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Lt. Governor Brown Accepts NAACP Award for Leadership

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ORLANDO, FL. (July, 2013) - During the First Plenary Session of the NAACP's 104th Convention in Orlando, on behalf of the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown accepted an award for leadership in repealing Maryland's death penalty. In his remarks, Brown discussed the progress we've made in Maryland over the last several years including the passage of the Maryland Dream Act, expanding early voting and passing common sense gun safety legislation. Brown also took the opportunity to address the recent verdict in the George Zimmerman Trial.

"I'm honored to accept this award from the NAACP and its outstanding President, Ben Jealous," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown. "In Maryland, we've had great success at building a better, more just place to live, work and raise a family. Together in just the last few years, we've abolished the unfair and racially biased death penalty, we've made voting easier and more accessible to Marylanders, we've passed the Maryland Dream Act for our students and we've taken real action to protect our children from gun violence. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are headed in the right direction."

On the Zimmerman verdict, Brown added: "Our country mourns the loss of a 17 year-old son, and we struggle as caring Americans to process the recent jury decision. I have two sons and, like all parents, I want to do all I can to protect them from injustice, ignorance and pain. But this tragic death makes it clearer than ever before that our children are subject to the world we prepare for them. Each of us, families, neighbors, even strangers, have an obligation to contribute to a better, safer world for all of our children, not just those we raise. As a nation, we can do more, and we must. We must do more than simply protect them. We must fight to build communities that nurture them, that look first for their potential, not their threat. While our thoughts and prayers go out to the Martin family, they should be accompanied by a renewed commitment to protect all children, nurture tolerance and fight for justice."

NAACP description of the award Lt. Governor Brown accepted:

In recognition of your courage and unwavering leadership in advancing equal justice by abolishing the death penalty in Maryland and being the first state below the Mason Dixon line to do so.

Presented by the NAACP to Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown State of Maryland on July 15, 2013 104th Annual NAACP Convention Orlando, Florida.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LAUREN REDDING

Richard Schwartz, fascinated by meteorology since he was a child, did more than 100 interviews and worked for seven years on his book "Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States."

Crab Cake Sandwich Stop Sparks Author's Labor of Love

By LAUREN REDDING
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK -- When Richard Schwartz sat down for lunch at Captain Billy's Crab House in Southern Maryland in 2000, all he was expecting to get was a quick crab cake sandwich.

What he ended up getting was a glimpse into hurricane history that changed the rest of his life.

Adorning the walls of Captain Billy's - an old-fashioned seafood joint on the Potomac River in Newburg -- were photos of the aftermath of Hurricane Hazel, a Category 4 storm that slammed the Mid-Atlantic in 1954 with wind gusts up to 100 miles an hour. Captain Billy's was nearly destroyed. In fact, during repairs, the original Billy had to remove his fishing boat from the dining room.

"I remember thinking, 'How in the world could a hurricane do damage like that in Southern Maryland?'" said Schwartz, a short man with a kind, round face and a soft voice. "I thought storms like that could only happen off the coast of Florida."

Schwartz, 57, left Captain Billy's that day with a plan: He would finally write the book he had always dreamed of -- the history of Mid-Atlantic hurricanes.

The finished product, published in August 2007, is titled "Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States." Schwartz spent seven years researching and writing, traveling more than 10,000 miles up and down the East Coast and conducting more than 100 interviews with people who had sur-

vived storms like Hazel.

"I thought I'd be lucky to get 100 pages," Schwartz said. "The book turned out to be 400 pages."

Schwartz published the book himself -- which required taking out a second mortgage on his Springfield, Va., home to finance the project.

"It's definitely a labor of love," Schwartz said, looking down at his book fondly, like it was an old friend. "No one wants to pay money for hurricane research, but I felt it needed to be done. I felt it was my mission."

Schwartz has always had an interest in writing and history, he said, especially in college. He spent his first year at Montgomery Community College and then transferred to the University of Maryland, majoring in business, minoring in journalism and reporting at the independent, student newspaper, The Diamondback.

But Schwartz says he wanted the small-school experience before graduating. Eventually, he transferred to Salisbury University to complete college. He graduated in 1982 with a degree in Liberal Studies.

In 1975, at Montgomery Community College, Schwartz joined the college's Meteorology Club and met the man who would become his best friend, Peter Gajary. Gajary served as president of the club and Schwartz served as the club's public relations officer.

See **STORM**, Page A6

Story I of an 11-Story Series on Race in America - Past and Present America's Twentieth-Century Slavery

The horrifying, little-known story of how hundreds of thousands of Blacks worked in brutal bondage right up until World War II.

By DOUGLAS A. BLACKMON
Trice Edney Communications

On July 31, 1903, a letter addressed to President Theodore Roosevelt arrived at the White House. It had been mailed from the town of Bainbridge, Georgia, the prosperous seat of a cotton county perched on the Florida state line.

The sender was a barely literate African-American woman named Carrie Kinsey. With little punctuation and few capital letters, she penned the bare facts of the abduction of her 14-year-old brother, James Robinson, who a year earlier had been sold into involuntary servitude.

Kinsey had already asked for help from the powerful White people in her world. She knew where her brother had been taken - a vast plantation not far away called Kinderlou. There, hundreds of Black men and boys were held in chains and forced to labor in the fields or in one of several factories owned by the McRee family, one of the wealthiest and most powerful in Georgia. No White official in this corner of the state would take an interest in the abduction and enslavement of a Black teenager.

Confronted with a world of indifferent White people, Mrs. Kinsey did the only remaining thing she could think of. Newspapers across the country had recently reported on a speech by Roosevelt promising a "square deal" for Black Americans. Mrs. Kinsey decided that her only remaining hope was to beg the president of the United States to help her brother.

"Mr. Prassident," she wrote. "They wont let me have him.... He hase not don nothing for them to have him in chanes so I rite to you for your help."

Considered more than a century later, her letter courses with desperation and submerged outrage. Yet when received at the White House, it was slipped into a small rectangular folder and forwarded to the Department of Justice. There, it was tagged with a reference number, 12007, and filed away. Teddy Roosevelt never saw it. No action was taken. Her words lie still at the National Archives just outside Washington, D.C.

As dumbfounding as the story told by the Carrie Kinsey letter is, far more remarkable is what surrounds that letter at the National Archives. In the same box that holds her grief-stricken missive are at least half a dozen other pieces of correspondence recounting other stories of kidnapping, perversion of the courts, or human trafficking-as horrifying as, or worse than, Carrie Kinsey's tale. It is the same in the next box on the shelf. And the one before. And the ones on either side of those. And the next and the next. And on and on. Thousands and thousands of plaintive letters and grimly bureaucratic responses-altogether at least 30,000 pages of original material-chronicle cases of forced labor and involuntary servitude in the South decades after the end of the Civil War.

"i have a little girl that has been kidnapped from me ... and i cant get her out," wrote Reverend L. R. Farmer, pastor of a Black Baptist church in Morganton, N.C. "i want ask you is it law for people to whip (col) people and keep them and not allow them to leave without a pass."

A farmer near Pine Apple, Ala., named J. R. Adams, writing of terrible abuses by the dominant landowning family in the county, was one of the astonishingly few White southerners who also complained to the Department of Justice. "They have held negroes ... for years," Adams wrote. "It is a very rare thing that a negro escapes."

A similar body of material rests in the files of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the one institution that undertook any sustained effort to address at least the most terrible cases. Dwarfing everything at those repositories are the still largely unexamined collections of local records in courthouses across the South. In dank basements, abandoned buildings, and local archives, seemingly endless numbers of files contain hundreds of thousands of handwritten entries documenting in monotonous granularity the details of an immense, metastasizing horror that stretched well into the

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INSIDE

Funding for Quality Education

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski announced full committee passage of the FY2014 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) spending bill. The bill would put funds national child care and education programs including Head Start, special education, and Pell Grants.

Community, Page A3

Movie Review "Pacific Rim"

If there's one thing we like to see in movies, it's fighting. If there's another thing we like to see in movies, it's two GIANT things fighting. That's the simple premise behind "Pacific Rim,"

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is there a link between the recent spread of mosquito-borne diseases around the world and environmental pollution?

-- Meg Ross,
Lantana, FL

Features, Page A7

Investigation Urged of Allegations That "Debt Relief" Firms are Exploiting Students

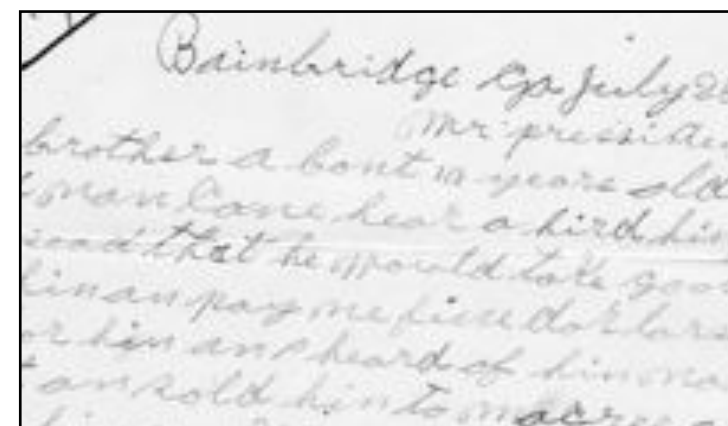
Enforcement needed to stop private companies from profiting off students participating in free federal repayment programs

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) joined with 21 of their Senate colleagues to call on federal officials to investigate allegations that so-called "debt relief" com-

panies have been using deceptive practices to profit from students seeking assistance in repaying their college loans.

