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Demonstrators Optimistic that Supreme Court Will Repeal DOMA

By LAUREN KIRKWOOD
and ANAMIKA ROY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Chants calling for equality rang out across the front steps of the Supreme Court Wednesday, as marriage equality supporters gathered to wave American flags and carry colorful signs while the court inside heard a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act.

Music blared over loudspeakers, and at one point the crowd began singing the national anthem. Many carried signs with messages like, "Sexuality is genetic, bigotry

is a lifestyle," and "Don't make me choose between my love for my wife & my love for my country."

Wednesday marked the second day of demonstrations outside the court on same-sex marriage issues -- supporters also gathered Tuesday in opposition to Proposition 8, which bans gay marriage in California, while the court considered arguments on that law.

Under DOMA, same-sex married couples lack federal benefits, and other states are not forced to recognize their marriage. The DOMA challenge was brought by Edie Windsor, a New York woman who could not receive a federal

estate tax exemption after her spouse died.

Virginia residents Heather Trout and Andrea Martens, who have been together for more than 11 years and married in Boston in 2009, said the atmosphere of the rally was exhilarating.

"It's awesome. There's probably more straight people here than gay people," Trout said. "It's amazing; it's probably the first time I've seen this many straight allies."

She and Martens have attended numerous gay pride demonstra-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ANAMIKA ROY

James Manship from Virginia drew attention for his 1700s attire. He said allowing same-sex marriage will lead to the "unraveling" of American society. He was one of the only opposers of marriage equality.

Death Penalty Ineffective and Biased

By Benjamin Todd Jealous and
Delegate Aisha N. Braveboy, Esq.

A few years ago, Derek Davis was walking home from work when some men came up, held a gun to his kidneys and robbed him. He held that anger inside for years. Years later, as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, when the issue of repealing the death penalty was introduced, Davis's traumatic experience compelled him to speak out loudly against repeal.

But on March 15, while the repeal bill was being debated on the floor of the State House, Del. Davis surprised many with his support for abolishing the death penalty.

Davis saw that the delegates arguing for capital punishment came from a place of anger, and he saw his own anger reflected in them. He realized, in his words, that "You can't make laws out of rage; you have to have a calm spirit."

Del. Davis, a member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, voted along with 43 of 44 Black Caucus representatives and 82 total representatives to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. The bill is now at the desk of Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is expected to sign it in early April. With his signature, Maryland will become the sixth state in six years to abolish the death penalty.

Many people of good conscience initially support the death penalty from a visceral place. But, as Del. Davis realized, once you calm your spirit and look at the facts, there is no turning back.

First, there is the fact that the death penalty is racially biased in its application. Since 1977,

See REPEAL, Page A3



photo by jay baker

PHOTOGRAPHER: JAY BAKER

Lt. Governor Attends the Affordable Care Act 3rd Anniversary Reception

Statement from Lt. Governor Brown on Third Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act

BY LUCAS HIGH
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March, 2013) – Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown released the following statement in recognition of the third anniversary of the signing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA):

Three years ago, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act because he believed that access to health care was an important part of growing our Middle Class and laying a strong foundation for America's future.

Maryland has become a national leader on health care reform because we acted early, worked in partnership with stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and always put the needs of Marylanders first. As a result of our actions, we've expanded health care coverage to over 367,000 Marylanders who were previously uninsured. We also worked together to build a state-of-the-art health benefit exchange, The Maryland Health Connection, that accommodates the specific needs of individuals and small businesses throughout our state.

While we've made great progress, we know that our work is far from over. Looking to the future, Governor O'Malley and I pledge to continue our efforts until each and every

Marylander has access to quality, affordable health care.

Maryland was one of the first six states in the U.S. to receive conditional approval from the Federal Government to operate a state-based health insurance exchange in 2014. During this year's Legislative Session, the Lt. Governor is leading efforts to pass the O'Malley-Brown Administration's Health Progress Act of 2013, the last step in the State's three-year effort to establish its health benefit exchange and fully implement the other protections of the ACA in time to meet the January 1, 2014 federal deadline.

Lt. Governor Brown leads the Administration's efforts to reduce costs, expand access, and improve the quality of care for all Marylanders. Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown, Maryland has implemented reforms that have expanded health coverage to over 367,000 Marylanders, half of whom are children, established Maryland's Health Benefit Exchange, and put the State in position to maximize the ACA. Independent analysis by the Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland Baltimore County has found that implementation of the ACA will benefit the state's budget by \$672 million through 2020, generate more than \$3 billion in annual economic activity, cut the number of uninsured in half, and create more than 26,000 jobs.

Presidential Proclamation

Harriet Tubman National Monument

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Establishment of the Harriet Tubman -- Underground Railroad National Monument by the President of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

Harriet Tubman is an American hero. She was born enslaved, liberated herself, and returned to the area of her birth many times to lead family, friends, and other enslaved African Americans north to freedom. Harriet Tubman fought tirelessly for the Union cause, for the rights of enslaved people, for the rights of women, and for the rights of all. She was a leader in the struggle for civil rights who was forever motivated by her love of family and community and by her deep and abiding faith.

Born Araminta Ross in 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland, on the plantation where her parents were enslaved, she took the name "Harriet" at the time she married John Tubman, a free black man, around 1844. Harriet Tubman lived and worked enslaved in this area from her childhood until she escaped to freedom at age 27 in 1849. She returned to Dorchester County approximately 13 times to free family, friends, and other enslaved African Americans, becoming one of the most prominent "conductors" on the Underground Railroad. In 1859, she purchased a farm in Auburn, New York, and established a home for her family and others, which anchored the remaining years of her life. In the Civil War she supported the Union forces as a scout, spy, and nurse to African-American soldiers on battlefields and later at Fort Monroe, Virginia. After the war, she established the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, which institutionalized a pattern of her life -- caring for African Americans in need.

In 1868, the great civil rights leader Frederick Douglass wrote to Harriet Tubman:

I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most that you have done has been witnessed by a few trembling, scarred, and foot-sore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt "God bless you" has been your

See PROCLAMATION, Page A7

INSIDE

New Ambulance Gator

Officials of the National Harbor/Peterson Companies and the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center handed over the keys to Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor to a recently purchased EMS unit, designed to carry a patient on a full sized stretcher or stokes basket, that will be stationed at National Harbor. **Community, Page A3**

Harriet Tubman National Monument

President Obama recently marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Harriet Tubman by designating the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Dorchester County. I cannot think of a more fitting or compelling tribute to one of the most history. **Opinion, Page A4**

Health Enterprise Zone

Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown visited MedStar St. Mary's Hospital to announce \$750,000 in state funding for the Greater Lexington Park Health Enterprise Zone. The Lt. Governor was joined by President of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners Jack Russell and other state and local officials. **Business, Page A5**

Movie Review "Olympus Has Fallen"

"Die Hard" is easily the best "Die Hard" movie of the year. It offers a worthy, wise-cracking hero (Gerard Butler), a nefarious villain (Rick Yune), some rah-rah action, Aaron Eckhart as the president, Robert Forster as the Army Chief of Staff, and Morgan Freeman as Speaker of the House. **Out on the Town, Page A6**

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What does the budget sequester that recently took hold mean for the environment?

-- Jane Burgos, Los Angeles, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance Museum

Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance House Museum on April 6, at 2 p.m. Come enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland. Wear plaid to be entered in a drawing for Scottish-themed door prizes.

National Tartan Day, April 6, celebrates Americans of Scottish descent who have played a vibrant and influential role in the development of the United States. Today, more than eleven million Americans claim Scottish and Scotch-Irish roots, making them the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States.

Reservation and payment are required in advance—residents, \$20; non-residents, \$24. Call 301-952-8010. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro.Morningside: 60 years ago

In 1953 the Morningside Co-operative Kindergarten was founded. Mrs. Irene Smith, who lived with her husband Roscoe at 305 Poplar Road, was teacher, and what a remarkable educator she was!Classes were held at what was then the Morningside Town Hall, corner of Woodland Road and Forest Drive. At that time the county schools did not have kindergartens, and many local 4 and 5-year-olds were enrolled with Mrs. Smith.

Of my children, Mike, Therese, John, Brian and Elaine attended Morningside Co-op Kindergarten. Irene Smith died on August 30, 1996; Roscoe passed away July 7, 1992.AARP tax help

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers provide low-income and senior taxpayers with free tax help. They are trained and IRS-certi-

fied each year to ensure their knowledge about the latest changes and additions to the U S. Tax Code.

New Carrollton Branch Library provides this service on Wednesdays April 3 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Doug Newell, 301-422-6180, to schedule an appointment.

Surratts-Clinton Branch Library will provide this tax help on Tuesdays, April 2 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Peggy Moton, at 301-292-2188 to make an appointment. Appointments are made on Friday for the following Tuesday.Applause

Gabriela Rodriguez spelled “brouhaha” to become the winner of the 13th annual Prince George's County Spelling Bee. Earlier in the bee, she spelled “tokamak,” “acerbation” and “fantoccini.” Gabriela is a home-schooled 7th grader in the Accokeek Center for Home-schooling Support.

Changing landscape

A final plat of subdivision has been approved for 130 residential lots on 54.8 acres on the west side of Ritchie Marlboro Road, south of its intersection with Westphalia Road, Upper Marlboro. They'll be part of the Marlboro Ridge community.

