of a domestic hydrant system is contingent upon development of the area, that at this time, appears to be at some point in the future. The lack of an adequate water supply in the County's rural tier can be



PHOTO: (MEBRADY)

The area identified for the installation of a dry hydrant was this property in the 15700 block of Doctor Bowen Road in Brandywine.

quite challenging when battling a structure fire. Having water available in area streams and ponds helps firefighters only if the water is readily accessible. Water tankers can move water from distant sources, but the critical factor is whether or not the fire department can maintain an uninterrupted supply of water at the fire scene.

Installation of dry hydrants into nearby and developed water supplies eliminates the complexity of long-distance water shuttle operations. A dry hydrant consists of an arrangement of piping with one end in the water and the other end extending to dry land and available for connection to a pumper. This arrangement also allows access to water sources from a roadway instead of having to work on soft ground immediately adjacent to the pond or stream.

In any area without water mains and domestic fire hydrants, the dry hydrant concept can provide a simple, cost-effective solution to the need for rapid access to water sources. Battalion Chief Dickens with volunteer and career firefighters from Baden Fire/EMS Station 836, including Volunteer Deputy Chief Bobby Breen and Robert "Yates" Claggett with the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District, have worked together to construct dry hydrants in areas that previously had lacked a water supply system.

Armed with piping donated

by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through Mr. Monte Mitchell, firefighters identified areas where a large quantity of water could be accessed. A property owner along Dr. Bowen Road was in the planning stages for building a water retention pond for farm use and agreed to let the fire department use the pond to connect to a dry hydrant. Trenches and holes were dug out by Battalion Chief Dickens, Volunteer Deputy Breen, Fire Lieutenant Tim Street, Fire Fighter Donald Purdy, Fire Fighter/Medic Al Green and Fire Fighter Chris Elie. This crew completed the installation of the dry piping system which were channeled from the ground level to the bottom bed of the pond.

Five dry hydrants have been installed so far from grant money and time donated by volunteer personnel from the Baden Volunteer Fire/EMS Department and career firefighters and medics. The recent construction of dry hydrants, after donation of pipe, cost the County \$550.00; however, the advantages to residents living in these areas are priceless.

Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor commends Battalion Chief Dickens, Volunteer Deputy Chief Breen and other career and volunteer members of the Department for the planning, research and development of the dry hydrants. "The work ethic and



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dedication of our firefighters to help ensure an adequate water supply, a basic necessity of firefighting, is commendable and demonstrates the high level of commitment in saving lives and protecting properties in these communities by our members," stated Bashoor.

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Brown from A1

Response Initiative." The programs aim to identify victims at an early stage in the cycle of domestic violence and extend comprehensive services to prevent future physical and emotional injury. Similar programs are currently in place in the Baltimore region at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, Sinai Hospital and Northwest Hospital, as well as Prince George's Hospital Center. Most recently, the Lt. Governor in January launched the sixth program at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown.

"Governor O'Malley and I are committed to ending domestic violence in Maryland. Working together with partners like GBMC and CareFirst, we are making progress by expanding the number of hospital based domestic violence programs and building a coordinated response to domestic violence in every part of our state," said Lt. Governor Brown. "I believe strong communities are built, not born, and each and every day the dedicated staff at GBMC is making a real difference in the lives of their fellow

Marylanders. By funding the 7th hospital-based domestic violence program at GBMC, we will be able to better recognize and care for victims of domestic violence and prevent further incidences in Baltimore County and throughout the region.

"I have zero tolerance for domestic violence. As a social worker, I've seen first-hand how domestic violence hurts children and destroys families," said U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. "This program will meet a compelling human need, protecting victims, helping families heal and rebuilding lives. I will continue to fight for families and defend them from continued violence and abuse."

"Domestic violence is a national scourge and Maryland is not immune with more than 18,500 reported cases of domestic violence a year. Victims of domestic abuse need our support, and I am so pleased that GBMC will be providing much needed services to those who need to know that there is a way out and that they are deserving of love and self-respect," said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin.

Founded in Towson in 1965, GBMC is a 281-bed not-for-profit medical center (acute and sub-

acute care) that handles more than 26,700 inpatient cases and approximately 60,000 emergency room visits annually. The Domestic Violence Program will be a complement to the hospital's SAFE program and will offer additional resources for patients who are identified as victims of domestic violence. Program officials anticipate serving an average of 30 patients per month by 2014 based on similar-sized hospital programs. The program's goals include: Providing immediate response to any victim — male or female — who experiences violence in an intimate relationship; Connecting victims to local resources;

Providing specialized care in the hospital setting;

Providing support and referral services to patients, staff, and community members experiencing abuse from an intimate partner;

Providing staff training and education concerning the effect of intimate partner violence on an individual's health

"Domestic violence results in significant emotional and physical harm as well as damage to a victim's personal health, and also impacts the overall family well-being," said Sally Hess, coordinator of the hospital's Domestic

Violence Program. "We are committed to doing everything we can to help protect and care for those victims."

"The success of GBMC's sexual assault SAFE program in assisting the victims of sexual assault has been invaluable," said Scott Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County. "I believe that the expansion of GBMC's role in assisting the victims of domestic violence will improve the changes of a successful prosecution. More importantly, however, the lives of victims of domestic violence will be improved."