The federal government provides tools to help students manage their college loans free of charge, but a new National Consumer Law Center report revealed that

See **DEBT**, Page A7



A cry for help: Having exhausted all other options, a desperate young woman named Carrie Kinsey wrote this letter directly to President Theodore Roosevelt asking him to help her brother, who had been taken to a forced labor camp nearby. "Let me have him," she writes. "He have not don nothing for them to hase him in chanes."

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Public Meeting July 25 airs Allentown Rd./Suitland Rd. designs

Over the next six to ten years, 40,000 to 60,000 jobs are expected to come to Maryland due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Some of these jobs will be at Joint Base Andrews, necessitating improvements at two local intersections: Allentown Road at the Beltway off-ramp and Suitland Road at Andrews' Main Entrance.

A Public Meeting will be held in the Skyline Elementary School Cafeteria Thursday, July 25, 6 to 8 p.m., Arrive anytime as there is no formal presentation; you can view project designs and talk to project reps.

Plans include adding a third through-lane to northbound Allentown Road by widening to the outside and widening the off-ramp, widening Suitland Road to accommodate a new lane, adding a retaining wall at the motel corner, removing the Allentown median to accommodate left-turn traffic, and widening Allentown Road for a new right-turn lane. Gate design at the base will be coordinated with the Air Force.

Construction is due to begin next spring with completion in Spring 2016. Sarah Gentner is the State Highway Transportation Project Manager. You can contact her at 410-545-8877 or sgentner@sha.state.md.us.

Allentown pool, tennis courts reopen

After two long years of renovation, the Allentown Splash, Tennis and Fitness Park has reopened at 7210 Allentown Road sporting a new weight training room, multi-purpose room, lounge/game room, upgrades to the locker room, lifeguard/first aid station, new outdoor ticket booth, and renovation to six outdoor tennis courts.

For hours, classes and fees,

call 301-449-5566.

Baby Zachary Lorraine Wright of Camp Springs has a new grandson, Zachary Thomas, born June 27 to Robert and Rhianna Wright of Woodbridge, weighing in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Little Zachary has a big sister, Grace, 12 years old.

Neighbors

I have just learned of the death of longtime Morningsider Jane Cowan. Can any of you tell me more about this lovely woman?

Former Morningside Mayor Karen Rooker was elected Ladies Auxiliary Guard for the Dept. of Maryland during the annual VFW convention June 3-6 in Ocean City.

Maria DeGraba has graduated from Good Counsel High, in Olney, and will attend the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. She is the daughter of Dr. Thomas and Carol (Kline) DeGraba, former Morningside Councilwoman. Maria is the granddaughter of former Morningsider Martha Kline who now makes her home with the DeGrabas in Rockville.

Andrew Turner, social justice teacher at Gonzaga High School and formerly at his alma mater, Bishop McNamara High School, has been named a Golden Apple Teacher by the Archdiocese of Washington.

OOPS (again): Father Damian Shadwell, former pastor of Holy Family Parish, is now chaplain for the Center for Deaf Ministry in Landover Hills and Gallaudet University in Washington.

In a recent Washington Post competition, two Southern Maryland doughnuts were ranked: Miller Farms' sour cream placed 8th and Walls Bakery's sugared cake was 10th. And what was the Top Doughnut? Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken's crème brulee. The shop is at 1308 G NW, if you want to check out the

crème brulee for yourself.

May they rest in peace James W. Sheriff, Sr., 82, lifetime member of the Oxon Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Korean War veteran, died July 3. He was the husband of the late Betty Lou Sheriff; father of James W. "Billy" Sheriff Jr. and Raymond M. Sheriff, grandfather of Jessica and Kyle.

Clyde F. Kehler, 96, of District Heights, who saw action with the Army during WWII and then served with the Air Force at Bolling and Andrews as a civilian for 30 years, died June 19. He served on the Forest Memorial United Methodist Church Board of Trustees for more than 50 years. His wife Mary Savilla Hand predeceased him. Survivors include his son James and daughter Mary L. Grant, a granddaughter and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Franklin "Bob" Rudy, 64, who grew up in North Forestville and Clinton and graduated from Suitland High School, died May 30. He attended the College of Southern Maryland and worked for Bell Atlantic. Survivors include his parents, Jack and Marjory Rudy, and three siblings.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20; Mary Hay and Jeff Frederick, July 21; Ryan Simms and David Cook, July 22; Virginia Price, July 23; Bill Curcio and Dr. Thomas DeGraba, July 25; and a special greeting to Florence Cray who turns 90 on July 26.

Happy anniversaries to my daughter Sheila and John Mudd, their 23rd on July 20; to Percy and Barbara Crawford, their 41st on July 22; and to Steve and Tessie Johnson, their 13th on July 22.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Come join us at a Back to School Fair that will be held at Show Place Arena Saturday, August 10 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. There will be free Back Packs, vendors, before and after school programs, PTA Registration, School representatives, back to School flyer and entertainment/Food/Give-Aways. County agencies and employment opportunities will be available.

26TH ANNIVERSARY

Unity Ensemble's 26th Anniversary will be celebrated Sunday July 28, 2013 at 7:45 AM and 11:00 AM services at Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. Harry L. Seawright is the Pastor. Choir Director is Derrick Pew and Director of Music is Nathan McFall. The church is located at 6810 Floral Park Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

2013 JOB FAIR

There will be a Job Fair on Thursday, August 29, 2013 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. This will be an opportunity for you to meet employers from Federal, State, and County government agencies, National and local business and non-profit organi-

zations. The Job Fair will be held at Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex Field House 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland 20785.

Job seeking tips are dress for success, bring several copies of your resume and prepare a 30-second script about yourself. At this Job Fair you will learn about skill enhancement services and discover ongoing training and advancement opportunities. For more information visit WWW.DON-NAEDWARDS.HOUSE.GOV or call 301-516-7601.

HELP OUR HEROES

Support our Veterans and donate your car and help our heroes. Call today 1-800-Help-Vets or donate online: www.HelpOurVeterans.org. Chartered by Congress and your donation is 100% Tax Deductible. There is free 24 hour pick-up.

CHANGE A LIFE/CHANGE THE WORLD

Would you like to share special moments, dreams, hugs and love with a child? Call the Prince George's County Department of Social Services at 301-909-2300 to become Foster or Adoptive Parent. Every child deserves a home.

MELWOOD RECREATION

CENTER

Melwood offers inclusive summer camp, assisted travel, Equestrian Activities for all ages, teambuilding and special events. For more information call 301-870-3226 or visit www.melwoodrecreation.org.

SUMMER CAMPS AT BADEN

Visit www.pgparks.com or call 301-888-1500/TTY 301-203-6030 to get information on Wee Wonderers, International Sports/Travel youth, Olympic, World Discover, Fashion, Sport/Travel teen, Horseback Riding and Playground for summer at Baden.

FASHION SHOW

Youth at Grace United Methodist Church will present a Fashion Show on Sunday July 28 at 4:00 PM. The church is located at 11700 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Robert E. Slade, Pastor. Church office telephone number is 301-292-7828.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
Call
301-627-0900

Neighborhood Events

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Into Accokeek Creek

LAUREL- (July 12, 2013): A Sanitary Sewer overflow from a manhole near 14300 Indian Head Highway, Accokeek, Maryland just outside WSSC's Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant, began at 9:50 a.m. July 12, 2013 and ended at 12:50 p.m., July 12, 2013.

It is estimated that over 10,000 gallons of untreated, diluted wastewater entered Accokeek Creek. The cause is undetermined.

Notifications have been made to the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Prince George's County Health Department. WSSC crews have addressed the situation. Signs have been posted warning citizens to avoid the overflow area.

WSSC is committed to protecting the health of the public and the environment. With nearly 5,400 miles of sewer mains throughout its service area, WSSC appreciates notification from citizens if a sewer back up is suspected. Citizens can call 301-206-4002 or toll free 1-800-828-6439 at any time to report water or sewer emergencies in Prince George's or Montgomery counties.

Mikulski Announces Committee Approval of Funding to Support Seniors, Caregivers and their Families

Senator fought for provisions to combat Alzheimer's, prevent dangerous and costly falls, provide caregiver support, and ensure continued success of Meals on Wheels

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced that the FY 2014 Labor, Health & Human Services Appropriations Bill passed by the Appropriations Committee includes funding to support the health and well-being of seniors, caregivers and their families.

"I believe 'honor thy mother and father' is not just a good commandment to live by, it is good public policy to govern by," Senator Mikulski said. "This legislation will help us to better service our seniors and honor the responsibilities we have to our elderly.

We must commit ourselves to meeting the needs of our growing and changing senior population and their caregivers. This bill ensures that the services our seniors need are available to help them live more healthy and active lives."