May they rest in peace

Edwin Garnet Stone, 94, co-owner, along with Mr. Allen, of Allen & Stone Complete Radio and TV Service in District Heights, died in Clinton on Feb. 15. He grew up in Hyattstown, graduated from Rockville High in 1935 and attended Benjamin Franklin U. in Washington. His first jobs were as elevator operator and bellboy at the Harris Hotel and later as manager of the Benedick Hotel. At the Benedick he met his future wife, Thelma. After the television

field changed, he was an insurance agent for Home Beneficial Life Insurance Company until retirement in 1982. Edwin and Thelma enjoyed duckpin bowling and were part of several teams at Marlow Heights and Suitland. Thelma died in January 2011. Survivors include sons Edwin Jr. and William, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Francis Charles Belcher, 90, of Hillcrest Heights, a retired Air Force major who went on to spend 20 years as a special agent with what is now the Defense Department's Defense Security Service, died Feb. 3 at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. He was a 1951 graduate of the University of Maryland and a member of Holy Family Church. He enjoyed golfing at Andrews. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Gladys Vantaman Belcher, a son, two daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ben Surratt and Kimberly Smith, March 29; Akwete Bedewi, March 30; Mark Cummings, March 31; Wayne Booth, Susan Frostbutter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero, Doris Bowers, and Bernie Saylor, April 3; Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5.

Happy anniversary to Antoinette and Charles Mattison, March 29, and to Walter and Fannie Dimes, their 24th on April 1. And I have a correction: My daughter Kathleen Shearer and her husband Jim celebrated their 27th (not their 23rd) anniversary on March 22.

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthday greetings to Beulah Burr, Lawrence Dorsey, Helen Johnson, Shakira Lanier, Joseph Lewis, Mildred Makle, Wanda Makel, Alice Myers, Amber Petty, Zilpha Pinkney, Marshanda Pye, Anthony Pinkney, Rev. Robert Slade, Silverene Spriggs, Jane Tolson, Keith Tolson, Janice Watkins, and Cherron Yeager during the month of April.

CASINO TIME

It's our 2013 Sunday Casino Slots fun to Midway-Harrington Raceway & Casino Slots in Harrington Delaware on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Bus leaves Park-N-Ride, Clinton MD at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM, and returns at approximately 7:30 PM. Fun package includes a \$15.00 slot play rebate with a full Buffet Meal. There will be oldies but goodies, movies and 50/50 raffle. Cost is \$40.00.

There are absolutely no refunds. Purchase your ticket early so you won't be left

out. Tickets must be purchased by May 5, 2013. Benefit for St. Philip's Church. Point of contact for tickets are Shirley A. Cleaves 302-690-4260, Doretha A. Savoy 301-233-3136 and Ernest Douglas 301-888-1937.

“OFF THE HOOK” SUMMER CAMP 2013

The Camp will be open Monday, June 10th – Friday, August 16th from 7:00 AM-6:00 PM for 1ST Grade-7Th Grade. The cost is \$115 per week bring in lunch or \$135.00 per week with lunch and two snacks included. The registration fee is \$45 (non-refundable).

“Off the Hook Activities” include Game Room, Field Trips, Swimming, Bowling, Tennis, Basketball, Flag Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, Arts & Crafts, Cosmetology, Career Day, Movie Day, Enrichment Program and lots more activities.

The Summer Camp will be at Outreach Christian Center 6701 Clinton Manor Drive, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

For more information call 301-856-1183x205. Registration started March 4, 2013. Spaces are limited.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Council will hold a Joint Public hearing on Formula 2040: County Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

The Public Hearing will be in the Council Hearing Room, First Floor County Administration Building located at 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. To register to speak at the hearing please call the M-NCPP-C Public Affairs Office at 301-952-4584/TTY 301-952-4366. For further information, please contact staff at 301-446-6850 or formula2040@pgparks.com. Visit the Formula 2040 website at www.pgparks.com/formula2040. Prior to the hearing, project staff will be available to answer questions in the first floor lobby.

Neighborhood Events

Teacher of the Month: Suitland HS

Teacher Joyce Perkinson

Background: Joyce Perkinson has been an educator for more than 40 years, spending ten of those years in Prince George's County Public Schools. Currently, she teaches Business Education at Suitland High School.



Accomplishments:
Academy Design Team
National Honor Society Sponsor
Business Department Chairperson

Principal's Message:

"Mrs. Joyce Perkinson is a phenomenal teacher. She is the Business and Finance Department Chair and has led her department in an exemplary manner as she implements collaborative planning and professional development opportunities for the members of the department. Additionally, Mrs. Perkinson partners and networks with the outside business community seeking realistic and meaningful opportunities for her students. Along with teaching a variety of business classes, Mrs. Perkinson is the sponsor of the Thomas V. Warthen National Honor Society Chapter at Suitland High School. She instills the importance of honor and academics to her members and has high expectations for all her students. Mrs. Perkinson has been instrumental in the development of the new Business Academy - Business Management and Academy of Finance that will begin next year at Suitland High School. She is highly respected among the staff and students at Suitland High School."

Why I Love Teaching:

"I love teaching because of the lives I impact on a daily basis. It gives me a sense of fulfillment seeing the progress students make both academically and socially as they prepare for their next endeavors."

Edwards Attends Signing Ceremony at White House Establishing Harriet Tubman National Monument

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) attended a signing ceremony at the White House today where President Obama established the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland. The monument comprises more than 11,000 acres in Dorchester County, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore, and in conjunction with other properties along the East Coast, will serve to protect segments of the Underground Railroad.

"It was an honor to attend today's signing ceremony as President Obama designated the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland. As one of Maryland's own, Harriet Tubman came to embody the strength, courage, and determination of the abolitionist movement as she risked her own life to save the lives of hundreds of slaves. As we recognize the 100th anniversary of her death, the creation of this national, historical park will serve as a

Hoyer Statement on President Obama's Designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today after President Obama designated five new National Monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act, including the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland:

"As we mark the 100th anniversary of Harriet Tubman's death this year, I'm pleased President Obama has designated the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument to honor this American hero's life and legacy. The new National Monument will be located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where Tubman was born and enslaved for nearly thirty years before escaping slavery. It is also where she returned for

more than ten years to lead hundreds of African Americans to freedom and became known as the most famous 'conductor' of the Underground Railroad. I thank Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin and others for their commitment to honoring Ms. Tubman, and I look forward to the establishment of this monument so that Marylanders and all Americans will have an important place to reflect on her legacy."

Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on President Obama's Designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March, 2013) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement on the Presidential Designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument:

"Today, President Obama made a long-held dream come true for countless Marylanders with his decision to forever commemorate the life and legacy of one of the Underground Railroad's most famed conductors, Harriet Tubman. By selecting Maryland's Eastern Shore as the site for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument, President Obama will help us preserve the life and legacy of an American hero.

"This landmark designation comes two weeks after we broke ground on a new State Park in Cambridge bearing Harriet's name, which stands at the head of a scenic byway where she safely led scores of enslaved people to freedom. We are grateful to President Obama and our federal, local and private partners, including The Conservation Fund, for a donation of land that made this monument possible. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of many, Harriet Tubman's legacy will live on forever."

Van Hollen Statement on the Third Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act

Washington, DC – Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen issued the following statement to mark the third anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, which falls on

Saturday:

"Tomorrow marks the three year anniversary of President Obama signing the Affordable Care Act into law – and changing the course of health care in our nation. The law has already helped to slow the growth of health care costs for American families and has established important consumer protections.

"Children with pre-existing conditions are no longer denied coverage and young people are now able to remain on their parents' insurance up to their 26th birthday – which has so far helped over 46,000 young adults in Maryland and more than three million across the country. Hundreds of thousands of small businesses have already started to receive tax credits to help maintain or expand health care coverage for their employees. 47 million women – over 1 million in Maryland – now have guaranteed access to preventive health services, like birth control and cervical cancer screenings, without cost sharing. Thanks to the 80/20 rule, insurers have to spend at least 80 percent of premiums on care, rather than things that do not add value to the health care system, like executive pay, marketing, and bonuses.

"Seniors have also started to see important benefits from our Medicare reforms. Beneficiaries can now receive free preventive services, and in 2012 alone 543,632 people with Medicare in Maryland took advantage of this new benefit. Also, Medicare beneficiaries received a 50 percent discount on their covered brand-name prescription drugs when they hit the donut hole – last year, 48,949 people in our state saved over \$37.5 million, or an average of \$768 per beneficiary.

"Over time, the law will continue to bring down health care costs and will expand coverage to 27 million uninsured Americans. It will prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage to those with pre-existing conditions and will end the worst practices of the insurance industry. And beginning in 2014, individuals in every state will be able to shop for health insurance and compare plans through new health insurance Marketplaces.

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Call 310-627-0900

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Maximize Your Disabled Child's Government Aid

Parents of special needs children have enough on their plates just tending to the health, educational and emotional needs of their kids – not to mention often having to cope with drastically lowered income because of reduced work hours or having to pay someone else for childcare. So it's not surprising that many of these parents haven't had time to hatch a long-term financial



plan in case their kids need care after they're not around.

Fortunately, many government programs and community resources are available to help relieve the financial burden of parenting special needs children. But eligibility criteria are complicated and the application process time-consuming. Plus, if you're not careful, you or well-meaning relatives could inadvertently disqualify your kids for future benefits by not structuring their inheritances correctly.