In response to the 2010 Executive Order, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission made state funds available for Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Programs, while CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield has committed private/non-profit funds to pilot domestic violence programs at GBMC, Meritus Medical Center and Prince George's Hospital Center.

"CareFirst is proud to support such an important program for residents of Baltimore County," said Maria Harris Tildon, Senior

Vice President of Public Policy and Community Affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. "Incidents of domestic violence have no place in our community, and we applaud the work Dr. John Chessare and his staff are doing to help those who have been harmed or fear this form of intimidation."

"Reducing violent crimes committed against women and children is one of this administration's top priorities, and hospital-based domestic violence programs are helping us accomplish this goal," said GOCCP Executive Director Tammy Brown. "By utilizing domestic violence screening tools, and by training health care professionals who work in hospitals, we can provide necessary services to victims and break the cycle of abuse. We are glad to have GBMC join the network of hospital-based domestic violence programs in Maryland."

Combating domestic violence is a personal cause for Lt. Governor Brown. In August 2008, his cousin Cathy was senselessly murdered by her estranged boyfriend. The grief of her loss spurred Lt. Governor Brown to redouble efforts to address domestic violence in our state. Building

on his experience as a legislator and the perspective provided by this tragedy, Lt. Governor Brown has championed reforms to combat domestic violence.

Brown led successful efforts in 2009 to improve domestic violence laws by giving judges the authority to take guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. During the 2010 Legislative Session, Brown worked with members of the General Assembly, domestic violence advocates and stakeholders to pass legislation allowing a victim of domestic abuse to terminate a residential lease with a copy of a final protective order. And the Lt. Governor is leading efforts to increase the availability of hospital-based domestic violence screening programs.

Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown administration has worked to reduce violent crime in Maryland by 10 percent each year and reduce violent crimes committed against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2012. Collaborating with state and local partners, they have reduced violent crime statewide to the lowest rates since 1975, and domestic violence deaths in Maryland have dropped by 11.5 percent since 2006.

COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

By Cesar Vargas

Dream Action Coalition

Achieve Act Does Not Achieve a Solution for Undocumented Youth

WASHINGTON, DC — Republicans, fresh from their electoral defeat, are considering their own legislation to compete with the DREAM Act. Sen. Kay Hutchinson (R-TX) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) have put forward the ACHIEVE Act, which would offer a type of legal status for undocumented youth. However, a significant difference between this bill and the original DREAM Act is that the ACHIEVE Act does not even guarantee a path to citizenship. As undocumented youth, we will not take anything less than a direct path to citizenship. This is the country we call home and we will assert this position as we move forward.

The DREAM Act is already conservative in nature and has even gathered support from prominent conservative leaders, including Senator Hutchinson herself, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN), Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) in the past.

While we appreciate the proactive efforts of the Republican leadership for beginning to engage in the conversation of immigration, the American people, specially Latino voters, spoke clearly on election day that they support the original DREAM Act. The American people support giving undocumented youth an opportunity to EARN our citizenship by serving and contributing to this country. Indeed, the ACHIEVE Act complicates an issue that the Republican senators have admitted is "a strong starting point" and "a humanitarian issue." For example, for Dreamers interested in serving this country, a strange visa such as the "W-1" status does not currently let someone join the military voluntarily, so unless they also amend 10 U.S.C § 504 to allow such persons to enlist, the ACHIEVE Act won't help much.

The Republicans lost Latinos big this election,

but some have already committed themselves to fight against the DREAM Act no matter how popular it is. And using the ACHIEVE Act is a way to avoid a solution. We know the fight for a common sense immigration reform will not be easy; and this fight is not only for undocumented youth, but also for the parents who took the brave step to give us a better life. Nevertheless, even if we do not get a result, we will not give up on the DREAM Act.

There are indications up and down the Republican Party that show they need to change direction and fast; for example, Tea Party conservative Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has said he supports a path to citizenship. Republicans are in shambles trying to decide what their new platforms should be. This is an opportunity for undocumented youth to demand what is fair of a party that needs to make peace with the fact that it will need to give much more up to coalition politics, and they know that Obama could not have won without Latinos.

If Republicans want to show they are willing to find a solution on immigration, lets make the DREAM Act a starting point. The DREAM Act has polled more than 90% amongst Latinos according to Latino Decisions, and recently polled majority support from the general public according to ABC News. The ACHIEVE Act, similar to Rubio's bill, has less support and less popular than the DREAM Act.

DREAM (DRM) Action Coalition is a strong voice committed to the fight for the DREAM Act and the rights of undocumented youth. We are the policy and lobbying arm of the DREAM movement and for those who passionately support the DREAM Act.



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

American People Re-elect President Obama and Vote for Action Now

"You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours. And in the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve together."

-- President Barack Obama

You might expect that one of the longest and most intense presidential campaigns in American history should be followed by a period of rest and celebration. We cannot afford that luxury at this time. While we congratulate President Obama and Vice President Biden on their decisive victory last week, we believe that urgent issues like the approaching fiscal cliff, the education of our children, continuing high unemployment and a still sluggish economic recovery require immediate action. The American people not only voted to make President Obama a two-term president, they voted for the end of partisan gridlock in Washington and a government that gets things done. That is why on the day after the election I sent a letter addressed to President Obama, Representative Nancy Pelosi and Speaker John Boehner, urging them to immediately get to work on four critical priorities for the next four years:

- A comprehensive jobs program executed through a partnership among government, the private sector and the nation's non-profit community.
- An intense focus on children and youth, with a national policy to move the nation toward universal early childhood education, an expansion of the effort to make post-secondary education affordable, and an emphasis on job training and skills retraining for those who did not finish high school on time.
- A comprehensive new approach to commu-

nity safety and crime reduction, with a stronger enforcement of existing gun laws, re-enactment of the assault weapons ban and a thoughtful examination of disparities in the criminal justice system.