Senator Mikulski fought to support:

- National Family Caregiver Support Program to provide respite care, information and assistance, caregiver counseling, training and peer support, and supplemental services to 790,000 caregivers nationwide and their families;
- Falls Prevention to support community based falls prevention strategies and public education. The mortality rate associated with falls among older adults is skyrocketing along with the economic burden associated with the treatment of falls among the nation's expanding elderly popula-

tion. Falls among older adults cost our medical system \$28 billion a year;

- Meals on Wheels to enable about 134 million meals to be served nationwide to recipients that are homebound and unable to shop for food or prepare meals. Home delivered meals are brought to homebound seniors to help them to remain in their homes for as long as possible. In addition to nutrition services, daily contact with program volunteers or staff provides seniors a link to additional services in their communities. In 2009, 1.2 million home delivered meals were served to seniors;

- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative that will strengthen state, tribal and local dementia intervention capabilities;

- Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants to States that will help states expand the availability of evidence-based interventions for persons with dementia and their caregivers. The program provides services such as respite care, home health, personal care, day care, legal rights education, information and assistance, and improved access to home and community based long-term care services for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families;

- The National Institutes of Health, including \$40 million for NIH's new Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative to better understand the brain and tackle diseases like Alzheimer's. She also fought for increased funds for the National Institute of Aging to increase the investment in Alzheimer's disease research.

In the next step of the appropriations process, the bill will move to the Senate floor for a vote, which has not yet been scheduled.

Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program

Maryland's Homeownership Initiatives? There's No Time Like the Present!

The clock is ticking. Maryland Homefront: the Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program is the

state's \$50 million initiative to help make homeownership more accessible to veterans military personnel and their families. Through the initiative, qualified buyers can receive \$10,000 in downpayment assistance and a half percent discount on the already competitive Maryland Mortgage Program rate.

The discount, coupled with downpayment assistance, could mean significant savings for military personnel and veterans seeking to buy a home in Maryland.

But the clock is ticking. Maryland Homefront: the Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program ends Sept. 30 and about half of the funds set aside for it have already been committed.

Through Maryland's Targeted Areas initiative, the state is providing up to \$20 million in mortgage funds at a discounted rate for families looking to purchase homes in federally designated targeted areas, including Baltimore City and Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, and Somerset counties; and other neighborhoods throughout the state.

The discount - a half percentage off of the Maryland Mortgage Program's normally competitive rates - could make a significant difference for families looking to buy a home in those neighborhoods, particularly if those families receive the generous downpayment assistance available through the state's flagship homeownership program.

But the clock is ticking. About a third of the funds set aside for the Targeted Areas initiative already have been allocated.

The Maryland Homefront and Targeted Areas initiatives are among the many Maryland Mortgage Program products designed to expand homeownership opportunities for families from diverse walks of life. DHCD now offers conventional loan and refinance products as the agency moves aggressively to expand its portfolio and as the state's housing market continues to strengthen.

In many cases, borrowers can combine DHCD partner match programs with local initiatives for additional downpayment assistance.

But ... the clock is ticking.

Everyone is invited to the Fort George G. Meade

COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Wednesday, 11 September 2013
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Club Meade, 6600 Napes Road, Fort George G. Meade

Open to All Job Seekers!
Meet employers!
Bring resumes!
"Dress for Success!"

Please Arrive Early!
Anticipate lines at the installation's gate and the job fair!

Information on entering Fort Meade
Individuals who need to attend the job fair and do not possess a Department of Defense (DoD) ID card, to enter a DoD either on their vehicle, must enter Fort Meade via MD Route 973 at Prince Road gate only.

All individuals must present a photo ID card or driver's license.
All drivers must also show current vehicle registration and proof of vehicle insurance. All vehicles entering the installation will be inspected.

Free Shuttle Service
There is a frequent shuttle to and from Fort Meade's Eisenhower Hotel parking lot to Club Meade's front door!

ASL Interpreter Service
Schedule reasonable accommodations with an ASL Interpreter no later than 30 August 2013. Contact Jessica Quisenberry at jquisen@slr.state.md.us

Community Job Fair is hosted by:
- Fort George G. Meade FAWB
- DLR / Anne Arundel One Stop Career Centers
- Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC)
- Army Community Service (ACS)
- Navy Fleet & Family Support Center
- Army Career & Alumni Program (ACAP)

For more information go to:
www.dlr.com
www.aawdc.com
www.acs.mil
www.acap.com

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Don't Get 'Spoofed' by Rogue Callers

When caller ID first arrived on the scene it seemed like a godsend to many people: Now you could easily identify who was on the line and ignore unwanted calls, whether from telemarketers, an ex-boyfriend or an unfriendly collection agency.

But as often happens, unscrupulous individuals soon began manipulating the technology to defraud people by pretending to be someone else. Their scheme is called "caller ID spoofing" and disturbingly, it's perfectly legal in many cases.

Here's how caller ID spoofing works and what precautions you should take to avoid being victimized:

For a very low cost, businesses and individuals can use widely available caller ID spoofing software to generate calls that alter the telephone number and/or name which appear on the recipient's caller ID screen.

Police, private investigators and collection agencies have used legal spoofing services for many years. Others who might have a legitimate reason to hide their identity when making a call include domestic violence victims and doctors returning patient calls who don't wish to release their private telephone numbers.

Beyond that, the lines of legality begin to blur. The Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 prohibits anyone from transmitting misleading or inaccurate caller ID information with the intent to defraud, cause harm or wrongfully obtain anything of value. Violators can be penalized up to \$10,000 for each infraction. Unfortunately, such penalties haven't dissuaded many scammers.

One common scam involves spoofers pretending to represent a bank, government agency, insurer, credit card company or other organization with which you do business. They count on you being reassured after recognizing the company's name on your screen.

Under the pretext of warning about an urgent situation (breached account, late payment, pending insurance claim, missed jury duty summons, etc.), the spoofer will try to coax you into revealing personal or account information, supposedly to verify their records.

Often these are robocalls, where a recorded voice asks you to stay on the line to speak to a representative or call another number for more information. Do not. If you suspect the call might possibly be genuine, contact the company yourself at the toll-free number found on your card, account statement or the company's website.

You should never reveal your full Social Security number, mother's maiden name, credit card number, passwords or other private information over the phone unless you initiated the call yourself. Someone possessing such information could use it to gain access to your existing accounts to withdraw or transfer money, raise credit limits or snoop around your recent activity, among other intrusions.

ID thieves also can use your personal information to open new credit accounts (e.g., credit cards, mortgage or car loan), create a new identity or even obtain a job fraudulently. Often, you won't even realize something's wrong until a collection agency — or the IRS — starts hounding you for unpaid bills or taxes.

Another common caller ID spoof involves hacking into someone's voice mail account. Many cellphone users never bother to set up passwords on their voice mailboxes. And, since many voicemail systems grant access to callers phoning from their own number, a hacker could easily spoof your number and gain access to your messages.

Bottom line: You wouldn't give your personal information to a stranger on the street. Take the same level of precaution with strangers on the phone — or online.

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.



Mikulski Announces Committee Approval of Funding for Quality Education

By PRESS OFFICER
Sen. Barbara Mikulski's Office

In Maryland, federal child care programs are important to almost 11,000 children of working families

More than 103,000 special needs children in Maryland are served by IDEA Part B funding

Pell Grants help more than 125,000 Maryland students access higher education

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced full committee passage of the FY2014 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) spending bill. The bill would put funds national child care and education programs including Head Start, special education, and Pell Grants.

"Education is the opportunity ladder of this nation. Every child deserves their chance to climb that ladder," Senator Mikulski said. "In order to out-innovate the rest of the world, we must first out-educate. This legislation will help ensure that America's children, regardless of the zip code they live in, will have access to quality education they can count on from preschool to K-12 through higher education."

Pre-School
High quality early childhood

care and education have been proven to have positive, lasting effects for children and families. They also support the nation's long-term economic security by preparing the next generation of workers, entrepreneurs and business leaders for the jobs of tomorrow. This bill supports:

Head Start: The bill includes \$9.6 billion for Head Start nationwide. This includes \$1.4 billion more to expand Early Head Start, including the creation of new Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships to serve children and families from before birth through age three. In Maryland, Head Start funding ensures that almost 11,000 children of working families have access to early childhood education.

Child Care: The bill also includes \$2.5 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which helps working families access and afford child care. This includes a \$110 million increase to improve the quality of child care workforce and to strengthen health and safety standards. CCDBG grants ensure that more than 24,000 children of Maryland's working families have access to quality child care.

Preschool Development Grants: The bill includes \$750 million for a new program to support states' efforts to expand or create high-quality preschool systems for four year olds from

low- and moderate-income families.

"Parents across the nation want childcare that is safe, affordable, accessible and high-quality. That's what parents expect. That's what children deserve," Senator Mikulski said. "We aim to accomplish four things: increase participation of low-income and other vulnerable children in high-quality childcare, promote stable and continuous care, ensure program integrity and accountability so that parents have peace of mind, and improve overall quality and coordination of early childhood programs. Through these efforts, we are fighting for children to succeed in school and beyond."

K-12
Special Education: The bill provides \$11.7 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B which provides formula grants to assist states and schools in covering the cost of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities between the ages of three and 21. The program serves almost 6.6 million special needs students nationwide, including 100,000 students in Maryland.

Gifted and Talented: The bill includes \$15 million for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program, which provides federal funding to states, districts and institutions of higher education



FILE PHOTO
U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski

to develop curricula and implement teaching strategies to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students. It especially focuses on disadvantaged gifted students who often go unnoticed in school and are not being challenged.

Higher Education
With college tuition on the rise nationwide, the spending bill will help increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,785 for the 2014-2015 school year. The FY2014 funding level represents a \$140 increase in the grant from the previous year. Pell Grants help more than 125,000 Maryland students access higher education.

In the next step of the appropriations process, the bill will move to the Senate floor for a vote, which has not yet been scheduled.

Race from A1

twentieth century.

