

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 81, No. 43 October 24 — October 30, 2013 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## Coalition Opposes Maryland Fracking

By SARAH POLUS  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS—It will likely be months before Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley decides the fate of fracking in the Free State, but opponents of the natural-gas extraction process aim to keep the issue in the spotlight.

Environment Maryland, a non-profit environmental conservation organization, has issued a report which outlines the potential side effects that fracking could produce, including contaminated water, reproductive issues and air pollution problems.

Some members of the General Assembly share these concerns, including Delegate Shane Robinson, D-Montgomery.

A member of the House Environmental Matters Committee, Robinson said among the top environmental concerns associated with fracking is the emission of methane, which is more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide.

Instead of permitting fracking, Robinson said, Maryland should be acting as a model for other states to follow by investing in real clean energy, like wind and

See **FRACKING**, Page A7

## Site Uses Social Media to Track Illness

By AVIVA WOOLF  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - You might not consider Tweets such as "Missing the Redskins game because of the flu, ugh :( #worstday" as groundbreaking advancement in science, but Graham Dodge, founder and CEO of the disease-tracking site, Sickweather.com, thinks they are.

Sickweather.com uses social media updates to follow outbreaks of the flu, allergies and other illnesses around the country. Sickweather scans Facebook and Twitter for posts about sickness and gathers the data to form an interactive map showing the areas with the

See **ILLNESS**, Page A6



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY NATALIE KORNICKS.

A little boy wears a shirt that says, "Don't Deport my Dad," was among nearly 20,000 people at the Camino Americano rally on the National Mall on Tuesday, which aimed to pressure Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

## Following Rally, Immigrant Advocacy Groups Consider State Legislation

By NATALIE KORNICKS  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - 'The time is now,' according to Maryland and national advocates for immigration reform.

Almost 20,000 people chanted this phrase during Camino Americano, a rally, concert and march on the National Mall on Tuesday to pressure Congress into passing immigration reform that would lead to citizenship for all immigrants, according to

advocates.

To compliment comprehensive federal reform, immigrant advocacy groups in Maryland are considering putting forward legislation that would make it illegal for local law enforcement to detain undocumented immigrants for possible deportation by federal authorities unless they have committed a serious crime.

And the time is now, as Maryland has become "a more welcoming environment for immigration than other places," said Sirine Shebaya,

an attorney directing the ACLU of Maryland's immigrant's rights and racial justice work.

"A bill was recently passed to make driver's licenses available for undocumented immigrants [and the] year before that the Dream Act passed, which provides in-state tuition for immigrant students," she said.

Legislation for next Maryland General Assembly

See **RALLY**, Page A3

## Brown Surges in Endorsements, Others Downplay the Support

By COLLEEN WILSON  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown added another endorsement to his growing list of sponsors Thursday after House Speaker Michael Busch announced his support at a news conference in Annapolis.

Despite the pouring rain, about 50 people came to the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center to see the Democratic candi-

date accept Busch's formal endorsement.

The announcement was really no surprise as Brown and Busch, D-Anne Arundel, have worked together for 16 years in state government — a relationship lauded by both men.

"Any observer of Maryland politics would have been shocked if Busch didn't endorse Brown," said Todd Eberly, an associate professor

of political science at St. Mary's College. "The O'Malley administration has very effectively used Brown as a liaison with the Assembly, so there's a continuation of that working relationship."

Busch said he does not give endorsements "lightly," and bolstered his backing of Brown saying, "no lieutenant

See **BROWN**, Page A3

## Maryland Dreamers Awake to In-State Tuition, Yearn for More

By JASON RUITER  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Yves Gomes would rush home after school when he was younger to play one of his favorite video games, Madden NFL Football.

"Video games. Chill. Basketball. That's all I cared about," said Gomes, a "typical middle-class kid" until he and his family faced the possibility of deportation.