- A fair and sensible deficit reduction plan that includes one dollar in revenue enhancements for every dollar in spending cuts.

In my letter I emphasized that the devastation of Superstorm Sandy exposed the desperately slim margin to which our most vulnerable citizens cling. Even before the storm hit, African American and Latino unemployment had been over 10 percent for the past four years. It currently registers at 13.8 percent and 9.7 percent respectively. In addition, if Congress and the President fail to reach an agreement by New Year's Day, \$1.2 trillion in automatic across-the-board cuts will be made to domestic and defense programs, including draconian cuts to education, nutrition programs for women, infants and children and low-income heating assistance.

Avoiding the so-called "fiscal cliff" of sequestration and reducing the deficit in a way that is fair must be the first order of business when the House returns this week.

My letter to the President and Congressional leaders concludes: "While there are many issues that you must confront, we believe those outlined above are the most important facing the nation and urge that they form the centrepiece of your second term domestic agenda."

The National Urban League will soon convene an Urban Ideas Forum with policy and program experts, private sector executives and analysts to elevate the discussion of income inequality, disparities in education and workforce investment.



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OXONCOVE PARK/OXON HILL FARM

NPS PHOTO.

Horses and Pony Mule in Pasture

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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Giving Thanks for the Hard Times

Thanksgiving is a season when many Americans gather with our families over full dinner tables to count our blessings. Seventeen-year-old Eva Maria Turcios and her family take very little for granted any day, including the blessing of having any dinner at all: "I mean, there were nights where we didn't have anything to put in our stomachs. Like we'd just have to drink water. And I guess there's times where we didn't know where we were going to live. But now it's just a normal thing for us. When we're faced with problems like that, we don't sit there and cry about it. We don't sit there and wait for someone to do something for us. My mom and I just figure out something, a way for us to make it to the next day, to put food in our stomachs, to have a roof over our heads."

On paper, Eva is a standout high school senior with a 3.8 GPA and a rigorous course load of all honors and International Baccalaureate classes. She is the secretary of her school's Hispanic Leadership Club and hopes to study biology, chemistry, or biomedical engineering in college. It's impossible to fully appreciate her academic accomplishments without knowing something about her life outside the classroom.

Born in Honduras, her parents brought her to America for a better future two months later. Her father worked hard and bought a house for the family in Virginia, while her mother stayed home to care for Eva and her younger siblings. Eva always loved reading and did well in school, and for a while, life was calm. But by the time Eva was 10, her American dream had turned into a nightmare of abuse and then extreme poverty.

Her father started drinking heavily and became abusive, terrorizing the entire family. The alcoholism eventually cost him his job. When he picked the children up from school one day so drunk they didn't think they would survive the drive home, Eva called the police herself to report him. But his worst crime was still to come.

A few months later, after another drinking binge, he brutally assaulted two buddies with a machete inside the family's home and then ran from authorities. Eva was 11 years old and will never forget the terror of being woken up to translate for

her mother amid the chaos as the house was overrun with police officers and dogs and surrounded by helicopters.

Her father was deported, and Eva remained her mother's strongest support as their family fell into extreme poverty—experiencing gnawing hunger, homelessness, and hopelessness. They shared single rented rooms and spent time on waiting lists at homeless shelters while Eva's mother struggled to piece together enough work to keep the family afloat. Eva took care of her younger siblings, and got her first job at age 14 to help out. Today Eva works four days a week and cooks for the family and keeps the house clean while her mother works two jobs. Through it all she never stopped excelling in school, even when small things like routine writing and research assignments presented challenges: "I didn't have Internet or a laptop . . . I would have to take the bus to go to the library and do all my work until the library closed, so if the library closed and I didn't finish all my work, then it was kind of a struggle." Eva often became depressed at her family's situation and the thought that things might never get better. But her mother reminded her that education was the only way out: "If you don't get an education you're going to work like me your whole life, and we're going to live our whole

life the way we are now.' And that motivated me. . . . And even though it might take a lot of hard work, it's better to work hard in school than work hard in a fast food restaurant." That hard work has gotten her where she is now.

It's made her one of the inspiring Washington, D.C. area winners of the Children's Defense Fund's Beat the Odds® scholarship awards. These awards are given each year to high school seniors who have succeeded in school despite tremendous adversity, and come with a \$10,000 scholarship, laptop computer, guidance through the college admission process, and an invitation to join CDF's young servant leadership development training programs.

Eva has her own definition of what it means to beat the odds: "You overcome the challenges, and you learn from the obstacles. You use the experience to help you live a better life. You don't just think how bad your life was because you had to go through things; you say how lucky you are to have so much experience."