By the first years after 1900, tens of thousands of African-American men and boys, along with a smaller number of women, had been sold by southern state governments. An exponentially larger number, of whom surviving records are painfully incomplete, had been forced into labor through county and local courts, backwoods justices of the peace, and outright kidnapping and trafficking. The total number of those re-enslaved in the seventy-five years between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War II can't be precisely determined, but based on the records that do survive, we can safely say it happened to hundreds of thousands. How many more African-Americans circumscribed their lives in dramatic ways, or abandoned all to flee the South entirely, to avoid that fate or mob violence? It is impossible to know. Millions. Generations.

This is not an easy story for Americans to receive, much less accept. The idea that not just civil rights but basic freedom itself was denied to an enormous population of African-Americans until the middle of the twentieth century fits nowhere in the triumphalist, steady-progress, greatest-generations accounts we prefer for our national narrative. That the thrilling events depicted in Steven Spielberg's recent film Lincoln—the heroic, frenzied campaign by Abraham Lincoln leading to passage of the

Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery—were in fact later trumped not just by discrimination and segregation but by the resurrection of a full-blown derivative of slavery itself.

This story of re-enslavement is irrefutably true, however. Indeed, even as Spielberg's film conveys the euphoria felt by African-Americans and all opposed to slavery upon passage of the amendment in 1865, it also unintentionally foreshadows the demise of that brighter future. On the night of the amendment's passage in the film, the African American housekeeper and, as presented in the film, secret lover of the abolitionist Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, played by the actress S. Epatha Merkerson, reads the amendment aloud. First, the sweeping banishment of slavery. And then, an often overlooked but powerful prepositional phrase: "except as a punishment for crime."

It began with Reconstruction. Faced with empty government coffers, a paralyzing intellectual inability to contemplate equitable labor arrangements with former chattel, profound resentment against the emancipated freedmen, and a desperate economic need to force Black workers back into the fields, White landowners and government officials began using the South's criminal courts to compel African Americans back into slavery.

In the first years after the Civil War, even as former slaves optimistically swarmed

into new schools and lined up at courthouses at every whisper of a hope of economic independence, the Southern states began enacting an array of interlocking laws that would make all African-Americans criminals, regardless of their conduct, and thereby making it legal to force them into chain gangs, labor camps, and other forms of involuntarily servitude. By the end of 1865, every Southern state except Arkansas and Tennessee had passed laws outlawing vagrancy and defining it so vaguely that virtually any freed slave not under the protection of a White man could be arrested for the crime. An 1865 Mississippi statute required Black workers to enter into labor contracts with White farmers by January 1 of every year or risk arrest. Four other states legislated that African Americans could not legally be hired for work without a discharge paper from their previous employer—effectively preventing them from leaving the plantation of the White man they worked for.

After the return of nearly complete White political control in 1877, the passage of those laws accelerated. Some, particularly those that explicitly said they applied only to African-Americans, were struck down in court appeals or through federal interventions, but new statutes embracing the same strictures on Black life quickly replaced them. Most of the new laws were written as if they applied to everyone, but in reality they were overwhelmingly enforced only against

African-Americans.

In the 1880s, Alabama, North Carolina, and Florida passed laws making it a crime for a Black man to change employers without permission. It was a crime for a Black man to speak loudly in the company of a White woman, a crime to have a gun in his pocket, and a crime to sell the proceeds of his farm to anyone other than the man he rented land from. It was a crime to walk beside a railroad line, a crime to fail to yield a sidewalk to White people, a crime to sit among Whites on a train, and it was most certainly a crime to engage in sexual relations with—or, God forbid, to show true love and affection for—a White girl.

And that's how it happened. Within a few years of the passage of these laws, tens of thousands of Black men and boys, and a smaller number of Black women, were being arrested and sold into forced labor camps by state officials, local judges, and sheriffs. During this time, some actual criminals were sold into slavery, and a small percentage of them were White. But the vast majority were Black men accused of trivial or trumped-up crimes. Compelling evidence indicates that huge numbers had in fact committed no offense whatsoever. As the system grew, countless White farmers and businessmen jostled to "lease" as many Black "criminals" as they could. Soon, huge numbers of other African-Americans

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer
House Democratic Minority Whip



Furloughs Hurting Morale, Readiness on Navy Bases

Last Tuesday, I had the opportunity to sit down with some of the hard-working civilian defense employees at Patuxent River Naval Air Station to hear firsthand how sequestration and furloughs are affecting them, their families, operations on base and the wider community.

From many of them I heard the same message: Sequestration's harm will come not only from the furloughs, which represent a 20 percent pay cut for more than 650,000 civilian defense workers across the country. It will also reduce military readiness, lower morale and impede our ability to recruit and retain top talent.

One Pax River employee I met told me of their concern that critical work will pile up as furloughs take effect there this Friday — that, while employees have a strong work ethic and want to get the job done, whether it's late nights and weekends, they are worried they'll be forced to delay completing important tasks.

For the sake of morale and our ability to support our uniformed military personnel in the field, Congress must take swift action to end the irrational sequester that is already having a negative impact on our economy and national security. I believe we should replace the sequester with a balanced and bipartisan agreement that reduces the deficit in a way that takes our priorities into account. The sequester's arbitrary cuts, which slash funding for our highest and lowest priorities equally, are not a viable solution.

The only reason we are facing the cuts of sequester and its resulting furloughs is because

Congress failed to reach a balanced agreement to replace it. I continue to be deeply disappointed that partisanship in Washington has prevented the parties from working together to achieve a balanced compromise that can replace the sequester in its entirety and enable our outstanding federal workers to avoid this unfair and unnecessary pay cut. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md., 8th), ranking member of the budget committee, has asked for a vote on a balanced alternative to the sequester seven times since January. House Republicans — who control what votes are taken on the floor — have said no each time.

There is no reason why our civilian defense employees should be prevented from doing their jobs just because Congress has failed to do its job. These furloughs come on top of the \$114 billion in frozen cost-of-living adjustments and changes to retirement benefits that federal employees have already contributed to deficit reduction. It's time we moved forward with a sensible approach that recognizes the benefits of investing in a highly skilled and experienced federal workforce — especially when it comes to our defense.

The longer Congress waits to act, the worse the effects on readiness and morale will be at Pax River, Webster Field, Indian Head and other installations in Maryland and throughout the country. Congress ought to get to work right away on a balanced alternative to the sequester that protects our national security, prevents further harm to our economy, and puts our country back on a sound fiscal path.

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



The State of Black Men – Part One

“As of 2004, more black men were denied the right to vote because of a criminal record than in 1870, when the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified, giving blacks the right to vote.”

Joshua Dubois,
former director of President Obama's
Office of Faith-Based Initiatives

As the Trayvon Martin trial and record high summer temperatures both begin to add their heat to the unemployment and economic woes plaguing Black America, we thought it would be a good time to take stock of the one group that more than most continues to be locked up, shut out and left behind -- African American men. This topic is too big and too complicated to cover in one essay. But it is not too big or complicated to solve with the necessary resources, commitment and partnerships. So we will continue our discussion of the issues, along with the creation of solutions, in future columns.

Today, we simply want to provide an overview and begin to point to some answers. A good place to start is the recent Newsweek cover story, “The Fight for Black Men,” by former Obama White House advisor Joshua Dubois.

Like the National Urban League, Dubois understands that the solution to the under-employment and over-incarceration of African American men must begin with changing our perception of who they are and investing in their potential through job opportunities, quality education and economic development. These have been the building blocks of the great American middle class and represent the surest path to responsible adulthood and stronger communities. So why haven't we done this for African American men?

The reasons are many but one stands out. As described by Michelle Alexander in her best-selling 2010 book, *The New Jim Crow*, the intentional mass incarceration of young Black men has created what she calls a “permanent under-caste” that may never be able to escape the past and compete on equal footing with the rest of us.

Disproportionate arrests and unequal sentencing have had a devastating impact in Black communities. African American men are six times more likely to be incarcerated than whites. More African Americans are in prison or on probation today than were enslaved in 1850.

The economic consequences have been just as bad. This year's Urban League State of Black America report found that the average unemployment rate for Black men in 2012 was 15% compared with just 7.4% for white men. Black men earn only 72 cents for every dollar earned by white men. Because of the civil rights advances of the past 50 years and the election of Barack Obama as President, in the words of Michelle Alexander, we may have been “lulled to sleep by the rhetoric of color blindness and the appearance of great racial progress” and thus have “closed our eyes to the millions who have been locked up, locked out and relegated to second-class citizen status.”

But our focus must extend beyond talking about the problems.

That is why the National Urban League has been a leading voice in challenging Washington to develop a comprehensive urban agenda. It is also why we recently announced our \$100 million Jobs Rebuild America campaign designed to address the nation's employment and education crisis. This effort includes our Urban Youth Empowerment Program, which offers job training, education and other wrap-around services to prepare out-of-school and adjudicated youth for the world of work, as well as our Training for Work-Adult Re-entry program, which targets convicted adults in Work Release Programs and provides them with supportive services, education and training opportunities, mentoring, and job readiness and placement support.

We must create more opportunities for Black men who have been locked up or left out. As we celebrate the momentous anniversaries of our civil rights struggle, let's remember — there can be no celebration without continuation. We cannot afford to stop now.