Here's a brief overview of key government assistance programs:

The Social Security Administration provides two types of disability coverage: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Rules and eligibility requirements differ between the two programs – and benefits differ for children and adults.

In a nutshell, SSI is a needs-based, cash-assistance program for disabled people of any age in low-income families with limited resources. Children qualify for SSI benefits if they meet certain strict criteria outlined in SSA Publication 05-11000 (www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html).

SSDI is a separate program funded by payroll deductions (part of FICA). Although children sometimes receive SSDI payments if their parents are disabled, their eligibility is based on their parents' disability status, not on their own. However, after turning 22, already disabled children may qualify for SSDI on their own if at least one parent qualifies for Social Security benefits.

Eligibility rules and definitions for SSI and SSDI are complex. To see if your child qualifies, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213, or search the Disability and SSI tabs at www.ssa.gov. One particularly helpful resource is "Benefits for Children with Disabilities," SSA Publication No. 05-10026.

Many families inadvertently jeopardize their disabled child's eligibility for government-provided benefits by opening accounts in the child's name or designating them as beneficiaries. Unfortunately, federal law dictates that recipients of SSI, Medicaid and many state assistance programs will be disqualified if they have resources worth over \$2,000. So, if Uncle Jerry leaves your daughter \$10,000 in his will, she could lose her benefits.

One good alternative is to create a special needs trust, whose assets can be used by its trustee to manage the finances and personal effects of a disabled person. Trusts are governed by state laws and should only be drafted by an attorney familiar with this area of law.

Some parents name the trust as beneficiary of life insurance policies to ensure a source of funding if they die before their child. (Stay current on your premiums.) Other possible funding sources include cash, stocks and other investments, retirement plan death benefits, home sale proceeds and inheritances from other relatives and friends. Just make sure that the trust –not the child – is named beneficiary.

Preparing a special needs trust can be expensive – possibly several thousand dollars, depending on your situation. But weigh that against the prospect of your child losing out on a lifetime of government-provided benefits because of an accidental inheritance – speaking of which, be sure to let any well-meaning relatives or friends know about the trust.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

National Harbor and Gaylord National Ambulance Gator Ready for Service

By MARK BRADY
PGC/EMS Press Information

Officials of the National Harbor/Peterson Companies and the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center ceremoniously handed over the keys to Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor to a recently purchased EMS unit that will be stationed at National Harbor. "Cart 858" is a 2013 Polaris Ranger with a fully enclosed compartment designed to carry a patient on a full sized stretcher or stokes basket.

Additional features include a 6X6 chassis, travel at speeds up to 40 mph, on-demand all-wheel drive, independent suspension and has a low center of gravity in order to negotiate challenging terrain.

The unit will be available for service and stationed at the public safety garage on the grounds of the National Harbor. Staffing will be scheduled dur-



Keys to the new Ambulance Gator are turned over to Fire Chief Bashoor. (L to R) Terry Bauer, Asst. Director of Safety Services/Gaylord National; My Harrison, Exec. Director Security and Safety Services/Gaylord National, Fire Chief Bashoor and Christopher J. Borgal, Senior Property Manager - National Harbor/Peterson Companies.

ing events that would typically attract large crowds, most weekends and on an as-needed basis.

The MedStat off-road ambu-

lance was purchased in a Public-Private Partnership between the Peterson Company, the Gaylord National and the Fire/EMS Department. The unit

will be used to access patients from areas that cannot be readily accessed by a normal "road" ambulance. The unit cost \$40,000.

Repeal from A1

murders of Blacks and Whites have occurred at nearly equal rates, but 80 percent of people executed under the death penalty were convicted of murdering a White victim. Meanwhile, 43 percent of current death row inmates nationwide are African American.

Capital punishment also wastes valuable resources. In Maryland alone, the death penalty cumulatively costs \$186 million over a 20-year period –money that could have been spent solving unsolved homicides. All of this despite a lack of conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters crime.

Finally, it is an undisputed fact that you cannot bring a person back to life if you later dis-

cover they are innocent. Since 1973, 142 death row inmates nationwide have been sentenced to death and later exonerated thanks to new evidence, technological advances, or the simple fact that the truth has a way of revealing itself. These include people like Maryland citizen Kirk Bloodsworth, who sat in the Maryland House Gallery as the delegates debated death penalty repeal. Initially sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit, Kirk spent 9 years behind bars before going free. Since then, he has been dedicated to making sure that never happens again.

But all these facts fall on deaf ears without advocates to repeat them, educate people and mobilize coalitions around repealing the death penalty. In Maryland, it

took the leadership of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, NAACP Maryland State Conference President Gerald Stansbury, state Sen. Lisa Gladden, Del. Samuel Rosenberg and so many others. It took the bravery of Gov. O'Malley to sign the bill into law. And it took the open-mindedness of delegates like Derreck Davis to move our state, and this nation, forward.

The death penalty repeal movement is gaining momentum nationwide. Colorado and Delaware are both considering repeal legislation, which would make them the 18th and 19th states nationwide. In both states, the Black Caucus can play a leading role. Once 26 states have abolished the death penalty, we can make the argument in front of the Supreme Court that the death

penalty is not only cruel – it is also unusual.

Del. Davis understands where death penalty supporters come from. Some see the retributive aspect of capital punishment as a form of justice. But he realized that we have to fight past the urge for vengeance. We have to look the facts in the face and realize that the death penalty is flawed, ineffective and racially biased.

And if we can get enough people to understand that, then in a few years we can repeal the death penalty in the United States once and for all.

Benjamin Todd Jealous is president and CEO of the national NAACP. Del. Aisha N. Braveboy is chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and represents the 25th Legislative District in Prince George's County.

DORMA from A1

tions over the years, Trout said, but the contrast between similar events in the 1990s and Wednesday's show of support was palpable.

"It was just a feeling of being surrounded, minimized, it was a fearful thing," she said. "Now, it's hopeful. It almost makes me cry."

As demonstrators posed for pictures and distributed American flags, many said they were confident the court would overturn DOMA because of a shift to acceptance and tolerance in American culture.

"I know it will change. I grew up gay in the deep South," said Alex Brewer, a Washington resident. "Now, my cousins chose to go to college there because it has become more accepting."

Brewer said his parents traveled from Tennessee to hear the arguments, and managed to get a seat in the court.

Many of those who attended with signs, banners or flyers, however, didn't need to travel far.

Kristina Kissiova, a Baltimore native and sophomore at George Washington University, said she was miss-

ing class for the chance to participate in the rally. Kissiova said she became passionate about advocating for equality after she began attending college in Washington.

"I went to a small Catholic high school, so I only saw one side of it," she said. "It's exciting just seeing everyone with their signs. I was hoping there'd be more opposition."

Although members of the Westboro Baptist Church, an anti-gay Kansas organization known for picketing military funerals, were spotted early in the day, several demonstrators said most opponents of same-sex marriage left the area.

However, Virginia resident James Manship drew some attention from passersby due to his outfit -- Manship was dressed as George Washington and carried a large flag with the words "Appeal to Heaven" written on it.

Manship said the court should not review same-sex marriage, adding the repeal of DOMA could lead to an "unraveling" of American society.

Maryland voters passed a referendum legalizing same-sex marriage in November, and eight other states, along with Washington, D.C., also allow it.

However, same-sex couples who marry still lack federal benefits, which led Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to suggest that DOMA creates "two classes" of marriage, according to a Washington Post news article.

A majority of justices appeared doubtful about DOMA's constitutionality during Wednesday's arguments, the Post reported.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, likely the deciding vote, "questioned whether the federal government may impose its own view of marriage, which was 'always thought to be' the domain of the state," according to the Post.

Federal benefits that same-sex couples are denied under DOMA include insurance benefits for federal workers, joint tax filing and Social Security survivor benefits.

With the repeal of the law, same-sex couples would have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, a decision Virginia resident Laura Pfiztner said she can now only hope for.

Pfztnr -- who held a sign saying "Give my child my rights" -- said her son is engaged to an Army soldier who fought in Iraq and who came out as gay three months

before the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which forbade openly gay citizens to serve in the armed forces.

"I can hope and pray, and I can march and talk and educate," she said.

Several demonstrators, including Washington residents Jason Hata, of the Japanese-American Citizens League, and Kendall Kosai, of the Organization of Chinese Americans, compared the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered equality with the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"The Asian-American community is fairly progressive," Kosai said. "There are lots of parallels with the civil rights movement to stand up for justice for everyone."

And while many supporters said they want the nation as a whole to embrace same-sex marriage, Brewer said giving individual states a say in the matter could lead to more positive change.

"I hope it remains a state issue for a while," Brewer said. "If we force gay marriage on states that aren't ready yet, there will be a stronger backlash."

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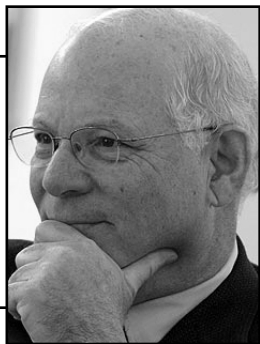
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



All Marylanders Can Take Pride in Harriet Tubman National Monument

President Obama recently marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Harriet Tubman by designating the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Dorchester County. I cannot think of a more fitting or compelling tribute to one of the most courageous, inspirational heroes in our nation's history.