Thanks to the Maryland Dream Act, hundreds of mostly young undocumented immigrants like Gomes will get a chance at something most "typical middle-class kids" can receive, a more affordable college education. Gomes is majoring in biochemistry at the University of Maryland, College Park.

But the law, which took effect in December, is only one benefit that most legal residents can enjoy. Dreamers like Gomes -- often brought by their parents to the U.S. -- are not eligible for government or bank loans and scholarships, face endless difficulties in

applying for citizenship and struggle to find work permits and employment.

In 2006, when Gomes was 16, his parents' pending case for permanent religious asylum in America was denied.

"That was the first time I ever became undocumented," Gomes said. "It was hard, especially to watch my mom struggle. My parents were well-regarded."

A neighbor cried when he found out that Gomes' mother, a college professor, was deported to India.

"It wasn't until my parents faced deportation that I was forced to share my story," said Gomes, who graduated with a 4.4. GPA from Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville.

The event was a turning point for Gomes, who thought of himself as American, and who was shy. With his parents gone and his immigration status in question, Gomes was forced to fight for something he wanted desperately - to stay

See **ACA**, Page A5

## Anne Arundel Attracting Couples After Legalization of Same Sex Marriage

By Zack Ward  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -When Maryland became the southern-most state on the East Coast to legalize gay marriage, it became a destination-wedding location for some same-sex couples.

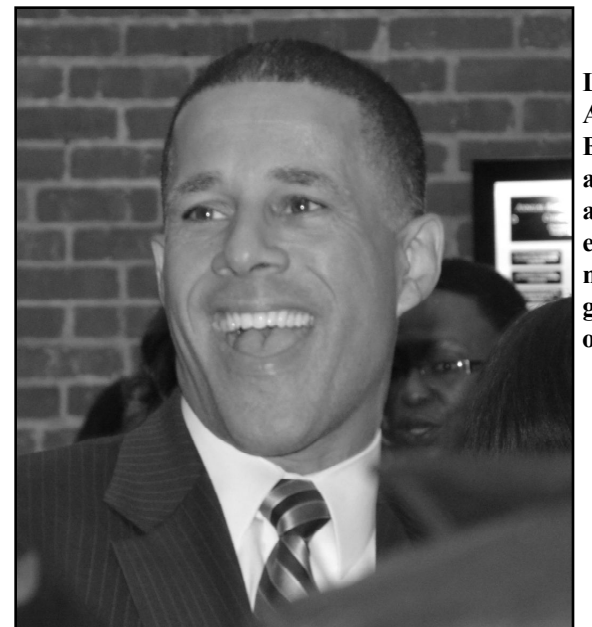
Like Tina Harden, 46, and Candis Browand, 53, of Orange Park, Fla., who were together for 14 years before getting married on Sept. 19 in Linthicum.

Gay weddings became legal in Maryland on Jan. 1, and Clerk of the Circuit Court in Annapolis

Robert Duckworth says things really started picking up this summer.

"There's been an increase in the last three or four months of same sex couples seeking marriage applications from out of our area," Duckworth said. "Actually out of Maryland. So we see that as a big trend, which we've never had before ... Much of that increase has come from across state lines. The other day I think we married about eight or ten couples and half of those people

See **MARRIAGE**, Page A7



Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown added another endorsement to his growing list of sponsors

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY COLLEEN WILSON

### INSIDE

#### Families4Education

AARP has launched a new bilingual online resource to help increase the number of college educated households in underserved communities. Families4Education is designed to help African-American and Hispanic/Latino families prepare their children academically, financially and emotionally to achieve their dreams. **Community**, Page A3

#### A Picture of Good Health

Open enrollment began for the Maryland Health Connection, a new online insurance marketplace where eligible students and recent graduates — among others — can now access quality, affordable health insurance. As a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a range of plans are offered. **Opinion**, Page A4

#### Medicare & Medicaid Services

Maryland has submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a revised proposal for an unprecedented model to improve health care outcomes, enhance patient experiences, and control costs across the State, proposing a fundamental shift away from fee-for-service reimbursement towards health care delivery. **Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review "Zero Charisma"

Movies about slovenly man-children in a state of permanent adolescence have thrived in the last decade. But few have explored the hierarchy within the world of immature adults. Why is it cool to spend hours playing Grand Theft Auto V but not to spend the same number of hours with a tabletop role-playing game? **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:  
What's the skinny on essential oils? I love them, but a friend told me they are no good for the environment.