Open to the Public

Rosecroft Raceway Harness Racing

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



It Just Takes Everything We're Not Doing Now

You don't have to be a Black male educator to teach Black students. You just have to love Black male children and believe that they have unlimited potential and opportunity, and they're just as smart and capable as anyone else and caring. And it's hard. Sometimes you have to go the extra mile,” said Michael Tubbs, an extraordinary young leader and teacher who is part of the Children's Defense Fund youth leadership development movement. “It takes school, church, neighborhood, government, partnerships. It takes relevant curriculum. It takes love. It takes trial and error. It takes being creative. It takes messing up. It takes getting back up. It just takes everything we're not doing now.”

Michael Tubbs earned his bachelor's and master's degrees last year from Stanford University, where he became a Truman Scholar, interned at Google and the White House, and was awarded the Dinkelspiel Award, the highest award given to a Stanford undergraduate student. A few months later he became at age 22 the youngest city councilmember in the history of his hometown of Stockton, California, earning more than 60 percent of the vote. Today, in addition to serving on the City Council he is an adjunct professor at Stockton's Langston Hughes Academy. He shared lessons from his first year of teaching and many years of mentoring young Black men at a June symposium on “Black Male Teens: Moving to Success in the High School Years” convened by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and CDF at the National Press Club. This was the third in a series of ETS-CDF symposia on Black males. The first addressed their needs from 0-9; the second the middle school years. A final symposium on the college years is scheduled for June 2014.

Michael's own background might have made him just the kind of Black boy for whom some people would have had very low expectations. He spent his childhood in poverty and was born to a teenage mother and a father who has been incarcerated Michael's entire life. Yet the adults who surrounded him still helped make education a priority for him

from the very beginning, aided by the support of some safety net programs that are under siege in budget battles today:

“Number one, my mom, grandma, and aunt, even though they weren't educated, they valued education and created a space where excellence was a requirement. It was never okay to bring home a B, despite the fact my mom had me at 16. She said, ‘I don't care what I did. You have to get A's because you can get A's.’ I would say the second thing . . . a lot of these government entitlement programs under fire are the things that made me who I am, so it was Head Start that the government paid for that put me on the path . . . to reading at an early age. It was people from the church giving me books when I was little that taught me how to read and read at a very high level. It was quality magnet programs in public schools that really pushed me to achieve academically, and then it was Pell grants that helped me get to college. So I think all these government programs we fight for are really important and are really testaments to why I'm on this stage today.”

These kinds of critical supports in childhood helped shape the young man Michael went on to become—a student who succeeded despite cultural, economic, and academic challenges in one of the nation's 1600 high-poverty low-performing high schools known as

drop out factories. He was the only Black male in his rigorous International Baccalaureate high school program, an undergraduate who soared at Stanford, and a rising political and educational leader already for whom the sky is the limit. But who knows how many millions of other Black boys have not had the chance to live up to their potential because they never received the same kind of family, community and government support?

This was the latest in a series of ETS-CDF symposia focused on best practices for helping Black boys succeed at different developmental stages. At this symposium policymakers, practitioners, and advocates focused on research, strategies and college- and career-readiness models aimed at creating high schools where opportunities for Black males prevail. Speakers highlighted the unique challenges facing these youths and examined the most effective practices schools and communities should adopt in order to help close achievement gaps as well as foster college and career success.

Michael was part of the opening panel, “Lived Experiences: Young Black Male Leaders Set the Stage” chaired by Cedric Jennings, the director of the D.C. Council's Office of Youth Programs and

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BUSINESS

Business Spotlight

AARP Disappointed by Public Service Commission Decision to Grant Pepco Increase

(Baltimore, MD) — AARP is disappointed in today's decision by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to grant Pepco what the Commission termed a 'reasonable profit' when it decided to partially approve Pepco's rate hike request. In a departure from previous rate cases, the decision puts the costs for infrastructure improvements that have not yet been made squarely on the backs on consumers. This will allow the utility giant to continue spending its revenues and profits on corporate shareholders, instead of investing in its own company. Grid Resiliency charges are not good for the ratepayer because they cause consumers to pay for work before it has been completed and determined to be cost effective.

"We are disappointed that the PSC has authorized the monthly surcharge on everyone's bill for a promise to do work, paid for in advance. We will see whether these additional funds actually result in improved reliability. What we DO know is that we will be paying up front. The company track record does not bolster confidence" says AARP MD Advocacy Director, Tammy Bresnahan.

"While Pepco was looking for higher rates, its customers are still looking for better service" said

AARP MD State Director, Hank Greenberg "Our goal remains to seek on behalf of consumers reliable electric service and excellent customer service; clear communications during major storm events; and affordable electric utility rates.

AARP Maryland hired an attorney and consumer consultant specializing in electric utility surcharges to represent its members in the Pepco service territories.

AARP Maryland opposed Pepco's request for an increase in their rates and/or surcharges for the following reasons:

- The rate increase and surcharge is NOT about reliability and safety. Pepco wants the PSC to raise rates and let them collect from customers now for infrastructure repairs by adding a surcharge. AARP MD agrees that reliability is important but the company has demonstrated they have the operational and financial means to make the necessary improvements.

- No compelling circumstances exist to justify a surcharge when the current rates include replacement costs. If costs exceed current rates, the utility can petition for a rate increase.

- Trackers/Surcharges shift financial risk from the power companies to the ratepayers, and decreases cost-containment incentives.

- Pepco should use profits to fund infrastructure. Proponents of this increase would have consumers believe that they have no internal funding to make needed infrastructure repairs and that without upping rates, additional outages are certain. The fact is that Pepco has made profits and paid shareholders and needs to invest its funds in its own business and infrastructure before again, asking consumers to pay more.

AARP released a report in May 2012 about the Increasing Use of Surcharges, and how dangerous it is to the consumer to simply remove one piece of a very complicated rate case process. The full report, which includes specific justifications utility companies use to push surcharges past regulators and information about why these claims are so often invalid, can be found at www.aarp.org.

ABOUT AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security and retirement planning. We advocate for consumers in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP VIVA, a bilingual news source. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

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Race from A3

were simply being kidnapped and sold into slavery.

The forced labor camps they found themselves in were islands of squalor and brutality. Thousands died of disease, malnourishment, and abuse. Mortality rates in some years exceeded 40 percent. At the same time, this new slavery trade generated millions of dollars for state and local governments—for many years it was the single largest source of income for the state of Alabama. As these laws and practices expanded across the South, they became the primary means to terrorize African-Americans, and to coerce them into going along with other exploitative labor arrangements, like sharecropping, that are more familiar to twenty-first-century Americans.

This was the terrifying trap into which Carrie Kinsey's young brother had been drawn. After a trip through the counties near Kinsey's home, W. E. B. Du Bois, who was then teaching at Atlanta's Morehouse College, described in 1905 one such convict farm. "It is a depressing place-bare, unshaded, with no charm of past association, only a memory of forced human toil-now, then, and before the war," he wrote. He described Black farmworkers who never saw wages because charges for rent and food always exceeded any compensation. "A dismal place it still remains, with rows of ugly huts filled with surly ignorant tenants," Du Bois wrote. "And now and then it blazes forth in veiled but hot anger."

Du Bois could easily have been describing Kinderlou, where Kinsey's brother was taken. Encompassing 22,000 acres, it was an enterprise that dwarfed any antebellum definition of the word "plantation." Owned by state Representative Edward McRee and his brothers, Kinderlou was an unparalleled center of economic and political power in Georgia. By 1900, the siblings had inherited the enterprise from their father, a noted Confederate officer named George McRee. Each lived in a lavish mansion within a square mile of the center of the plantation, basking in the subtropical warmth of the Gulf Coast.

Between them, an empire bustled with enslaved laborers. Consuming the bulk of an entire county, Kinderlou included thousands of acres of lushly fertile sandy loam, and thousands more of dense pine and hardwood. On a private spur of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad thrust into the center of the plantation, dozens of boxcars waited at all times for the hundreds of thousands of bushels of tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, corn, tobacco, and cotton. The McRees owned their own cotton gins, presses to make bales, and warehouses to store enormous quantities of lint. A five-horsepower steam engine ground the plantation's sugarcane to make syrup. Five 80-foot-long barns were built to cure tobacco, and a factory produced thousands of pallets, wooden crates, and baskets for shipping produce. Deep

in the forests, McRee turpentine camps collected rosin for their naval stores distillery.

Initially, the McRees hired only free Black labor, but beginning in the 1890s they routinely leased a hundred or more convicts from the state of Georgia to perform the grueling work of clearing land, removing stumps, ditching fields, and constructing roads. Other prisoners hoed, plowed, and weeded the crops. Over the course of fifteen years, thousands of men and women were forced to Kinderlou and held in stockades under the watch of armed guards. After the turn of the century, the brothers began to arrange for even more forced laborers through the sheriffs of nearby counties in Georgia and Florida-fueling what eventually grew into a sprawling traffic in humans.

A Black worker in 1904 described to a journalist how he arrived at the farm at age 10 as a free laborer. A few years later, he attempted to leave to work at another plantation. Before sundown on the day of his departure, one of the McRees and "some kind of law officer" tracked him down. The new employer apologized to the McRees for hiring the young worker, saying he would never have done so if he had known "this nigger was bound out to you."

"So I was carried back to the Captain's," the man said later. "That night he made me strip off my clothing down to my waist, had me tied to a tree in his backyard, ordered his foreman to give me thirty lashes with a buggy whip across my bare back, and stood by until it was done."