It's easy to give thanks for everything good. Eva's ability to be grateful for the hard times shows a maturity far beyond her years. Her life today is a far cry from, as she says, "the way

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Small Business Spotlight

Tips on Avoiding Holiday Scams by Security Guru

The holiday season is upon us, and for many this means we increase our travel, shopping and charitable donations. Unfortunately, this also opens a door for scammers to take advantage of our additional online activity. Whether you are making flight reservations or purchasing the top gifts of the season, your email and personal accounts can become vulnerable. Before clicking on a deal that seems too good to be true, stop and think. Below is a list of holiday email scams to be alert for this season:

1. 'Tis the Season for Giving – Emails that come in during the holidays may ask you to support a cause with a monetary donation. We are all a little more generous during this time of year. Before clicking on any links or making your donation, do your research. If this is a legitimate charity, visit their website directly for detailed information. A credible charity will give you information describing its mission, how donations are distributed and proof that your contribution is tax deductible.

2. Heading Home for the Holidays – If you haven't purchased a flight home for the holidays, cautiously look at any email stating that an airline ticket has been purchased in your name. Call the airline immediately, and do not open the email. Hackers may attempt to place malicious software in a link of a fake airline ticket.

3. Thank You for the Card – E-cards are a popular and inexpensive way to deliver the season's greetings to family and friends. E-cards are also an easy way for hackers to install viruses and malware on your computer. Be careful when clicking on a link in an e-card as the hackers will often use logos from recognizable brands in order to appear legitimate. If you are concerned, delete the email immediately.

4. Oh Wow! A Package! – Emails that look like they are coming from familiar delivery services stating that a package can't be delivered tend to increase during the holiday season. The email typically asks the receiver to insure their order so it can be delivered properly. If the receiver enters a credit card, the scammer could be off shopping with your money. If you have made an online purchase and receive an email like this, contact the company you made the purchase from to inquire about delivery or track your purchase through the delivery website.

5. This Year's HOT Item – Beware of emails from websites claiming to have the "hot" gift of the season. If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. These fake websites will tempt you through an appealing email, directing you to their website, where upon ordering they gain access to your credit card and billing information. You probably won't get your gift, but instead, a very large bill. When shopping online, buy only from a reputable, known site.

6. A New Credit Card For Holiday Purchases – Of course, we can all use extra money during the holidays, and many credit card companies see the holidays as the perfect time of year to get new customers. Be cautious of emails from unfamiliar credit card providers. These cards can have high membership fees and interest rates, may only be used at specific stores or online, and can limit the products you are able to purchase. Don't accept these offers, but instead inquire for a card from a notable credit card company.

7. Local Holiday Events – False local news can be pushed to you via email, highlighting topics of interest like holiday events in your town. Beware when clicking on links as you may begin downloading viruses or malware. If you see a headline you are interested in, visit a trusted local news site rather than click on the link.

8. Holiday Spending – We all tend to shop until we drop during the holidays. So, we may not find it odd if we receive an email from the bank to verify account information. Instead, scammers are sending these emails asking customers to confirm their banking details and passwords. Unfortunately, the bank website is not the actual website. If the email seems suspicious, call your bank directly before sending any information.

If you think you have fallen victim to a scam, change the passwords or PINs on all your online accounts and place a fraud alert on your credit reports. Contact the bank, online merchant or charity directly to alert them of your concerns. As a best practice, routinely review your bank and credit card statements for any charges that you didn't initiate. Additionally, be sure your computer's antivirus software is up-to-date. This extra defense may help keep spam emails out of your inbox.

Maryland Hospitals Report 50 Percent Reduction in Infections in Intensive Care and Neonatal Units

BY PRESS OFFICER
Health Care Commission

Baltimore, MD (November 15, 2011) The Maryland Health Care Commission's most recent update to the Maryland Hospital Performance Evaluation Guide shows that Maryland hospitals have continued to make significant progress in reducing serious but preventable infections that occur in Intensive Care Units. Central line associated bloodstream infections, or CLABSIs, occur in patients who have an intravenous central line catheter in place. The risk of these potentially devastating infections can be reduced by proper insertion and care of the catheter.

The Commission first released CLABSI data on the Hospital Guide in October 2010.

Since the first assessment, MD CLABSI rates have decreased substantially. For FY2012, hospitals reported 206 CLABSIs in all ICUs as compared to 472 CLABSIs reported for FY2010, the first reporting period. This represents a 56% decrease in CLABSIs in hospital ICUs over a two year time period. "The progress that Maryland hospitals have made in reducing infections in ICUs is an important step forward in increasing patient safety," said Ben Steffen, Executive Director, Maryland Health Care Commission. "The Commission hopes that hospitals are able to broaden their successful prevention initiatives to all units within their respective facilities."

MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary

Dr. Joshua Sharfstein noted that "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued an Action Plan for the prevention of healthcare associated infections which establishes a 5 year target of 50% reduction in central line bloodstream infections by December 2013. Maryland hospitals have achieved a critical milestone in their efforts to ensure patient safety and provide high quality health care."

The Hospital Guide update also represents the first release of surgical site infections (SSI) data for Hip, Knee, and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) procedures. The SSI data shows that for CY2011, the infection rate for most hospitals that perform these procedures is no different than the national experi-



PHOTO BY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Dr. Joshua Sharfstein

ence. CDC standards and guidelines were also used for this new data collection and reporting initiative.

Maryland Health Care Commission's Hospital Guide can be found on the web at:

<http://mhcc.maryland.gov/consumerinfo/hospitalguide/index.htm>

Liquor from A1

with the goal of raising money for healthcare and potentially decreasing underage drinking and alcohol abuse.