-- Mary M., via e-mail

**Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### It's time to "Masquerade at the Manor"—masks required

The masquerade party at historic Oxon Hill Manor on Friday, October 25, begins at 8 p.m. with a cocktail, followed by a buffet dinner, and continues with dancing to the sounds of a local DJ until midnight.

Wear an exotic mask, a tuxedo, cocktail attire or vintage costume. The most fascinating attire will be awarded prizes. Masks are required, with a limited quantity for sale at the door.

Reservations and pre-payment were required by Oct. 17, but you could call and see if it's too late. Cost for individuals is \$55 for residents and \$66 for non-residents. For couples: residents, \$95, and non-residents, \$114. This Halloween event is for ages 21 & up. The Manor is at 6901 Oxon Hill Road. For information, call 301-839-7782.

### Halloween in Morningside

Morningside is celebrating Halloween with trick-of-treating from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A costume contest follows at the Town Hall, but contestants must register between 8 and 8:20.

As for those handing out the treats, be sure to turn on your porch lights. And if you're driving, be aware of the little ghosts, vampires and Batman who might not be looking both ways.

### Davies Concert Series

Osman Kivrak, on viola, and Edvinas Minkstine, on piano, performed Oct. 20 at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church. They will perform music by Johannes Brahms and Rebecca Clarke. The excellent Davies Concert Series is now in its 42nd year. For information, call 301-868-0082.

### Neighbors

Sports legend and author

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar visited Joint Base Andrews Oct. 1 on a book tour. He met with about 175 children at the Youth Center to talk about his latest book, *Sasquatch in the Paint*, based on his adolescent years.

Jody Nyers attended the Suitland High '73 and '74 reunion and has sent photos and details, including some of the attending alumni. I'll report next week.

On National Peace Day students at Imagine Foundations in Morningside marched for Peace, which was their Character Trait for September. They carried their own peace posters, performed special songs written by their music teacher, and were dressed, by grade level, in different colors, making a beautiful rainbow.

Condolences to Susan and Morningside Councilman Todd Mullins on the death of Susan's mother, Wanda Lee Brooke, on Oct. 5.

### Remembering Baby Clare

My dear neighbor Audrey Pridgen is mourning the loss of her first grandchild, Clare Meredith Pomilla, who was born before her time, on Sept. 21, weighing two pounds. She lived only a few hours, but long enough for her mom and dad, Kendra and Anthony Pomilla, and others of her family, to hold and cuddle her.

Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary's of Alexandria, celebrated by Fr. Dennis Kleinmann. Baby Clare is now at Fairfax Memorial Gardens, near a tree hung with chimes.

Meet you at the Silver Skewers

In Charles County, at 2788 Old Washington Road, there is a little treasure, the Silver Skewers Restaurant. Salad and bread start off a delicious kabob

(all kinds) meal. As the menu says, "All entrée are not spicy unless you ask for it to come with tandoori." It is open every day but Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For information, call 301-396-5758.

### May they rest in peace

Randy Himes, 60, formerly of Pine Grove Drive in Morningside, died Oct. 6 at the Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie. He was the son of the late Lee and Betty Himes. In addition to his parents, his brothers Lee Jr. and Dennis Himes predeceased him. Survivors include his brother Michael, sisters Michel and Ronda, and a lot of nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held later.