When his labor contract finally expired after a decade, the man was told he could leave Kinderlou, so long as he could pay his accumulated debt at the plantation commissary-\$165, the rough equivalent of two years' labor for a free farmer. Unable to do so, of course, he was compelled to sign a contract promising to work on the farm until the debt was paid, but now as a convict.

He and other "prison laborers" slept each night in the same clothes they wore in the fields, on rotting mattresses infested with pests. Many were chained to their beds. Food was crude and minimal. The disobedient were tied to a log lying on their backs, while a guard spanked their bare feet with a plank of wood. After a slave was untied, if he could not return to work on his blistered feet, he was strapped to the log again, this time facedown, and lashed with a leather whip. Women prisoners were held across a barrel and whipped on their bare bottoms.

In the summer of 1903, the assistant U.S. attorney in Macon, Georgia, began a brief investigation into Kinderlou's army of Black laborers held against their will. He discovered that the brothers had arrangements with sheriffs and other officers in at least six other Georgia counties. These law enforcement officials would seize Blacks on the grounds that they were "committing crimes," often specious and sometimes altogether made

up, and then sell them to the McRees and other businessmen, without ever going through the regular processes of the criminal courts. When the McRees learned of the investigation, they hastily freed the workers being held involuntarily. At least forty fled immediately.

James Robinson, the brother of Carrie Kinsey, may have been one of them, though federal officials never connected her allegations to the Kinderlou investigation. Even if Kinsey's brother's case had been investigated, her letter misspelled the name of the plantation.

In November 1903, a grand jury indicted the McRee brothers on 13 specific counts of holding African-American men and women illegally. Many of those enslaved had never been charged or tried in any fashion. Several public officials were indicted for conspiring to buy and sell Blacks arrested on trivial or fabricated charges and then turning them over to the McRees. Sheriff Thomas J. McClellan, resorting to an audacious legal defense employed repeatedly in the handful of slavery cases brought by federal officials in the early twentieth century, argued that since no federal law specifically made slavery a crime, he could not be guilty of violating it. In effect, he claimed slavery was not illegal in the United States.

A member of the U.S. Congress submitted a legal brief in support of the sheriff, and prominent state officials sat at the defendants' table during a hearing on a challenge to their charges. Across Georgia, operators of lumber camps, where thousands of other men were being held under similarly dubious circumstances, watched the proceedings closely. Appearing with his brothers before a Savannah courtroom, Edward McRee assured the judge that while his family had held many African Americans in the four decades since slavery's abolition, they had never intended to enslave anyone or break the law. "Though we are probably technically guilty we did not know it," he told the court. "This custom has been [in] existence ever since the war.... We never knew that we were doing anything wrong."

The judge, hoping to avoid inflaming the anger of local whites, dispensed symbolic punishments. The McRees were allowed to plead guilty and pay a token fine of \$1,000. In the wake of that trial and other failed prosecutions in the first years of the century, the U.S. Department of Justice turned a blind eye to such practices for the next 40 years. Only the advent of World War II, a declining need for low-skill laborers, and a new era of federal prosecution would finally bring a true end to American slavery.

More than 100 years after Carrie wrote her letter, I received an unexpected call from a man who identified himself as Bernard Kinsey. He believed he was one of Carrie's cousins.

Her letter had haunted me through years of research for the book I wrote on re-enslave-

ment. What those few lines conveyed-the seizure of a teenage boy and his sale to a powerful businessman, the abject refusal of authorities to assist her, the brutalization of thousands of other Blacks on the same plantation, the heroism of Carrie in seeking the aid of President Roosevelt, and, finally, the futility of her letter-captured the entire epic tragedy of Black life in the rural South in the time between the Civil War and World War II. Even to this day, I find myself turning back to her story, resifting census records and cemetery records, looking for the fate of her brother. Did he escape? Did he die at Kinderlou? The answer still eludes me.

Bernard Kinsey represented the counter story. He told me that the Kinsey family fled to Florida not long after the McRee trial of 1903. Bernard's father opened one grocery store. Then more. Bernard graduated from Florida A&M University in 1967, and a few years later he became one of the first Black employees of Xerox Corp. Twenty years later, he retired as a senior executive, one of more than 10,000 African Americans at the company. He then became a major civic leader in Los Angeles, a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist, and one of the leading collectors of African-American art and artifacts in the U.S.

Here was the valiance of African-Americans who persevered against immeasurable odds. Here was the miracle that American society survived its sweeping betrayal of its own values, its collective dishonoring and debasement of Lincoln's achievement, the euphoric crowds of 1865 and all those who had died in the Civil War. Ultimately, it is only in a full revelation of all three narratives-of Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment, of re-enslavement and the failure of American character, and of the slow ongoing resurrection of our values through the struggle of citizens such as Bernard Kinsey-that we can begin to understand the progress we have made, and the progress we have yet to achieve.

A few weeks after the publication of my book, the great-granddaughter of a White industrialist and enslaver of thousands in Atlanta wrote me to describe her pain at discovering a personal connection to these events-and the importance of not looking away from them.

"We did not know of any of this before," she wrote. "But I believe that the ghosts of slavery and racism and the terrorism inflicted within our own country must not be hidden away but brought out into the open.... Without the whole truth, we live only in illusions."

Douglas A. Blackmon is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II." He teaches at the University of Virginia's Miller Center and is a contributing editor at the Washington Post. This article, the first of an 11-part series on race, is sponsored by the W. K.

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“Pacific Rim”

"PACIFIC RIM" B

When the story begins in earnest, the Kaiju have been getting better at defending themselves against the Jaegers, and the frequency of the attacks has increased. The Jaeger program is about to be abandoned, in fact, for being too costly and no longer effective, so its commander, the delightfully named Stacker Pentecost (Idris Elba), determines to execute One Last Mission to destroy the ocean-bottom portal that brings the Kaiju into our world from theirs. For this he recruits Raleigh Becket (Charlie Hunnam), who was his best and brightest Jaeger pilot until a personal tragedy made him retire to civilian life a few years back. Reintroduced to the Jaeger training facilities near Hong Kong, Raleigh butt heads with a cocky rival (Robert Kazinsky), earns the respect of that rival's pilot father (Max Martini), and has an affinity for another trainee, Mako Mori (Rinko Kikuchi).

The screenplay, which del Toro co-wrote with Travis Beacham ("Clash of the Titans"), follows an old-fashioned and straightforward plot formula much like the one found in old war movies. There are few surprises in the story, and very little dialogue that's memorable, or even particularly good. (Not helping: Charlie Hunnam's wooden, uninteresting performance.) Things are improved considerably by Charlie Day and Burn Gorman as a pair of squabbling scientists, and by Ron



ROTTENTOMATOES

When legions of monstrous creatures, known as Kaiju, started rising from the sea, a war began that would take millions of lives and consume humanity's resources for years on end. To combat the giant Kaiju, a special type of weapon was devised: massive robots, called Jaegers, which are controlled simultaneously by two pilots whose minds are locked in a neural bridge. But even the Jaegers are proving nearly defenseless in the face of the relentless Kaiju. On the verge of defeat, the forces defending mankind have no choice but to turn to two unlikely heroes—a washed up former pilot (Charlie Hunnam) and an untested trainee (Rinko Kikuchi)—who are teamed to drive a legendary but seemingly obsolete Jaeger from the past. Together, they stand as mankind's last hope against the mounting apocalypse. (c) Warner Bros

Perlman as a black-market dealer of body parts from dead Kaiju — but in general, there's little humanity or emotional connection to what's going on.

The fight sequences are the film's primary reason for existing, and del Toro delivers there. We always have a clear sense of which Kaiju is fighting which Jaeger, and where they are in relation to each other — elements that sound like basic principles

of an action scene but which some films ignore in favor of shaky cameras and frantic editing. (That being said, I wish del Toro hadn't set nearly every fight at night or underwater, giving the action a dimness that's exacerbated by dark 3D glasses.) Many of us have almost a primal fondness for seeing two big things tear each other apart, and if "Pacific Rim" doesn't do much else, it certainly taps into that.

Storm from A1

Schwartz had an interest in weather since he was young, he said, but his passionate curiosity for hurricanes developed in 1972 when he survived his first big storm, Hurricane Agnes. The Category 1 storm brought severe flooding to the Mid-Atlantic, killed 117 people and totaled about \$3.1 billion in damages.

At the time, 17-year-old Schwartz was living with his parents in Rockville. Their house was built on high ground, but Schwartz said he remembers waters from a nearby creek rising more than 10 feet.

"I saw water in places I never thought I would see it," he said. "The whole Mid-Atlantic region was devastated. The damage from the flooding was unbelievable."

Agnes is just one of dozens of storms from 1609 to 1993 that Schwartz profiled in his book, which combines anecdotes from residents who lived through the events, quotes from

newspaper articles, historical records, damages and death tolls. The book is filled with photos of the major damage that Mid-Atlantic hurricanes have inflicted — including young boys canoeing down a flooded street in Trenton, N.J., in 1903 and a railroad bridge collapse that led to a "deadly train derailment outside Washington, D.C." in 1933.

The idea for Schwartz' book was refined in Gajary's Washington apartment, Gajary said. The pair spent many hours walking around Gajary's Adams Morgan neighborhood, hashing out plans.

"I said, 'Well, this is it. He's got to do it.'" Gajary said. "I wasn't surprised he came up with it because he's a big idea man. Finally, things really came together. Over the years, he would call and sometimes he was discouraged, and I'd say, 'Nope, go on, go on, go on.'" Schwartz said the book has

been sold more than 1,000 copies, mostly to local and college libraries -- the Library of Congress has two copies, he says -- and he's been able to pay off the second mortgage.