Vincent DeMarco, president of the Maryland Healthcare for All Coalition, which advocated for the tax, said the law has met those goals. DeMarco said the decrease in deliveries is the result of a drop in teen drinking and alcohol abuse.

"We think this law is going to save lives, and that's what those numbers show," DeMarco said.

Chuck Ferrar of Bay Ridge Wine & Spirits in Annapolis said he has not seen any effect on his business, but added that it was because he doesn't operate near the state's border.

Ferrar and Ozgo appeared on a consumer behavior panel at the Board of Revenue Estimates Economic Advisory Forum Thursday. The members of the

Board of Revenue Estimates - Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Secretary of Budget and Management T. Eloise Foster and Comptroller Peter Franchot - heard from a number of business owners in fields ranging from real estate to defense contracting.

Ferrar told the Board that Cecil County has been hardest hit and urged it to take the loss of jobs and revenue from businesses closing into consideration.

"You got to look at the whole picture, not 'we're gonna do this' or 'we're gonna do that,'" Ferrar said.

Ferrar said Cecil County has historically had the highest rate of consumption in the state - not because residents drink more, but because of the county's proximity to Pennsylvania, where alcohol restrictions are tighter, causing customers to head south to get cheaper drinks.

Dixon from A1

Sanchez, Dixon's longtime girlfriend and the sole support system during his more than two-year trek through Europe. "You can see it in his eyes, in the way he goes about his business. He really wants it."

Getting to that point was no easy feat. He had to experience a rash of setbacks. Only then, Dixon said, could he fully appreciate the game and everything it has meant to his life.

The first blow arrived in October 2009. The Atlanta Hawks cut Dixon days before the season opener, ending his chance at catching on with his fifth team in as many years. With few other options, Dixon signed with Greek club Aris Thessaloniki.

Desperate for someone to help him navigate foreign waters, Dixon asked friends and relatives to make the move. They had families and jobs they couldn't leave behind.

So Dixon asked Sanchez, who he had only met a few months earlier and had an adolescent son of her own. After careful consideration, Sanchez left her job running two restaurants and trekked to Thessaloniki with Dixon.

"You would think that because he's Juan Dixon, he has a lot of support and people, which he does," Sanchez said. "But on the same token, he's a loner. I wasn't going to leave him by himself."

Greece was trying. The valet parking and gourmet buffets Dixon had grown accustomed to after more than half a decade in the NBA were nowhere to be found. Opposing fans threw firecrackers at him during games. Security was minimal. The coach didn't run an offense Dixon felt fit his skill set.

So Dixon left after a couple months. He flew back home to Baltimore with Sanchez. A week later, his agent called. A Spanish team, Unicaja Málaga was interested in his services.

At first, life in Málaga felt like a dream. The team provided them an apartment overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Dixon emerged as a Euroleague star, averaging about 18 points per game. The couple went on regu-

lar excursions through the quaint neighboring towns. It wasn't the NBA, sure, but it worked.

That is, until Dixon received the letter that changed his life.

"Everything was perfect in Spain," Sanchez said. "And then he got suspended."

The news seemed surreal. Dixon had allegedly tested positive for steroids three months earlier in Greece. The International Basketball Federation, FIBA, was suspending him for a year.

It didn't make sense, Dixon thought. How could he be suspended for steroids when, he said, he had never taken steroids before? The only possible answer his mind could fathom was that one of the vitamins or over-the-counter muscle supplements he was taking contained an ingredient that showed up on the test.

The year suspension stripped him of one of the few things in his life that gives him a sense of peace, an outlet from the stresses of adulthood that happened to pay his bills.

Dixon returned to Maryland and waited out the suspension. He trained daily, desperate to find a way back to the hardwood. When he regained his eligibility in February 2011, his agent's phone rang again. It was a Turkish team. It had just lost its starting off guard to an injury and wanted to finish out the season with Dixon manning the backcourt.

Then "the nightmare," as Dixon loathingly calls it, began. When the couple arrived in their new apartment in Bandirma, Turkey, a city of 100,000 in the country's northwest corner, Dixon sat on the couch and broke down.

"This is not where I'm supposed to be in my career," Dixon told Sanchez as tears streamed down his face. "This is not where I belong."

Dixon felt isolated and alone. Hardly anyone in Turkey spoke a word of English. Their house was a two-hour commute from the nearest mall. Dixon and Sanchez had to finagle their way onto a ferry if they wanted to visit a nice restaurant.

Basketball and Sanchez's support kept Dixon sane during those first weeks. When he

stepped on the court, he felt calm. When he returned home, Sanchez often had a bag of cheeseburgers and an English-speaking movie cued up in the DVD player — anything to make him feel at home.

And then he got injured. Dixon's left knee began swelling, and Sanchez said Dixon felt the team doctors misdiagnosed his injury. He was forced to trudge through the final weeks of the season on the bench before he could head back to the United States for surgery.

Dixon struggled to grapple with his new reality. He was away from his 2- and 3-year-old sons with little to do besides reflect on his plight.

Some nights he'd fall asleep crying. He'd wake up and Sanchez would be cleaning the apartment, doing the little things to make a trying time more bearable.

"I don't think I would've been able to survive three months in Turkey by myself," Dixon said. "And that doesn't make me any less of a man. [Sanchez] has really just been a bright spot in my life."