John Robert Glover, 84, of Camp Springs and a D. C. Fire Department retiree, died October 10. He was born in Washington and served in the Army. On Oct. 29, 1951, he was appointed to the Fire Department, Engine Co. 16. He retired in 1969 as 2d Battalion Fire Chief's Aide, and was a member of DC Fire Fighters of Washington, Local 36. After retiring, he worked as a realtor and appraiser, and he was a daily Mass-goer at St. Philip's Church. He was the husband of Rosemarie Glover; father of Glen, Gregory, Gene and Gery Glover and Tracey Eberhardt; grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of six. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Betty Oppido, Oct. 20; Jody Nyers, Catherine Alvis and Christina Ramsey Eckloff, Oct. 22; Mary Flood Dawes and Jane Wright, Oct. 23; Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

### MEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Men Make a Difference Day was celebrated on Monday, October 14 throughout the school district. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students invited more than 2,300 fathers, uncles and other male role models to their schools.

Activities included breakfast and lunch with students, classroom visits, special guest speakers, discussion groups, fitness and academic activities and crowning men with royalty.

### FREE ASK THE DOCTOR SEMINAR

Dr. Bahram Redjaee, MD, medical director of the Sleep Disorders Laboratory at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital and board certified sleep medicine will present an informative seminar entitled "What Keeps You up at Night."

This free seminar is sponsored by MedStar Southern Maryland and will be held at Colony South Hotel, 7401 Surratts Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735 Thursday, November 7, 2013, at 6:30 PM. Admission is free, but you must reserve a seat in advance by calling 866-724-2099. Visit MedStar Southern Maryland.org for a complete listing of upcoming events.

### IT'S CASINO TIME

Come join us on our Pre-

Veteran's Day Casino Trip Midway-Harrington Casino and Slots in Harrington, Delaware. There will be lots of fun, 50/50 and good socializing on Sunday, November 10, 2013. You will receive a \$10.00 rebate plus the full Buffet Meal. Donation is \$40.00. There are absolutely no refunds. All tickets must be paid in full by November 3, 2013. Sponsored by Shirley A. Cleaves. For ticket contact Shirley A. Cleaves at 302 690-4260 or Doretha A. Savoy at 301-233-3136.

Bus will leave Park-N-Ride, Clinton, Maryland at 10:00 AM and St. Philip's Church in Baden, Maryland at 11:00 AM and returns at approximately 7:30 PM. Cars can remain parked at the church if parked at the lower parking lot.

### PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY EVENT

Trash to Treasure Green Craft Fair will be November 9, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 4:00

PM at Watkins Nature Center. Come out and shop for this holiday season. There will be handmade goods by local artisans crafted from recycled, sustainable, organic or fair trade materials. Items include wood carvings, jewelry, bee products, natural fiber products and more. Contact carla.rohde@pgparks.com or call 301-218-6702 for more information.

### CAREER PREPARATION and JOB TRAINING

Prince George's Community College prepares students for professional certification. Students benefit from learning options that are convenient and flexible. The Community College offers short-or long term training programs transforming lives thru skills building, career planning and guidance, and restraining. Apply online at www.pgcc.edu or call 301-336-6000 for more information.

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

## Neighborhood Events

### PGCPS & MGM National Harbor Distribute 500 New Coats to Students



Today at Glassmanor Elementary School, the MGM National Harbor Fall Coat Harvest provided new coats, hats and gloves to children in need to use during the cold winter months. MGM National Harbor partnered with the Excellence in Education Foundation for Prince George's County Public Schools to bring the Fall Coat Harvest program to Maryland.

"We know that this time of year the weather can change quickly, and we don't want parents to be concerned with getting fall coats," said Dee Dee McKinney Odom, Director of Community Affairs for MGM National Harbor.

Over the next week, 500 new coats, hats and gloves will be distributed to several Prince George's County area schools, including Glassmanor Elementary School, Samuel P. Massie Academy, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones Elementary School and Ridgcrest Elementary School.

"In Prince George's County, we want to cater to the whole child, and this program speaks to that," said Carolyn Boston, Vice Chair of the Prince George's County Board of Education.

About PGCPS: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has 204 schools, approximately 125,000 students and nearly 18,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.6 billion, the district serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and partnerships with businesses and institutions of higher learning.