This March, Schwartz spoke at the National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans. With more than 1,000 people in attendance every year, the meeting, Schwartz said, is considered the "big league" of hurricane conferences. In May, he spoke at the Maryland Emergency Management Association's annual conference in Ocean City.

"Slowly but surely, this book has worked its way up there," he said. "I've come a long way since just doing my research. I'm just glad that I can share my findings with important people in the field."

Schwartz is writing similar books on hurricane history in New England and the Southern states.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Look Out Fans! NFL Players Gonna Get Your Mama!

Crime hysteria is as American as genetically modified apple pie. Whatever the rates of violent street crime in society, the existential threat of the black/brown youth predator can always be counted upon to repulse and titillate both the mass media and the popular consciousness. * The other all-consuming National Pastime centered on gawking at the black body in a spectrum of violence is the National Football League. Put these two together — crime hysteria and the NFL — and we have what can only be described as a cultural nocturnal emission.



Much ink has been spilled about the 29 - yes 29(!) - NFL players who have been arrested since the Super Bowl. At the center of all the coverage is former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, accused of the pre-meditated execution of semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd. The details surrounding Lloyd's murder get more ghastly by the day, but putting Hernandez's photo at the center of a collage of the other 28 arrested players makes it seem like there is some kind of violent, to quote one site, "NFL Crime Wave." There is another serious case this off season of undrafted Cleveland Browns rookie Asar Walcott who was arrested for attempted murder last Wednesday after punching a man outside of a New Jersey club. Outside of that, most of these 29 arrests revolve around domestic disputes, marijuana possession, driving while intoxicated, and even "drag racing". I don't want to make light about any of these issues [Except for the weed. I shall happily make light of that.] But attempts to create connective tissue between these incredibly disparate cases reeks of a highly racialized hysteria. You don't have to be Cornel West to see the racial coding in articles like this one by Mark Madden that reads, "The Aaron Hernandez saga is hardly an isolated incident. It's the latest chapter in pro football's shameful litany. Gangsta culture perpetrating gangsta acts." ** Then there is NFL Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton on Fox & Friends, babbling, "We cannot let thugs and criminals into the locker room!"

All concerned should put down the smelling salts, stick the fainting couch back in the closet and deal with reality. First of all, there is no "NFL crime wave." The 29 players, some who were not even on active rosters, constitute around 1% of all players vying for NFL roster spots. Also, in a study last December by Stephen Bronars, "NFL players are arrested about one-fourth as often as men age 22 to 34 in the general population.... The arrest rate for NFL players has averaged about 2.9% compared to 10.8% for men age 22 to 34 (based on FBI crime data by age for men in 2009)."

But let's go deeper and talk more about this "nightmare" off-season. Most revolve around NFL players getting pulled over in their high-end automobiles and officers finding some form of contraband. They are getting caught in the gap between the privileges they believe will come with pro football fame and an increasingly all-encompassing criminal justice system that targets and warehouses masses of black and brown people at alarming rates. ***

The criminal justice system has changed, but the mentality of NFL jocks simply hasn't caught up. If you hear stories about the NFL in the 1970s and 1980s, players were always just an autograph and a wink from having a police officer look the other way. Today we live in a surveillance society where there are speed cameras on every street, drug and gun-sniffing dogs at major train stations, and mandatory sentencing guidelines and a voracious for-profit prison industry. We are also living in the age of racial profiling where if you are a person of color and in a fancy car, you will draw more attention than Tim Tebow at the San Francisco Pride parade. Even without the fancy car, police harassment follows black and brown bodies in numbers unimaginable in those pre-9/11 days when we were all indignant about racial profiling for about an hour and a half. To take one example, in 2002, according to the ACLU, the police stopped New Yorkers 97,296 times. 80,176 were immediately released (82 percent). In 2012, New Yorkers were stopped by the police 532,911 times and in 473,644 cases were let go right away. In 87% of these cases, they were black or Latino.

Maybe what's happening to NFL players is best understood as collateral damage of a US society addicted to arrests and a player's culture where they expect privileges that no longer exist. This country jails more people than any nation on earth. We shouldn't be surprised that NFL players have been caught in the undertow.

New District 9 Bus Transit Service Established!

In response to considerable public input from South County residents, your county government has begun a new fixed route bus transit service in District 9. This new service, Route 36, extends from the Clinton Fringe Park and Ride Bus Lot down the MD-5/US-301 corridor to Brandywine Crossing Shopping Center and then connects with Charles County's bus service at the Pinefield Shopping Center. Since the Clinton Fringe Park & Ride Lot already has bus service to Branch Ave. Metro Station, this new Rte. 36 bus service is an alternative to driving to commuting on this corridor by vehicle. If Rte. 36 is used heavily, it could lead to expanded bus service in other parts of District 9. The long-term goal is to establish light rail along this corridor.

Please use this new service early and often!

State Commits \$5 Million to Light Rail Project for Prince George's and Charles Counties

Prince George's and Charles County leaders have worked with the O'Malley administration to garner a new \$5 million commitment from the state towards the establishment of light rail along the MD-5/US-301 corridor. This is a solid first step towards this long-term answer to the significant traffic congestion on this corridor.

SAVE THE DATE — BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

Saturday, August 10, 2013
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For information, contact 301-932-4001
or email communications@pgps.org

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Calendar of Events

July 25 — July 31, 2013

Jazz Under the Stars Summer Concert Series

Date and Time: Saturdays, July 27 & August 10, 7 pm
 Description: Bring a picnic basket, blanket or chair and get ready for a great night of music on the grounds of Beltsville Community Center. This event will be held rain or shine and is FREE and open to the public! Note: Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on park property.
 July 27 - Performance by David Bach
 Aug. 10 - Performance by Project Natale
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Arts on the Waterfront - "The Crowdaddies"

Date & Time: Sunday, July 28, 6-7:30 pm
 Description: Join us for FREE Sunday evening performances as the sun sets over this unique urban watershed. Tonight's performer: "The Crowdaddies" - Louisiana's Cajun, Zydeco, Blues & Rock
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
 Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Jazz on the Lawn: Bruce Ewan: "The Red Harmonica King"

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 31, 7 pm
 Description: Enjoy summer concerts on Wednesdays. Pack a picnic or purchase dinner before the show courtesy of the Calvert House Inn. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy some of the area's top jazz musicians. In the event of rain, concerts will be moved inside the mansion. These concerts are supported by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, Town of Riverdale Park, and ATHA, Inc. Tonight's performance features: "Bruce Ewan: "The Red Harmonica King" featuring Steve Jacobs"
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Jazz on the Lawn: Bruce Ewan

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 31, 7 pm
 Description: Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy a FREE concert featuring some of the area's top jazz musicians. Purchase dinner from the Calvert House Inn's tent or bring a picnic from home. In case of rain, concerts move inside. Sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council, Town of Riverdale Park, and ATHA, Inc.
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Concerts in the Park: "All Mighty Senators"

Date & Time: Thursday, August 1, 7-8:30 pm
 Description: Enjoy lively music under the setting sun at beautiful Watkins Regional Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and the entire family and groove the night away. Refreshments available for purchase. Tonight's performance: "All Mighty Senators" - Rock, Soul, Rhythm Fusion
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: On the Green at Watkins Regional Park
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

Watkins Regional Park's Fabulous Fridays

Date & Time: Fridays in August (except for August 30) 5:30-8:30 pm (weather permitting)
 Description: Enjoy evenings of outdoor fun with friends and family. Take unlimited rides on the train and carousel, and rounds of miniature golf for one price per person. The outdoor patio and surrounding grounds are a perfect place to bring and enjoy snacks or dinner! Beverages and snacks are available from the vending machines in the Refreshment Depot. Please note: Advance tickets are not available; purchases are made on site each evening and for that date only. VISA, MasterCard and cash are accepted.
 Cost: Resident \$5/person; Non-Resident \$6/person
 Ages: All ages
 Location: On the Green at Watkins Regional Park
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

First Tuesdays At Abraham Hall

Date & Time: Monthly, First Tuesdays
 Description: Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, is the best example of an African American benevolent society lodge in Prince George's County. Located in the community of Rossville, it is the first African American historic site in the county to be fully restored using public funds. Home of M-NCPPC's Black History Program, please call the number listed below for more information about the First Tuesday program.
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Abraham Hall
 7612 Old Muirkirk Road, Beltsville 20705
 Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544

Jazz on the Lawn: "Archie Edwards Jambassadors"

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 7, 7 pm
 Description: Enjoy summer concerts on Wednesdays. Pack a picnic or purchase dinner before the show courtesy of the Calvert House Inn. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy some of the area's top jazz musicians. In the event of rain, concerts will be moved inside the mansion. These concerts are supported by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, Town of Riverdale Park, and ATHA, Inc. Tonight's performance features: "Archie Edwards Jambassadors"
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Law

Dear EarthTalk:

Three regions in California recently implemented transportation plans as part of a statewide strategy for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Can you explain?