Harriet Ross Tubman was born into slavery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As a young child and adult, she toiled for a number of masters, escaping from slavery in her mid-20s to become the most famous "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. She also served as a nurse and a spy for the Union during the Civil War. In her later years, she became active in the women's suffrage movement and created a home "for aged and indigent colored people" before her death on March 10, 1913 in Auburn, New York.

All Marylanders can be proud that this new National Monument will memorialize the tremendous contributions Harriet Tubman made to American history. It also preserves the unique landscape associated with her life on the Eastern Shore, which remains almost unchanged today. President Obama's National Monument designation will serve as an intermediate step to fulfilling an even greater vision of honoring her legacy.

That vision includes legislation I have authored -- The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad

National Historical Park Act, S. 247 -- to create a National Historical Park in Maryland and another in New York to honor the legacy and life's work of Harriet Tubman. Co-sponsors of S. 247 include: U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) and Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (both D-NY).

The new National Monument designated by President Obama will be located in Dorchester County on lands that were historically significant to Harriet Tubman's life and her work on the Underground Railroad. Located within the National Monument are portions of Stewart's Canal, a manmade waterway Harriet Tubman's father, Ben Ross, helped build as a slave. The National Monument also will contain the home site of Jacob Jackson, a free black man who used coded letters to help Tubman communicate with family and others and who also offered up his house as one of the first safe houses along the Underground Railroad leading out of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Conservation Fund donated a 480-acre property, adjacent to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, to the National Park Service for the purposes of establishing the National Monument.

Harriet Tubman was an iconic figure in our nation's history, and as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of her death this year, this designation is an important step in fully honoring this true American heroine.

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Hearye Hearye Justice Scalia - Voting is a Right

"No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." Voting Rights Act of 1965

Last month during Supreme Court oral arguments in *Shelby County v. Holder*, Justice Antonin Scalia called a key part of the Voting Rights Act -- Section Five -- a "racial entitlement." Section Five requires that the Justice Department or a federal court "pre-clear" any changes made to voting procedures by covered jurisdictions to ensure they do not "deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race or color." This act was established to fix a broken system, and it remains relevant today. As long as blatant voter suppression measures like voter ID laws and district gerrymandering are being used to keep certain groups from the polls, the Voting Rights Act -- in its entirety -- remains necessary. And to clear up any confusion that Justice Scalia or anyone who found merit in his argument has, let's be clear: Voting "rights" are indeed that -- a right guaranteed to every citizen of the United States. They are not a special privilege. They are not a gift.

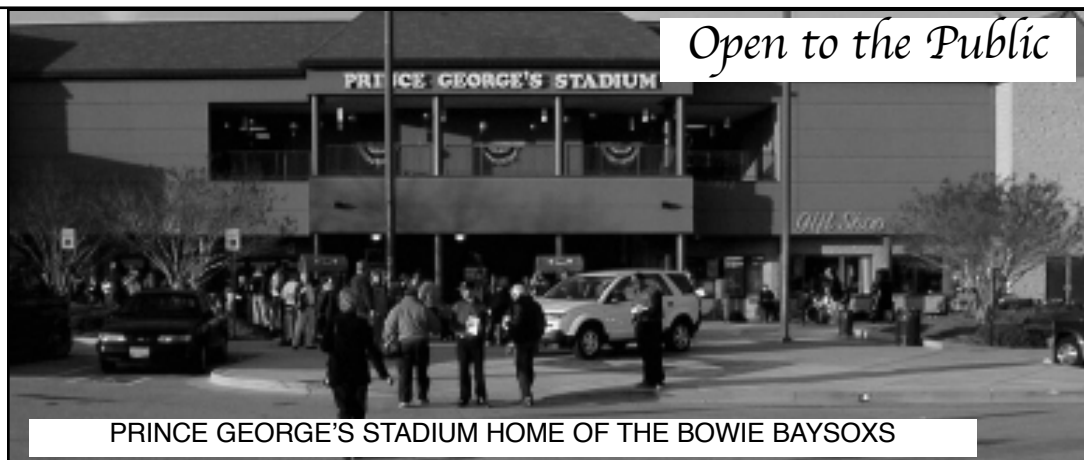
Justice Scalia's comments are a shameful reiteration of a right-wing political interpretation of the Constitution. The fact is, the Voting Rights Act was in response to an inarguably unjust and unfair system for voting in this country.

Prior to the Voting Rights Act, millions of African Americans, primarily in the South, were forced to run a gauntlet of "voting qualifications or prerequisites," including ludicrous literacy tests, discriminatory poll taxes, and other bureau-

cratic restrictions. And when those measures failed, blacks were routinely subjected to intimidation, economic sanctions, beatings and even murder. The 1964 murders of three voting rights activists at the hands of Mississippi Klansmen and the March 7, 1965 Bloody Sunday beating of peaceful voting rights marchers by Alabama State troopers are horrific examples.

While there has been undeniable progress since 1965, voting rights abuses are still sadly a part of the American electoral landscape. In fact, every presidential election of this new century has been plagued by voting problems -- from "hanging chads," to Tea Party backed campaigns of Election Day intimidation to new voter ID restrictions. Cut backs in early voting even led to a Florida woman, 102-year-old Desiline Victor, having to stand in line for three hours to vote in November's presidential election.

The Voting Rights Act, and specifically its Section 5 preclearance provisions, is still needed to protect against such abuses. While Justice Scalia is either confused or misguided in his characterization of the right to vote as a racial entitlement, in 2006, Congress upheld this basic right by overwhelmingly reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act for another 25 years. House Speaker, John Boehner said at the time, "The Voting Rights Act has been an effective tool in protecting a right that is fundamental to our democracy and renewing this landmark law will ensure that each and every citizen can continue to exercise their right to vote without the threat of intimidation or harassment." We intend to hold the Speaker to those words. If the Supreme Court declares any part of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, Congress will have a final chance to keep Section 5 alive.



PRINCE GEORGE'S STADIUM HOME OF THE BOWIE BAYSOXS

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Listen to the Children

"My friends are dead. I saw the bad man. He was next to me when we ran out."

"I played ball with him. Now he is dead."

"My friend got killed cause she didn't hide good enough."

"Do you think it is my fault?"

These are some of the devastating voices of children from Sandy Hook Elementary School. Elaine Zimmerman, the executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Children, joined by others, has been offering support to children and families in Newtown, Connecticut since the shootings at their school in December 2012. She shared these quotes at a recent Harvard Graduate School of Education Askwith Forum where she, PBS NewsHour correspondent and Learning Matters president John Merrow, and I participated in a panel on school violence. Less than two percent of fatal gun violence against children takes place at school, but everyone's heart broke with Elaine's as she told the audience, "I am haunted by the child who said, 'There is nothing you can do or say that will convince me that this will not happen again.'"

Although many children in the school building and school system were not physically hurt on December 14th, all these children and their siblings were also victims of the horrific violence that day. They carry an enormous burden and are paying an incalculable price that may never disappear. It's the same price paid by children fifty miles away in Hartford's North End--though the gun violence there and in inner cities across the country does not always make headlines, adding another layer of anger and frustration about feeling invisible on top of the Black community's already deep pain. From rural Southern communities to small Midwestern towns, child and adult survivors of gun violence all over America pay a high price every day. The psychological and emotional toll of gun violence on bystanders, victims, and families can be overwhelming and leaves effects that last for years.

What about the costs we can count? In addition to the trauma that is so deep and pervasive that it is harder to quantify, there are actual costs to gun violence that can be measured and are enormous. Victims and families often find themselves paying a high economic price while struggling with the emotional one, and other taxpayers share the economic burden.

A recent study by the Pacific Institute for Research and

Evaluation found that gun injuries and deaths in 2010 cost the country \$8.4 billion in medical and mental health care, emergency services, and administrative and criminal justice costs. Those shot and killed and their families and employers were estimated to have lost \$52.5 billion in forgone wages and productivity due to death or injury. This adds up to a total of \$60.8 billion, twenty percent of which was borne by local, state and federal governments. On top of these costs to the victims, their families, employers and taxpayers, the researchers also estimated the economic value of the pain, suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life among those shot and their families to total an additional \$113.3 billion. This gives a sense of the magnitude of the loss experienced by those killed or injured and their families. Together all these costs add up to \$174.1 billion a year, a little over one percent of our nation's gross national product. This is an average of \$1.7 million in one year for each of the 105,177 gun deaths and injuries that occurred in 2010. And even this number is an underestimate. It does not count the larger toll and economic impact of gun violence on entire communities, including lower housing values, lost property tax revenue, and lost quality of life due to fear of violence.

The lost quality of life is the price Sandy Hook's children are paying right now, along with every other child in America who has seen gun violence in their own neighborhood, their own street, or their own home. The 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that more than one in five 14-17 year olds had witnessed a shooting at some

point in their lives. This number is thought to be even higher among low-income children: one study found that 43 percent of low-income Black school-aged children had witnessed a murder. Behind those children are millions more who have seen pieces of news stories on television or passed armed guards or policemen at their school and wonder whether the grown-ups they know will ever be able to protect them and keep them safe. There is nothing you can do or say that will convince me that this will not happen again.

A December 2012 report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence found that exposure to violence takes an enormous emotional toll on children with effects including difficulty sleeping and eating, irritability, attention and concentration problems, aggression, depressed mood and withdrawal, relationship problems, anxiety and intrusive thoughts, and impulsivity (which includes dangerous risk-taking, alcohol and drug abuse, delinquency, and promiscuous sexual behavior). The task force also reported that chronic violence can lead to long-lasting changes in brain anatomy and physiology, including long-term psychiatric problems and lifelong limitations on health, well-being, relationships, and personal success.