Since returning to the United States, Dixon has spent much of his time pondering life's biggest questions with Sanchez: What really matters? Why am I here? He still doesn't feel like he has a full grasp on the answers. What he does know, though, is he's closer to finding them than he was a couple years ago.

"I've been through the storm and I'm still trekking through the storm today," Dixon said. "But I'm working hard everyday."

Dixon slaps his alarm clock at 5:45 a.m. every weekday morning, makes the 45-minute drive from his Baltimore home and arrives at the Comcast Center at 7. He then goes to physical therapy with Megan Rogers, the women's basketball athletic trainer, rehabbing the bum knee that sidelined him last year.

From there, he runs through a litany of drills with David Adkins, the women's basketball assistant coach, before finishing off the morning with weight training. Dixon usually leaves Comcast around noon, ready to focus on a host of other deav-

ors — business opportunities, charity work, fatherhood.

But during that five-hour stretch each day when Dixon is at Comcast, he said his mind is solely focused on the NBA.

He thinks about what resuming his playing career would mean to him on a personal level. He'd have the means to give back to the drug-ridden neighborhood that helped develop his toughness. He wouldn't ever need to fret over providing for his family. He'd have the opportunity to show coaches and executives that he's no longer an immature 20-something, that he finally understands what it means to be a first-class professional.

But what if he doesn't make it back to the NBA? What if no franchise is willing to take a chance on a former bench player a year removed from meniscus surgery?

He'll be fine knowing he gave it his all. After a decade of highs and lows, Dixon has learned perspective. He realizes there's only so much in life he can control. There's no sense in letting others define his success, to allow them to take away his joy.

"A lot has happened," Dixon said. "Everybody wants to know what Juan Dixon is doing. Juan Dixon is learning how to become a man."

Dixon has shared some of that wisdom with coach Mark Turgeon's Terps in recent weeks. He told them that they should be sleeping in the locker room and shooting jumpers whenever they get the chance. He told them to ignore the host of distractions that plague major Division I athletes — the girls, the parties, the alcohol — and to concentrate on learning how they can contribute to the team. He told them to appreciate their limited time in college.

And if they do all that, Dixon said, the Terps can be special. Who knows? Maybe they'll add a banner to those rafters.

"He took Maryland to the top, so he knows what it takes to get there," Turgeon said. "He's just been hanging out with the guys, talking to them and it's been good. It's been a really, really good thing for our guys."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

“Lincoln”

“LINCOLN” B+
Rated PG-13 for moderate
profanity including an F-word,
and images of war carnage.
2 hrs., 29 min.

Goodwin’s book “Team of Rivals,” the screenplay gives Tommy Lee Jones ample opportunity to demonstrate his gift for verbal abuse, with Stevens throwing around insults like “fatuous nincompoop” as he keeps his Republican brethren in line. James Spader, Tim Blake Nelson, and John Hawkes play a lively trio of lobbyists brought in by Seward to secure Democrat votes by offering favors from the administration. Not only is their conniving funny, it helps us relate more intimately to the story: politics was a sleazy game then, too! The people in our textbooks were just like us!

Lincoln was a humorous man too, which Day-Lewis captures as immaculately as everything else in his performance. The president has a commanding presence, captivating every time he speaks, by turns folksy, gentle, jocular, and grandiose. His odd sense of humor goes over people’s heads sometimes; other times he’ll tell a joke and nail it. Kushner’s screenplay doesn’t limit itself to the official record of what Lincoln and his associates are known to have said, but it manufactures dialogue for them that feels authentic.

As far as I’m concerned, the movie has two flaws. One is the opening sequence, in which Lincoln visits soldiers who recite the Gettysburg Address to him. That’s hokey, and not at all representative of the rest of the movie, which is smart and doesn’t pander. The other is Lincoln’s oldest son, Robert



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES
Steven Spielberg directs Daniel Day-Lewis in Lincoln, a revealing drama that focuses on the 16th President’s tumultuous final months in office. In a nation divided by war and the strong winds of change, Lincoln pursues a course of action designed to end the war, unite the country and abolish slavery. With the moral courage and fierce determination to succeed, his choices during this critical moment will change the fate of generations to come. -- (C) Walt Disney

(Joseph Gordon-Levitt), who’s given nothing significant to do and contributes little to the main story. In a similar vein, though Sally Field gives a more sympathetic portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln than we’re used to seeing, there’s no emotional

connection between the audience and her, her husband, and their children. When “Lincoln” focuses on the political, social, and historical side of things — which is 80% of the film — it’s grand, populist, high-minded entertainment.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Citizen’s Arrest: The Case for Putting Loria Behind Bars

Jeffrey Loria should consider himself put on notice. The Miami Marlins owner needs to be arrested, prosecuted, and placed behind bars so he can no longer feed upon the good will, tax dollars, and public infrastructure of South Florida. Loria is the Ebola Virus of sports owners, settling in different locations and leaving nothing behind except legions of cynical former fans. His latest sin, described as a “disgrace” and an “embarrassment” by the most mainstream of baseball writers, was yesterday’s shocking trade of star shortstop Jose Reyes, All-Star pitchers Josh Johnson, and Mark Buehrle, and others to the Toronto Blue Jays for basically a Lloyd Moseby rookie card and Dave Steib’s mustache trimmer. According to ESPN’s Buster Olney, the Marlins payroll in one off-season could drop by over 80%.