-- Bill Oakes, Reno, NV

Americans are becoming increasingly concerned about global warming even as Washington politicians continue to debate whether or not to mandate emissions cutbacks. In lieu of federal action, some states and municipalities are taking action on their own to reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Not surprisingly, California leads the pack, having passed the 2008 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Law (SB 375), which calls on each of 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to prepare a "sustainable communities strategy" to show how it plans to meet previously established greenhouse gas reduction targets through integrated land use, housing and transportation planning. Over the past year, three regions—San Diego, Sacramento and Southern California—formally adopted transportation plans specifically designed to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

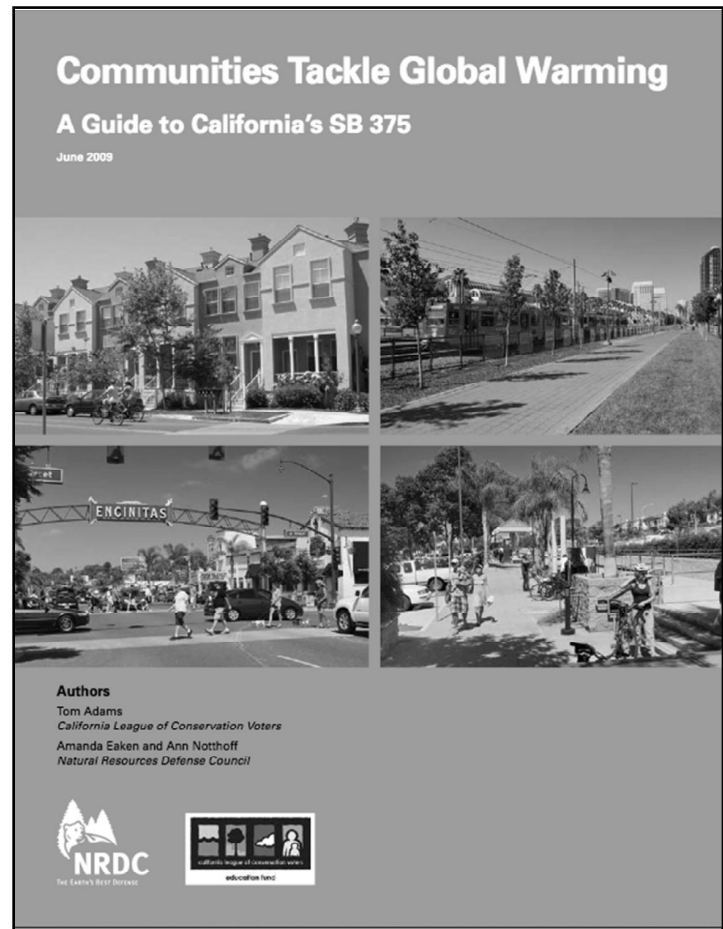
"All three regions have found that most people want to live closer to jobs and retail, and yearn for ways to live without spending so much time driving," reports the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has been tracking California's progress on sustainability. "These regions are

planning communities that reflect these preferences while also reducing harmful air pollution, creating jobs and saving people money." NRDC adds that the sustainable community strategies "lay the foundation for smarter, more efficient growth and healthier communities, each of them offering lessons for other regions to follow."

Under the terms of SB 375, each of the MPOs crafted plans based on local priorities, needs and resources, while adhering to strict statewide emissions reduction goals. San Diego's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan was the first of its kind in the country when implemented last year. It calls for investing \$214 billion in various local, state and federal transportation initiatives around San Diego over the next four decades.

"The largest proportion of the funds will go toward transit, which will receive 36 percent of the funds in the first 10 years, with 34 percent going to highway improvements (largely for the addition of high occupancy vehicle lanes to existing freeway corridors) and 21 percent to local roads and streets," reports the San Diego Association of Governments, one of the agencies that helped design the plan. "The percentage dedicated to transit will grow each decade, up to 44 percent from 2021 to 2030, 47 percent in the third decade, and 57 percent in the last decade of the plan."

Most environmental leaders view SB 375 as a step in the right direction, though others worry that it doesn't go far enough. "The plan will worsen health risks in communities that already suffer from disproportionate levels of pollution,"



CREDIT: NRDC

Three regions in California -- San Diego, Sacramento and Southern California -- have now formally adopted transportation plans designed to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, per the mandate of the state's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Law (SB 375), which was passed in 2008

reports the California-based Environmental Health Coalition (EHC). EHC is concerned about the health of low-income communities of color and feels that the plan allocates too much funding toward highway expansion while deferring investment in public transit for too long. Meanwhile, 15 more plans will come to light soon across California, giving the rest of the nation that many more models for planning responsibly for a warmer, less environmentally secure future.

CONTACTS: NRDC, www.nrdc.org; EHC, www.environmentalhealth.org. EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial

Debt from A1

private companies are taking advantage of students by charging them up to \$1,600 up front and \$20-\$50 in monthly fees to participate in these free federal repayment programs.

"We are deeply concerned by the report's findings, which indicate that some private companies are mischaracterizing federal student loan repayment programs as their own and charging exorbitant fees to enroll people in free government programs," the Senators wrote in a letter to Secretary of

Education Arne Duncan, Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Edith Ramirez and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray.

The report also revealed numerous potential violations of consumer protection laws and found that many for-profit companies falsely claim to be connected with the Department of Education and other government agencies.

"Existing law should be enforced, and new rules should be considered where appropriate," the Senators wrote. "We

owe it to student loan borrowers—and to taxpayers—to ensure that unscrupulous businesses are not taking advantage of the student debt crisis." Americans currently owe more than \$1 trillion in student loans and the overall financial burden from student loan debt is second only to debt from mortgage borrowing.

Senators Mikulski and Cardin were joined in the letter by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.),

Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Mark Udall (D-Colo.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), and Tom Udall (D-N.M.).

University of Maryland Extension Ask the Plant and Professor

Question #1:

Many of my herbs including the oregano, mint and basil have these round black spots on the leaves. Otherwise the plants look healthy. What could possibly be causing this and will I be able use these herbs in cooking?

Answer #1:

Four-lined plant bugs are active this time of year and can cause the damage you describe. They make small necrotic (black, dead) round, depressed spots on leaves by inserting their needle-like mouthparts into leaves and removing the chlorophyll. Adults are 3/16 of an inch long, yellowish green with 4 black stripes down their back. There is only one generation of them per year. Using insecticide on them is not recommended. First of you do not want to spray your herbs and secondly spraying is not effective. Simply pinch-off the damaged leaves. New growth will quickly fill in which you can then harvest and enjoy in your recipes. This bug also damages many perennials especially cone flower, chrysanthemums and asters but the damage is cosmetic.

Question #2:

My lawn is starting to develop round patches of yellow grass; it looks like it is dying. This morning I noticed that the patches looked pinkish-red. Does my lawn have a disease and what should I be doing to stop this from happening?

Answer #2:

We have been receiving some calls and emails into our office from folks with similar concerns about their lawns. This is red thread, which is a fungal disease. It is not too serious because it does not kill the crown or growing point of the grass plant. When weather patterns change, becoming warmer and drier the disease process will stop. Red thread can occur on underfertilized lawns but also on lawns that were excessively fertilized in the spring. We do not recommend a fungicide. Follow University of Maryland Extension guidelines for lawn fertilization. Refer to publication HG 112 Turfgrass Maintenance Calendars for Maryland which you can find on our website that contains the schedule.

Question #3:

My hostas have large ragged holes. They look terrible and I need to do something to stop the damage. What is eating my plants and how can I prevent this from happening?

Answer #3:

Slugs and snails love this wet weather we have been experiencing recently. They are nocturnal, usually leaving slime trails that are noticeable during the day. There are many means of control which are outlined in our publication HG 92 Slugs and Snails. Simple traps can be made from overturned flower pots, grapefruit halves or small inverted containers. Slugs will crawl underneath during the day to seek shelter. The slugs should be collected and disposed of. There are commercial traps and many chemical control options available to reduce your slug population.

Question #4:

This season there seems to be quite a large number of ants crawling on the plants in my vegetable garden. Do you think they will hurt my seedlings? Should I be doing anything to reduce their numbers? I really

dislike using chemicals.

Answer#3:

The ants in your vegetable garden are not a large concern. They will not injure your seedlings. However, they could be a sign that there are aphids in your garden. Aphids are soft-bodied sucking insects that produce a substance called honeydew. Ants feed on honeydew and even 'tend' the aphids protecting them from predators and parasites. For detailed information on aphids look on the 'plant diagnostic' section of our website mentioned below. Simply type the word aphid in the search box.

"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 <http://extension.umd.edu/hgic> Or phone HGIC at 1-800-342-2507, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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Watch from A4

the subject of the national best-selling book A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League by Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Suskind. It chronicles Cedric's life growing up in Washington, D.C., and attending Brown University before going on to pursue master's degrees from Harvard and the University of Michigan. Michael and the other young Black male leaders on the panel were passionate about continuing to expand opportunities for Black young men and sharing their ideas about what worked—and what didn't—in their own educational experiences.

Michael is working to change the odds for children in Stockton today—and he was

joined at the symposium by over four hundred others who are changing the odds for Black boys across the country.

I will be sharing their successes with you in future columns because we know how to make a positive difference in the lives of so many poor Black males. But we have to close the gap between what we know and what we do. We don't have to keep doing the things we're getting wrong. We can learn from what's working. As Michael says, one starting point is to change everyone's expectations about what young Black boys can become: "We have to change the whole narrative . . . We have people in these schools teaching these children who have no understanding about what these children can be because they haven't been exposed to what the children can be, just like the children

haven't been exposed often-times to what they can be . . . Dream big." Raising expectations combined with raising resources to get children what they need is a powerful recipe for Black boys' success.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind®* mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

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

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