It's not fair. Our whole country and our nation's economy bear the financial burden caused by gun violence. Survivors and family members pay the highest price of all. No one should be forced to pay a lifelong emotional or physical toll because a fit of anger, an episode of

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

University of Maryland

Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

Question #1: Several years ago I planted a mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) close to my house. It has outgrown this space and I want to transplant it. When is the best time to do this?

Answer #1: Mapleleaf viburnum is a beautiful native shrub. They grow to 4-6 ft. tall and wide and can sucker from the root-stock. Providing space for this shrub is advisable. Early spring is a very good time to transplant woody shrubs. Before digging make sure the soil is not too wet. If it clumps together you should wait until it dries out. Prepare the site ahead of time in an area with well-drained, slightly acidic soil in sun or shade. Plant it no deeper than it was originally planted; dig the hole wider than deeper. Save the native soil to use as backfill. Do not prune the shrub too severely but it may help to loosely tie up the branches to make it easier to move. Have a piece of burlap or heavy plastic available close by to wrap around the root ball during the move. Dig as large a root ball as possible and use a pruner to clip through any stubborn roots. Fertilizer is not necessary at this time but keep the shrub watered as needed from spring through fall for the next two years.

Question #2: Please help me solve a very annoying pest problem I have been having in my family room for the past week. Every day I have been seeing these tiny dark, winged bugs flying and landing near the lights in the evening and the windows during the daytime. They are beetle-like and have a hard shell. I moved the couch away from the wall and found what I believe to be larvae along the baseboard. What are they and how can I get rid of them?

Answer #2: We believe you have an infestation of carpet beetles, a very common pest found in homes. There are several different species of carpet beetles. The two most common in this area are the varied carpet beetle and the black carpet beetle but control for both of these beetles is the same. What you found behind the couch were indeed the larvae. Inspect for and properly launder or dry-clean any infested items such as clothing, woolen items, carpets or rugs. Thoroughly vacuum carpeting, along baseboards, under and behind furniture and in closets. Then dispose of the vacuum cleaner bag when you are finished. It probably will be necessary to repeat the vacuuming process at least a couple more times and in the future do not allow pet hair or dust particles to accumulate in the area. For additional information see publication "HG 80 Fabric Pests" found on the HGIC website.

Question #3: It is getting to be the time to start some of my vegetable seeds indoors. The date on some of the packets indicates that some of my tomato seeds are several years old. What is the best way to check to see if the seeds are still viable?

Answer #3: Tomato seeds, if stored properly, should be viable for at least three years. But, it is a good idea to check the germination rate of these seeds before you plant them. Place 20 seeds on a moistened paper towel, roll up the towel, and place it in a plastic bag. Put the bag on top of the refrigerator or other warm location and check after 5-7 days to see what percentage has germinated. Discard seed lots with less than 75% (15 out of 20 seeds) germination.

"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.

Maryland Government House to Participate in Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue™ Campaign in Support of World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Awareness Month

Buildings and Landmarks Illuminate Blue on April 2 as Part of a Global Initiative to Help Raise Awareness for Autism

Government House, the official residence of Governor Martin O'Malley will illuminate with special blue lights on Tuesday, April 2 in support of Autism Speaks global annual Light It Up Blue (LIUB) campaign to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Awareness Month.

Thanks to the Office of the First Lady, Government House a list of nearly 3,000 iconic structures, buildings and landmarks in more than 600 U.S. cities and 50 countries around the world that will shine a bright light on autism as a growing public health crisis. The Empire State Building in NYC, the Aspen Mountain in Colorado, Niagara Falls in Canada, Christ the Redeemer Statue in Brazil, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and even the International Space Station will all join Autism Speaks and Government House in support of the millions of families affected by autism. Additional Annapolis buildings participating in our Light It Up Blue campaign include Nordstrom Annapolis Mall. Throughout the month of April, Annapolis residents can lend their additional support by getting involved in three key ways:

- **Illuminate:** Change your white bulbs to blue. Light up your home, business, school, place of worship or even your website blue to show your support.
- **Donate:** Text Autism to 25383 to donate \$10 to Autism Speaks* or make a donation on LightItUpBlue.org.
- **Advocate:** Take action as we call on President Obama and Congress to develop and implement a comprehensive national plan to address autism. Sign a petition on LightItUpBlue.org. Visit www.lightitupblue.org for more fun and creative ways that you can support your neighbors and friends.

Greater Lexington Park Proposal Expands Primary Care Options for Residents of St. Mary's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Lt. Governor Brown Announces \$750,000 in Funding for Medstar St. Mary's Hospital Health Enterprise Zone

LEONARDTOWN, Md. (March, 2013) — Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown visited MedStar St. Mary's Hospital to announce \$750,000 in state funding for the Greater Lexington Park Health Enterprise Zone, which will be managed by MedStar St. Mary's in partnership with several local community organizations. The Lt. Governor was joined by President of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners Jack Russell, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital President Christine Wray and other hospital leadership, Director of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Dr. Carlessia A. Hussein, local health organizations, and other state and local officials.

"The Greater Lexington Park proposal is a prime example of the kind of innovative, creative thinking that the HEZ program is all about," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Addressing the persistent health disparities that exist in our communities is a moral and financial imperative. We are excited to be working with MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and their partners on a plan that is going to expand access to primary care for more residents in Southern Maryland, while reducing the preventable admissions that are driving up costs."

Greater Lexington Park is among the first five locations in Maryland designated as Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs) earlier this year at an event in Annapolis. Championed by the Lt. Governor and jointly administered by the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the HEZ Initiative is a four-year pilot program with a budget of \$4 million per year. Community coalitions in each of the five areas will receive a range of incentives, benefits, and grant funding to address unacceptable and persistent health disparities.

"As the trusted leader in caring for people and advancing health, all of us at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital actively seek ways to improve the quality of

life for our community," said Christine Wray, FACHE, President of MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and Senior Vice President of MedStar Health. "In order to reduce health disparities in Lexington Park, we started the Get Connected to Health program in 2008 as a means to close the gap."

The proposal for the Greater Lexington Park HEZ seeks to improve public health outcomes in the Lexington Park, Great Mills, and Park Hall communities of St. Mary's County, which are experiencing a severe shortage of primary care physicians. MedStar St. Mary's plans to work with partners to create a new community health care center in Lexington Park, add five new primary care practitioners, one psychiatrist, and two licensed social workers in the Zone. With these changes, they are hoping to see reductions in preventable hospital emergency department visits, admissions, and readmissions for chronic diseases such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes, as well as improved overall integration of primary care and behavioral health services in the community. Their proposal also includes innovative strategies like the development of a "health care transportation route" to address barriers to accessing health care experienced in the underserved communities in this rural area of the state.

"The HEZ opportunity provided a chance to partner with our colleagues and use creativity to design programs to reduce disparities while making a difference in the Lexington Park revitalization effort," said Joan Gelrud, Vice President of MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. "We can't wait to bring additional providers to Lexington Park to provide culturally competent integrated primary care and behavioral health. This care will be supplemented with transportation via a van service along a 16-mile healthcare route, translator services and community health workers."

"MedStar St. Mary's Hospital already has a strong relationship with community partners so the collaboration was a natural effort," said Lori Werrell, Director of Health Connections at MedStar St. Mary's. "It takes the whole village to change health care disparities and in this case the village includes Walden Sierra Inc., St. Mary's County

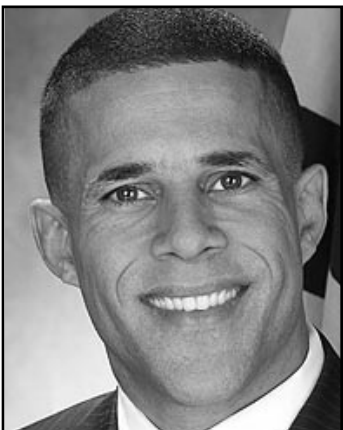
Health Department and Department of Social Services, Greater Baden Medical Services, Minority Outreach Coalition, the County Community Development Corporation and Department of Aging and Human Services, the local Housing Authority, and the Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living, and many others."

The HEZ program was established by the Maryland Health Improvement & Health Disparities Reduction Act, signed into law in April 2012. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) issued a Call for Proposals in October 2012 through which community organizations and local health departments could apply for HEZ designation status, to be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications were evaluated based on a set of 13 review principles by an independent HEZ Review Committee comprised of experts in the fields of public health, health disparities, and health care delivery. Areas designated as HEZs will have access to a range of incentives that include state income tax credits; hiring tax credits; loan repayment assistance; priority entrance into the state's Patient Centered Medical Home Program; priority for available state electronic health record grant funding; additional grant funding from the Community Health Resources Commission; and capital grant support.

"Access to primary care is critical for the health of any community. The Greater Lexington Park Health Enterprise Zone will expand access to care to help keep individuals and families healthy," said Dr. Josh Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

"The Commission is pleased to help implement Health Enterprise Zones," commented CHRC Commissioner Sue Kullen. "These efforts in St Mary's County will help bring much needed health care resources in an underserved rural area of the state.