Bad trades happen of course and salary dumps have become as much a part of baseball as tobacco stinks on the dugout steps. But there is a much more nefarious machination at work. Reyes and Buehrle were brought in during the 2011 off-season as a way to sell tickets for the Marlins brand-new \$600 million eyesore of a stadium, described by the Miami New Times as “a festering, silver-plated pustule, a grotesquely huge can opener, or just an obscene ode to wasted cash.”

If this was Loria’s own ugly-baby of a stadium, that would be between he and his architect. The problem is that it was built with taxpayer money: \$2.4 billion over the next 40 years to be exact. The elected officials of cash-strapped Miami-Dade County took Loria’s word the team was going bankrupt and would cease to exist without a new ballpark. These claims of bankruptcy we now know were lies after the website Deadspin posted leaked financial documents that told a very different story. The deal was so shady, the lack of oversight so egregious, that the Security and Exchange Commission has an ongoing investigation into how taxpayer money could be so blithely squandered. Last December, Neil DeMause quoted a Yahoo Sports story that said, “While the subpoenas issued by the SEC do not explicitly detail the purpose of the investigation, the feds’ motives are evident: They want to understand how, exactly, a group of county commissioners agreed to fund 80 percent of the Marlins new stadium, which cost more than \$600 million, without ever seeing the team’s financial records — and whether bribes had anything to do with it.”

Now, according to ESPN’s Buster Olney, this \$80 million salary dump is being seen as prelude to “baseball’s worst nightmare”: the immediate selling of the team along with its expensive new stadium, and all the public money magically morphing into Jeffrey Loria’s private profit. The fight for the new stadium, the promises of urban renewal, the shiny free agent contracts given out during the last off-season, now look like little more than a classic long-con, with Loria the master grifter in the owner’s box. This is only a baseball story insofar as setting. The particulars have far more in common with the work of David Mamet than Peter Gammons.

This story of con artistry and corporate crime is evil enough. The problem with Loria is that he’s a repeat offender. Before South Florida knew his name, Loria bought and then destroyed the Montreal Expos. People forget today that Montreal was once a jewel of a baseball town, where Jackie Robinson first broke the color line as a minor leaguer. It was also the team of Hall of Fame caliber players like Andre Dawson, Tim Lincecum, and Gary Carter. Loria bought the team in 1999 and his first act was to say that he would rebuild the franchise and bring a championship to Montreal. His second act was to say that the city needed to build a new stadium or “we cannot stay here.” After enraging the locals, Loria proceeded to gut the team of talent until fans bitterly turned away from the dispirited, cellar dwelling franchise. Then in one of the most bizarre ownership shell-games in history, Loria sold the Expos to Major League Baseball (a trust of the other 29 owners), was also given a \$38.5 million interest-free loan by the league, and in return bought the Florida Marlins. This cleared a path for Marlins owner John Henry to then purchase the Boston Red Sox.

There was one problem with this delightfully incestuous ownership romp: the Expos had other owners who were left out in the cold. They proceeded to sue Loria on RICO act charges. They lost their case, the Expos of course became the Washington Nationals and now, Montreal is a baseball ghost town where framed photos of Ellis Valentine, Tim Wallach, and Warren Cromartie hang in dusty corners of the neighborhood sports bar.

As for the Marlins, Loria was owner in 2003 when they won the World Series and he then proceeded to sell off the team piece by piece. He’s already destroyed the baseball love in this town once. Now he’s like a sadist going back for seconds. The SEC couldn’t bring down Loria. The RICO statute couldn’t bring down Loria. Now, like the man selling the Monorail in Springfield, he’s going to destroy another baseball town, take the money and run. He’s Rollo Tomassi, the guy who’s going to get away with it. Bud Selig isn’t going to do a thing about it. The compromised and possibly criminally negligent city officials of Miami aren’t going to do anything about it. All that’s left is us. It’s citizen’s arrest time. Jeffrey Loria: for the crime of destroying Montreal as a baseball town, for destroying Miami as a baseball town, for stealing money from taxpayers to build a monument to your own excess, you are hereby notified of your impending arrest. Please report to the nearest federal prison. You will be granted visitation rights and ample time in the yard but no conjugal visits. You’ve screwed over enough people for one lifetime.

University of Maryland

Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

Question #1: My house is surrounded by large tulip poplar and oak trees. I am considering hiring someone to top the trees closest to my house to minimize potential damage if one or more should fall during a storm. When would be the proper time to do this and will I be causing damage to the trees?

Answer #1: Topping is a term used to describe the cutting back of large branches or the central leader of a mature tree with little regard to where the pruning cuts are made. This practice is not highly regarded by the tree care industry as research has shown that topping a tree can cause it to become more hazardous. Drastically reducing the tree canopy reduces photosynthesis and limits the tree’s ability to produce the necessary carbohydrates to stay healthy. Exposed bark is more susceptible to sunscald causing bark damage. The large wounds that this type of

pruning creates are difficult for trees to compartmentalize or wall-off allowing disease organisms or insects to enter the tree. The growth that is produced from the pruned areas, called water sprouts or epicormic growth is weakly attached to the tree and is subject to wind and ice damage. Plus the trees become unsightly. Our advice is to call a certified arborist to evaluate the health of the trees and if the trees are a candidate, perform crown reduction pruning. To find a certified arborist go to the following website, www.treesaregood.org

Question #2: Recently I have begun to see some type of beetles in my living room. They seem to congregate in the windowsill of a south facing window. I am beginning to suspect that they are coming from some firewood we store near the fireplace. What should I do and can the firewood be treated with an insecticide?