The purposes of the HEZ Initiative are to: (1) Reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations and among geographic areas; (2) Improve health care access and health outcomes in underserved



Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown visited MedStar St. Mary's Hospital to announce funding.

communities; and (3) Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and re-admissions. To receive designation as an HEZ, community coalitions identified contiguous geographic areas with measurable and documented economic disadvantage and poor health outcomes and proposed a creative plan for targeted investments in community health. Nineteen coalitions submitted proposals in fall 2012. The other four proposals chosen for the pilot program along with Greater Lexington Park were for HEZs located in Capitol Heights in Prince George's County, Dorchester and Caroline Counties, West Baltimore, and Annapolis.

For additional information about the HEZ Initiative, please visit

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/healthenterprisezones/SitePages/Updates.aspx>.

Lt. Governor Brown leads the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to reduce costs, expand access, and improve the quality of care for all Marylanders. Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown, Maryland has implemented reforms that have expanded health coverage to more than 367,000 Marylanders, half of whom are children, established Maryland's Health Benefit Exchange, and put the State in position to maximize the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Independent analysis by the Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland Baltimore County has found that implementation of the ACA will benefit the state's budget by \$672 million through 2020, generate more than \$3 billion in annual economic activity, cut the number of uninsured in half, and create more than 26,000 jobs.

DESTINATION MARYLAND: THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO MARYLAND STATE TRAVEL

2013 Tourism Guide for Maryland Now Available

BALTIMORE (March 28, 2013) – In time for summer trip planning season, the Maryland Office of Tourism Development (OTD) released the 2013 edition of Destination Maryland: The Official Guide to Maryland State Travel. This free travel publication highlights the regions of Maryland, and includes trip suggestions as well as listings of attractions, state and national parks, lodging and services.

For the first time, the official Maryland Calendar of Events has been bound into Destination Maryland. "This combination makes sense so that consumers have one printed trip planning resource for their Maryland vacation" said executive director Margot Amelia. "Now as travelers plan their visit to Maryland they have everything they need right at their fingertips."

This full-color magazine also contains several fun-filled features and itineraries; listings for more than 2,000 tourism attractions,

state and national parks, lodging, and tour and travel services; plus a "Maryland Welcome! Passport" good for up to \$3,500 in savings at 250 participating attractions, restaurants, retailers and accommodations. The guide also includes special sections featuring Scenic Byways, the Chesapeake Bay, outdoor adventure and an array of statewide commemorative activities.

To get a free copy of the travel guide, the public is invited to call 800-719-5900 or visit Maryland's official website at www.visit-maryland.org.

According to the Maryland Office of Tourism, 34.4 million domestic travelers visited the state in 2011, an increase of 6.8 percent from 2010. Visitors to Maryland spent more than \$14.3 billion on travel-related expenses in 2011; generated close to \$2 billion in state and local taxes and provided more than 130,000 jobs to Maryland residents.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Olympus Has Fallen"

"OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN"
B-

1 hr., 58 min.; rated R for abundant harsh profanity and abundant bloody violence and death

"Olympus Has Fallen" is easily the best "Die Hard" movie of the year, and I include the year's actual "Die Hard" movie in that statement. It offers a worthy, wise-cracking hero (Gerard Butler), a nefarious villain (Rick Yune), some rah-rah action, Aaron Eckhart as the president, Robert Forster as the Army Chief of Staff, and Morgan Freeman as Speaker of the House. You will agree these are all excellent ingredients for a thick, tasty serving of cinematic frivolity. All that prevents this from being a four-star action blockbuster are some larded subplots and a superfluous degree of buzz-killing violence.

Butler plays Mike Banning (is there a better action hero name?), a former Secret Service agent who's working a desk job nearby when the White House is ambushed by well-organized and heavily armed North Korean terrorists. The president, vice president (Phil Austin), secretary of defense (Melissa Leo), and other key staffers are held hostage in the underground

bunker, and the Secret Service detail is wiped out. That leaves only one man who can save the day: Mike Banning!

The screenplay, by first-timers Creighton Rothenberger and Katrin Benedikt, has sufficient verbal raw meat to satisfy the action fan's cravings, as when Mike Banning tells a pesky combatant, "Why don't you and I play a game of f*** off? You go first." Growling in a Scottish accent that has been minimized so it sounds like an American speech impediment, and stalking around the dark corridors of the ravaged White House (80 percent of the movie takes place at night, in rooms without electricity), the butt-kicking version of Gerard Butler is a welcome sight. This, and not the interminable romantic comedies, is what he should have been doing since "300."

Storywise, there are some issues. A prologue depicting Mike Banning's fall from Secret Service grace is useless except to establish that Mike Banning is an action hero who's haunted by a past tragedy — i.e., that he is like every other action hero in every other movie. Likewise, the important role that the president's young son, Connor (Finley Jacobsen), plays in the early scenes — palling around with Mike Banning, obsessing



When the White House (Secret Service Code: "Olympus") is captured by a terrorist mastermind and the President is kidnapped, disgraced former Presidential guard Mike Banning finds himself trapped within the building. As our national security team scrambles to respond, they are forced to rely on Banning's inside knowledge to help retake the White House, save the President and avert an even bigger crisis. Antoine Fuqua (Training Day) directs an all-star cast featuring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

over the minutiae of White House security — proves to be a red herring; he's taken out of the equation soon after the trouble begins. The president's own physical fitness (we first see him boxing) is another path that's laid out and never followed. The news media covering the standoff are privy to more information (like what the terrorists' demands are) than they ought to be. And so forth.

This is pure cookie-cutter, formulaic, by-the-numbers popcorn escapism — and more power to it! When a movie hits all those buttons in the right sequence, it can be every bit as worthwhile as the more "important" movies. But

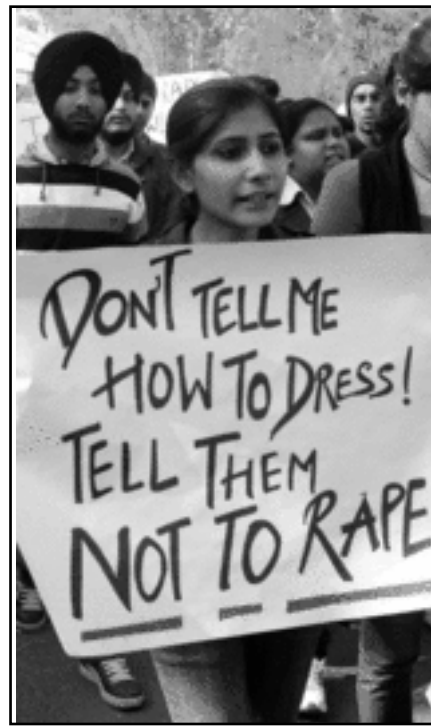
"Olympus Has Fallen," directed by the often too-serious Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day," "King Arthur") is held back by its body count. The first attack sequence, in particular, has civilians being mowed down, crushed by falling debris, slaughtered in a chaotic attack — and Fuqua shows it all. When the bad guys start executing hostages with gunshots to the head — there are many, many gunshots to the head in this movie — Fuqua doesn't cut away tastefully but shows them, up close and personal. We go into a movie like this wanting to be entertained by implausible scenarios of dering-do, but so much blunt ugliness hampers the fun.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Pro Sports Can Help End Rape

Let's start with a goal: professional sports leagues should devote major financial resources toward educating young men about the need to stand up to rape and all manifestations of violence against women. The NFL, NHL, NBA and Major League Baseball — for starters — should see part of their mission as using the influence and power of sports to reshape a jock culture that treats women like they are the spoils of athletic suprema-



cy. They should be appalled by the glaring connective tissue between sports and rape culture in Steubenville, Ohio, South Bend, Indiana, and now Torrington, Connecticut. They should be especially devastated that the hero worship of athletes meant that the alleged and convicted perpetrators of sexual violence are defended by many of their coaches and peers. They should recoil that survivors who accuse athletes of sexual violence are blamed and then become threatened with more violence for daring to step forward.

They should do it because for years, sports leagues haven't addressed violence against women among their own players. They should do it for Kasandra Perkins, gunned down by Kansas City Chiefs Jovan Belcher, the father of her newborn child. They should do it for Lizzy Seeborg, the St. Mary's student who took her own life after being threatened by members of the Notre Dame football team because she reported a sexual assault. They should do it for the young women assaulted by the Boston University hockey team. They should do it because it's the right thing to do.

Yes, rape culture and violence against women exists in every cultural sphere: the armed forces, music, advertising and a political world where people actually debate the differences between "rape" and "legitimate rape." But sports bears a very specific responsibility to take this struggle on. No other institution reaches more men and no other institution plays a greater role in teaching boys how to define their own manhood and masculinity. Often this definition involves equating weakness with femininity, femininity with softness and softness with not being a "real man." There's no crying in baseball. Instead, there's stress, ulcers, divorce, heart disease and death. (Homophobia is inextricably tied to this as well which makes the growing movement of athletes for LGBT marriage equality so welcome.) I have been to rookie seminars where young pro athletes—I won't name the league to respect the confidentiality agreement I signed—are told to view women (called "road beef") as potential predators and threats. The embedded fear that women exist only to use, trap and destroy the young athlete becomes a corollary to alienation from their partners—divorce rates among athletes are massive—and at its most extreme, violence.

This week I had the privilege to speak on a panel organized by Eve Ensler called "Breaking the Male Code: After Steubenville, a Call to Action." I left this meeting convinced that this is a fight we can win but not unless men themselves stand up and say "no more." No more to the degradation of women, no more to the normalizing of violence against women and no more being a bystander when potential rape situations unfold in our presence. This doesn't happen by accident. It takes funding curriculum, hiring more teachers and training more coaches. In other words, it takes the devotion of resources. I also left convinced that there is no neutrality in this fight. To do nothing and just say, "Well I don't rape. I'm not violent. Therefore I don't have to do anything," is to live with your head in the sand. Men have to be heard and our institutions of socialization have to be heard as well. As Scott Fujita of the Kansas City Chiefs said to me, "There are a lot of impressionable eyes on professional athletes and their respective leagues. With that comes some responsibility, as far as I'm concerned, to show what's acceptable and what isn't. So if there's anything we can do to help address a sort of 'unspoken' sports culture that has in some respects not taken the violence against and denigration of women seriously enough, that should be explored."

Every year, the NFL trusses up players in pink for a month to showcase their commitment to combat breast cancer. It's a ham-handed marketing ploy that allows them to sell pink merchandise online, appeal to female fans and support a worthy cause. They erred terribly in not doing more after Kasandra Perkins was murdered. It's time for them to do right—confronting openly that there is a problem in this country, and enlisting themselves in the struggle to change how men view women. Violence against women is endemic in our society. What's not endemic is people looking the other way when this violence occurs around us. It's time for sports to pick a side and take their share of accountability for the toxicity in our culture that normalizes rape.

LADY BULLDOGS BOWLING CAPTURES 2013 CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP

By Gregory C. Goings
Bowie State Sports
Information Director

DURHAM, N.C. — Bowie State University never panicked despite losing the first match to Virginia State University in the championship round of the CIAA Women's Bowling Championships.

The Lady Bulldogs simply regrouped and swept the Lady Trojans 4-0 in the second match to claim the league crown at AMF Durham Lanes. The title is the second in four years for the Lady Bulldogs, who were seeded third in bracket play.

"We knew once we got into bracket play we had the capability to make a run," Bowie State Head Coach Ken Scott said. "We were blessed to have determination and luck."

The Lady Bulldogs never lost their composure despite losing 4-0 in the first championship match to Virginia State, which won three straight matches in the elimination bracket to reach the finals in the double-elimination tournament. After the loss in the first match, the Lady Bulldogs bounced back to defeat the Lady Trojans, who needed to win twice to gain the title.

The second match was a complete reversal from the first match. The Lady Bulldogs dominated from the start, winning 164-154, 196-168 and 202-136 in the best-of-seven Bakers format for a 3-0 lead. The Lady Trojans battled back in the fourth game to take a 149-140 lead, but tournament MVP Shayla Lightfoot rolled a strike for a 150-149 Lady Bulldogs' lead. The Lady Trojans regained the lead 159-150 with a strike, but Lightfoot knocked down nine pins on her first roll in



The Lady Bulldogs captured their latest championship with a young roster including three freshmen. Lightfoot, the tourney MVP, is a sophomore.

the final frame to tie the score. Her one-pin spare gave the game and the championship to the Lady Bulldogs.

Scott says Lightfoot was unaware of the situation in the final frame. "We teach the kids not to look at the scoreboard," Scott said. "She didn't know what the score was."

The spare by Lightfoot touched off a celebration by the Bowie State players, coaches and fans. The Lady Bulldogs captured the title before a large contingent of Bowie State supporters who attended each session of the three-day tournament.

"This team is truly blessed to have support from the athletic department, staff, alumni and our president," Scott said. "They come to watch every match during the regular season."

The championship capped an outstanding run by the Lady Bulldogs in the tournament. After entering bracket play as the third seed, the Lady Bulldogs won three matches in the winner's bracket, including a 4-1 win over Elizabeth City State on Monday, to reach the finals.

Meanwhile, the Lady Trojans

had a more difficult path after a loss on Sunday sent them to the elimination bracket. On Monday, the fourth-seeded Lady Trojans had their best bowling day, beating two-time defending champ Fayetteville State 4-1, Winston-Salem State 4-2 and Elizabeth City State 4-2 to make it to the finals for the second consecutive year. The win over ECSU avenged a 4-3 loss to the Lady Vikings on Sunday which knocked the Lady Trojans to the elimination bracket. In other matches Monday, Winston-Salem State eliminated Saint Augustine's 4-1.

The Lady Trojans continued their run against Bowie State in the finals. They won all four games by scores of 181-143, 183-144, 183-135 and 236-172 against the Lady Bulldogs, who hadn't played since Monday morning against ECSU. In the last game, the Lady Trojans made eight strikes and two spares.

But the momentum turned in the second match. It was the Lady Bulldogs rolling the most strikes and spares. In the third game, the Lady Bulldogs recorded seven strikes including six in

the last seven frames.

"[Virginia State] had a slight advantage maybe mentally but we had a break," Scott said. "Even though we started flat, we were fresher."

Scott also had a message for his team between the first and second matches in the final round. "I told them to 'man up' and they responded," Scott said.

Scott says winning the Northern Division championship during the regular season helped the Lady Bulldogs in the tournament. The Lady Bulldogs finished in a tie with Elizabeth City State but won the division on total pins. Three Northern Division teams — Bowie State, Virginia State and Elizabeth City State — finished among the top three in the tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs captured their latest championship with a young roster including three freshmen. Lightfoot, the tourney MVP, is a sophomore.

"We didn't jell until the last division tournament," Scott said. "All the schools in our division our highly competitive which helped us prepare for the [CIAA] tournament."

Calendar of Events

April 4 — April 10, 2013

Black History Month: Black Artists of DC

Date and Time: Monday, February 11-Saturday, April 6
Public reception: Saturday, February 16, 5-8 pm
Description: In celebration of Black History Month, the Brentwood Arts Exchange presents an exhibition of two and three-dimensional artworks by members of Black Artists of DC (BADC). Established with the purpose of creating a community of support for black artists, BADC exists to promote, develop and validate the culture, artistic expressions and aspirations of past and present artists of Black-Afrikan ancestry in the metropolitan area.
Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Annual College Tour

Date & Time: Friday, April 5, 7 am-7 pm
Description: Teens will visit Morgan State and Coppin State Universities to learn about campus life, educational opportunities and financial aid. Fee includes transportation from selected centers, campus tours and lunch.
Cost: Resident \$45; Non-Resident \$54 Ages: 13-18
Location: *Selected centers*
Contact: 301-203-6000; TTY 301-203-6030

Café Groove

Date and Time: Fridays, April 5 & May 3, 7:30 pm
Description: Where YOU are the star! Featuring a night of youth poetry, dance, comedy, open mic, and visual arts contest with cash prizes at the following locations:
Friday, April 5, 7:30 pm
Glenn Dale Community Center
Friday, May 3, 7:30 pm
Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington 20744
Cost: \$3/person Ages: 13-17
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-446-6802

Tavern Night

Date & Time: Saturday, April 6, 8 pm
Description: Join us for an evening of rousing entertainment by the 1812 sailors of Ship's Company and partake of tavern-style food and beverages. Advance payment required by March 29; capacity is limited.
Cost: Resident \$25; Non-Resident \$30 Ages: 21 & up
Location: *Riversdale House Museum*
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Concert: Indigo Love in “An Evening with Sarah Vaughan”

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 8 pm
Description: Indigo's sound is sultry, at times sexy and most definitely versatile. Her mesmerizing style includes everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to Sarah Vaughan. She is a consummate storyteller, with an ability to relate to her audience.
Cost: \$30/general admission; \$25/students & senior citizens
Ages: All ages
Location: *Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Rd., Fort Washington, MD 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Tartan Day Tea

Date & Time: Saturday, April 6, 2 pm
Description: Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance House Museum! Enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland. Wear plaid to be entered into a drawing for Scottish-themed door prizes. Capacity is limited; reservations and payment is required in advance.
Cost: Resident \$20; Non-Resident \$24 Ages: 18 & up
Location: *Darnall's Chance House Museum*
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

LIVE at Montpelier! Odean Pope

Date & Time: Friday, April 12, 8 pm
Description: Philadelphia saxophone legend Odean Pope integrates several musical influences — including the church choir of his youth, Philadelphia jazz and R&B of the 1950s, and classical woodwind chamber music—to create a sound all his own.
Tickets: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-490-2329

Dinner and a Movie: "Miss Austen Regrets"

Date & Time: Saturday, April 13
Description: The theme of the 2012-2013 film series is "Great Literature in Film." Dinner is served at 6 pm immediately followed by the screening of the film. To make the night even more memorable, dinner is matched to some aspect of the film.
• Tickets for both dinner and the film are \$30/person, and must be purchased by 12 noon on the Friday immediately preceding the Saturday screening.
• Film only tickets are available for \$15/person on the day of the screening. Seating is limited and film only tickets may not always be available.
• Seniors (ages 60 & up) and Montpelier Arts Center members receive a 10% discount.
• Tickets may be purchased with a Visa or MasterCard by calling the Arts Center.

An outwardly confident but unmarried woman on the verge of her fortieth birthday reflects on her past suitors, and the choices she once made, while attempting to help her marriage-minded niece choose between a number of potential suitors in this tale inspired by the life and letters of Jane Austen. In this speculative tale, director Jeremy Lovering and screenwriter Gwyneth Hughes ponder the potential reasons why the real Jane Austen never found her own Mr. Darcy — Jason Buchanan, Rovi This movie requires dinner tickets only. The movie is free courtesy of PBS.
Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708

EARTH TALK ... The budget sequester's impact on the environment.