Answer #2: You are correct the firewood is most likely the source of your infestation. There are many miscellaneous beetles, like bark beetles and long-horned beetles that could possibly hitch a ride indoors on wood but none of them are threats to you or to the wood in your home. Spraying the wood with an insecticide is not recommended; it is not effective and could be potentially hazardous. Simply store the wood outdoors, away from your home, and bring indoors only the amount of wood you plan on burning that day.

Question #3: This holiday season I want to decorate with some other type of houseplant besides poinsettias. They just do not do well in my home. Do you have any suggestions?

Answer #3: Poinsettias can be finicky houseplants. Allowing the soil to dry out

between watering and keeping them out of drafts are important tips for keeping them healthy. However, there are other decorative plants sold to add a festive touch to your home. Amaryllis, cyclamen, and kalanchoe have colorful flowers in appropriate shades for the holidays. Norfolk Island pine and rosemary topiaries are evergreen and although they don’t flower, can also be attractive.

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

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Military from A1

of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Cpt. Hobbs is low on Army deployment lists.

Tara N. Gaston's Navy submariner husband regularly spends long periods of time out to sea, and Gaston sometimes doesn't hear from him for weeks. But she said a military marriage must come down to trust and communication.

"You can go to your day job and spend ten hours there and still be unfaithful to your partner," Gaston pointed out. "Yes, being away for six months does make it slightly easier, but if the person's going to do it, they're going to do it."

"I don't think anyone is going to be unfaithful to their spouse in the military that wouldn't be unfaithful otherwise," she added.

Jan Brady, a seasoned Army wife whose retired brigadier general husband spent 30 years in the service, said she thinks unfaithfulness is just as common with civilians as it is with military members. She gave as an example incoming Lockheed Martin CEO Christopher Kubasik, who resigned over an affair with a subordinate on the same day as Petraeus stepped down.

"The military is a microcosm of the United States of America," she said. "[Infidelity] is a shame but it happens. You know why? Because the military is headed by human beings."

Military life is comparable in some ways to the dangers faced by police officers and first responders or the long separations required of fishermen and long haul truckers, said MacDermid Wadsworth.

"What's unique about military families is that [their experiences] combine all these things at once: danger, separation, difficult physical work and also sometimes not knowing what's going on with the service member, not knowing what they're doing," she said.

MacDermid Wadsworth said that civilians also tend to think that military families are broken or damaged. "I think it's always very important to point out that military families in general are resilient, many feel a strong sense of calling to serve their country and they do so at considerable sacrifice," she said.

Military families face different challenges than civilian families.

"When other people your age are owning homes and working in the same place, you're picking up and moving every three years," said Vanessa Hobbs of the military life that's moved her from Tennessee to Maryland.

One of the TV shows that Hobbs watched before her husband joined the Army was Lifetime's soap opera-esque drama "Army Wives." But she said that unlike the show, her Army experience has not involved multiple deployments, base terrorist attacks, deaths, post-traumatic stress disorder, adultery, or health crises.

"I haven't really seen a lot of that drama in my husband's work or in dealing with other military spouses," Hobbs said. Instead she is juggling adjunct lecturing in anatomy and physiology at Montgomery College and taking care of her 15-month-old daughter Audrey.

Her husband is one of 153,000 military personnel who are stationed in the Washington, Maryland and Virginia area, according to 2009 U.S. Department of Defense statistics.

Sue Hoppin's husband is another. Hoppin, an Air Force officer's wife who lives in Northern Virginia, said that even with a master's degree, she had trouble finding a job after her husband got stationed in the Washington area. Hoppin said that networking didn't come naturally to her and decided that other military spouses could use

a boost in that department as well.

"You move every two to three years so you don't have that established network in place so that you can maybe settle near you parents ... to help pick up the slack with your kids," Hoppin said. Military spouses also don't have a network of military buddies or the attention of employers wanting to hire veterans the way that service members do.

It's a misconception that

spouses are underemployed or unemployed out of choice, Hoppin said. Frequent moves often lead to difficult job searches every few years and no chance to build a career in one place.

So Hoppin started the National Military Spouse Network to encourage other military spouses to think ahead of their next relocation and benefit from each other's expertise. She said that government organizations have started to work

with states to better support military life, pointing out the Department of Defense's USA4 Military Families initiative, which is working with states to address issues specific to military life.

Remaining a practicing lawyer is a continuing struggle for Navy wife Gaston. She's a licensed attorney but said she has become a "glorified paralegal" due to the difficulties of getting bar certifications in the various states the Navy has sta-

tioned her husband. Gaston said groups like the Military Spouse JD Network are trying to change state laws to help military spouses waive bar examination requirements, especially when the exams are given only a few times a year.

Another Navy wife, Leslie Rodriguez, finds it's a challenge to look for good schools for her two kids and help them make new friends with each move. "You take on a lot of burdens without them," Rodriguez said

of how military spouse absences affect the spouse at home.

Rodriguez's lieutenant husband currently teaches history at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and is a prior enlisted service member who has been in the Navy for 15 years.

"I think marriage in general is hard; I think being a military wife is even harder," Rodriguez said. "But I think it's definitely doable. I know a lot more couples staying together than I do getting divorced."

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