Dear EarthTalk:

What does the budget sequester that recently took hold mean for the environment?

-- Jane Burgos,
Los Angeles, CA

The sequester that went into effect March 1 is a budget measure that cuts federal spending across the board to the tune of \$85 billion, meaning every federal agency is affected and must reduce discretionary spending. Indeed, the cuts are already having a negative impact on everything from air quality monitoring to extreme weather response capability to staffing at national parks.

Some of the harshest cuts are starting to kick in at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On the chopping block there are some critical air monitoring sites that check for dangerous pollutants like ozone and particulate matter, as well as funding the agency has traditionally given states to monitor their own air quality. The agency is also reducing the number of staffers tasked with monitoring compliance with environmental laws, and will do around 1,000 fewer inspections accordingly in 2013.

Meanwhile, sequester-based cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mean reduced response efforts following weather disasters,

which are on the rise due to climate change. Likewise, cuts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration mean less funding for maintenance and operations of some weather-monitoring systems, including the national radar network used for tornado warnings, and a delay in launching two new satellites designed to help track severe weather events like hurricanes. Also, sequester-based cuts to funding for the repair or replacement of decaying water and wastewater infrastructure are putting local drinking water at risk in communities from coast to coast.

One way we'll feel the pain this summer is via staff cuts and closures at national parks and historic sites. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar says the sequester is responsible for an indefinite delay in reopening the Statue of Liberty after Hurricane Sandy (though as of this writing Liberty Island will re-open July 4 while Ellis Island will remain closed) and for undermining his ability to fight fires and clean up after storms.

The sequester also means less natural resource management. Fewer funds for fishery stock assessments means Alaskan fisheries may remain closed for longer than needed given lack of data on fish runs. And sequester cuts reduce efforts to combat illegal overfishing. Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture will treat 200,000 fewer acres this



CREDIT: WIN HENDERSON, FEMA PHOTO LIBRARY

Among other negative impacts, sequester-based cuts mean reduced response efforts following weather disasters, which are on the rise due to climate change, and less funding for weather-monitoring systems, including the national radar network used for tornado warnings.

summer for “hazardous fuel,” meaning a higher risk of wildfires.

On the energy front, outgoing Energy Secretary Steven Chu reports that the sequester jeopardizes ongoing research into increasing automobile fuel efficiency and reducing gasoline consumption, in turn slowing down the country's quest for energy independence. Also, less funding means less oversight of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas and research into the environmental impacts of the practice.

Green group leaders are especially annoyed that under the sequester oil companies get to keep billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies while drastic budget cuts limit the EPA's ability to monitor, limit and clean

up the pollution they cause. Perhaps the one silver lining is a slowdown in the issuance of new off-shore oil and gas development permits given cuts at the Department of Energy.

CONTACTS: NRDC Sequester Fact Sheet, http://docs.nrdc.org/global-warming/files/glo_12110801a.pdf.

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Proclamation from A1

only reward. The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism.

The "midnight sky and the silent stars" and the Dorchester County landscape of Harriet Tubman's homeland remain much as they were in her time there. If she were to return to this area today, Harriet Tubman would recognize it.

It was in the flat, open fields, marsh, and thick woodlands of Dorchester County that Tubman became physically and spiritually strong. Many of the places in which she grew up and worked still remain. Stewart's Canal at the western edge of this historic area was constructed over 20 years by enslaved and free African Americans. This 8-mile long waterway, completed in the 1830s, connected Parsons Creek and Blackwater River with Tobacco Stick Bay (known today as Madison Bay) and opened up some of Dorchester's more remote territory for timber and agricultural products to be shipped to Baltimore markets. Tubman lived near here while working for John T. Stewart. The canal, the waterways it opened to the Chesapeake Bay, and the Blackwater River were the means of conveying goods, lumber, and those seeking freedom. And the small ports were places for connecting the enslaved with the world outside the Eastern Shore, places on the path north to freedom.

Near the canal is the Jacob Jackson Home Site, 480 acres of flat farmland, woodland, and wetland that was the site of one of the first safe houses along the Underground Railroad. Jackson was a free black man to whom Tubman appealed for assistance in 1854 in attempting to retrieve her brothers and who, because he was literate, would have been an important link in the local communication network. The Jacob Jackson Home Site has been donated to the United States.

Further reinforcing the historical significance and integrity of these sites is their proximity to other important sites of Tubman's life and work. She was born in the heart of this area at Peter's Neck at the end of Harrisville Road, on the farm of Anthony Thompson. Nearby is the farm that belonged to

Edward Brodess, enslaver of Tubman's mother and her children. The James Cook Home Site is where Tubman was hired out as a child. She remembered the harsh treatment she received here, long afterward recalling that even when ill, she was expected to wade into swamps throughout the cold winter to haul muskrat traps. A few miles from the James Cook Home Site is the Bucktown Crossroads, where a slave overseer hit the 13-year-old Tubman with a heavy iron as she attempted to protect a young fleeing slave, resulting in an injury that affected Tubman for the rest of her life. A quarter mile to the north are Scotts Chapel and the associated African-American graveyard. The church was founded in 1812 as a Methodist congregation. Later, in the mid-19th century, African Americans split off from the congregation and formed Bazel Church. Across from Scotts Chapel is an African-American graveyard with headstones dating to 1792.

Bazel Church is located nearby on a 1-acre clearing edged by the road and otherwise surrounded by cultivated fields and forest. According to tradition, this is where African Americans worshipped outdoors during Tubman's time.

The National Park Service has found this landscape in Dorchester County to be nationally significant because of its deep association with Tubman and the Underground Railroad. It is representative of the landscape of this region in the early and mid-19th century when enslavers and enslaved worked the farms and forests. This is the landscape where free African Americans and the enslaved led a clandestine movement of people out of slavery towards the North Star of freedom. These sites were places where enslaved and free African Americans intermingled. Moreover, these sites fostered an environment that enabled free individuals to provide aid and guidance to those enslaved who were seeking freedom. This landscape, including the towns, roads, and paths within it, and its critical waterways, was the means for communication and the path to freedom. The Underground Railroad was everywhere within it.

Much of the landscape in Dorchester County that is

Harriet Tubman's homeland, including a portion of Stewart's Canal, is now part of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge provides vital habitat for migratory birds, fish, and wildlife that are components of this historic landscape. Management of the Refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has played an important role in the protection of much of the historic landscape that was formative to Harriet Tubman's life and experiences. The Refuge has helped to conserve the landscape since 1933 and will continue to conserve, manage, and restore this diverse assemblage of wetlands, uplands, and aquatic habitats that play such an important role in telling the story of the cultural history of the area. In the midst of this landscape, the State of Maryland is developing the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park on a 17-acre parcel. The State of Maryland and the Federal Government will work closely together in managing these special places within their respective jurisdictions to preserve this critically important era in American history.

Harriet Tubman is revered by many as a freedom seeker and leader of the Underground Railroad. Although Harriet Tubman is known widely, no Federal commemorative site has heretofore been established in her honor, despite the magnitude of her contributions and her national and international stature.

WHEREAS members of the Congress, the Governor of Maryland, the City of Cambridge, and other State, local, and private interests have expressed support for the timely establishment of a national monument in Dorchester County commemorating Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad to protect the integrity of the evocative landscape and preserve its historic features;

WHEREAS section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) (the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of

the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the objects of historic and scientific interest associated with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in Dorchester County, Maryland;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Antiquities Act, hereby proclaim, set apart, and reserve as the Harriet Tubman - - Underground Railroad National Monument (monument), the objects identified above and all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation, for the purpose of protecting those objects. These reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 11,750 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws, including withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights. Lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument that are not owned or controlled by the United States shall be reserved as part of the monument upon acquisition of ownership or control by the United States.

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall manage the monument through the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant

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Watch from A4

depression or other mental illness, or a careless accident ended with a gunshot. No child deserves to have their childhood snatched away in an instant and their life changed forever because of an adult's decision to carry and use guns, including high-powered assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips.

Proclamation from A7

to their respective applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The National Park Service shall have the general responsibility for administration of the monument, including the Jacob Jackson Home Site, subject to the responsibility and jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to administer the portions of the national monument that are within the National Wildlife Refuge System. When any additional lands and interests in lands are hereafter acquired by the United States within the monument boundaries, the Secretary shall determine whether such lands will be administered as part of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System. Hunting and fishing within the National Wildlife Refuge System shall continue to be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge

Listen to the children. The costs of gun violence in America are far too high for them and for all of us. They are a price none of us can afford and none of us, especially our children, should be forced to pay. It is past time to protect children, not guns.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No

Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

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

System Administration Act and other applicable laws.

Consistent with applicable laws, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall enter into appropriate arrangements to share resources and services necessary to properly manage the monument. Consistent with applicable laws, the National Park Service shall offer to enter into appropriate arrangements with the State of Maryland for the efficient and effective cooperative management of the monument and the Harriet Tubman - Underground Railroad State Park.

The Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the monument, with full public involvement, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation. The management plan shall ensure that the monument fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations: (1) to preserve the historic and scientific resources identified above, (2) to commemorate the life and work of Harriet Tubman, and (3) to interpret the

story of the Underground Railroad and its significance to the region and the Nation as a whole. The management plan shall set forth, among other provisions, the desired relationship of the monument to other related resources, programs, and organizations in the region and elsewhere.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

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