Prince George's County Board of Education

### Prince George's County

#### Executive Rushern L.

#### Baker, III Announces

#### Appointment of Dinora A. Hernandez, Esq. as Latino Liaison

Upper Marlboro, MD — Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, announced the appointment of Dinora A. Hernandez, Esq. as Latino Liaison in the Office of the County Executive. As Latino Liaison, Ms. Hernandez will serve as advisor to the County Executive on matters affecting the civic, social, and economic affairs of the Latino community within Prince George's County. Additionally, as an advocate and community liaison, Ms.

Hernandez's responsibilities will include developing new initiatives and programs to better serve this growing and diverse population as well as working with the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations.

"Our Latino residents, families, and neighbors are a significant and important part of Prince George's County," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "As such, I felt it was important to have someone in my office serve as a conduit and resource for the Latino community. Dinora Hernandez has demonstrated a true passion for Latino affairs on both a personal and professional level. I am confident that she will work diligently to improve the Prince George's County Government's service and interaction with our Latino citizens."

Dinora A. Hernandez, Esq. is a native Prince Georgian and a first-generation college graduate. She is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt and attended the University of Maryland, College Park where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminology and Criminal Justice. Ms. Hernandez graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and is admitted to the Maryland State Bar. Ms. Hernandez will be drawing from many experiences, including serving as a volunteer undergraduate mentor at the Maryland Hispanic Youth Symposium for two terms and as a member of the Latino Student Union at the University of Maryland. Most recently, Ms. Hernandez was honored as the guest speaker at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) GED Graduation. She is also actively working with her neighborhood civic associations with the recruitment and retention of Latino membership.

"I am looking forward to this new opportunity in the Office of the County Executive," said Dinora Hernandez. "I am excited about serving the people and communities that helped to shape my life. The opportunity to work with the Latino community will be both humbling and fulfilling."

### PGCPS STAFFERS APPOINTED TO KEY POSITIONS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD -- Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), has recently

appointed two veteran school system staff members to serve in key positions in the school district. Shauna Battle was named General Counsel since serving in an acting capacity since June, and Robert Gaskin was named Chief of Human Resources after serving as Director of Recruitment and Certification since 2009.

"I am proud to appoint these outstanding employees to their new positions," said Dr. Maxwell. "They bring a wealth of institutional knowledge to the table, and have a proven track record of service and experience with the school system. I am confident they will be successful and will help us move the school district forward."

Battle has been employed with the School District for almost 15 years in various capacities. She was originally hired as the Intergovernmental Relations Officer and represented both the Superintendent and the Board of Education before the State legislature, State Board of Education and County Council. During her tenure with PGCPS, she has managed the Office of Appeals, advised the Board of Education on policies and legislative matters and provided legal services to the Administration and schools.

Battle began her career as Legislative Counsel for the Maryland General Assembly and worked for the school board in Baltimore City prior to coming to PGCPS. She is a graduate of Catholic University of America and the University of Texas School of Law. With her husband Kenny, she is proudly raising three children, Joseph, Kendall and Joshua — who all attend Prince George's County public schools.

Gaskin has more than 40 years of progressive and diversified experience in K-12 education, and has specialized in human resources for the past 24 years. He began his career in PGCPS in 1974 as a guidance counselor at Largo High School, and has served in various capacities, including assistant principal, principal, Instructional Personnel Supervisor, Recruitment Team Leader and Recruitment Officer.

Gaskin earned his undergraduate degree in education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and his master's degree in guidance from Bowie State University. Throughout his career, he has been a successful speaker and presenter at national conferences and events, sharing his knowledge and insight on best hiring practices and the recruitment of minority educators.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Don't Leave Tax Breaks on the Table

If someone told you there's a way for you to potentially save hundreds — if not thousands — of dollars on your income taxes by simply spending a few minutes reviewing your benefits and tax paperwork, would you think it sounds like a late-night TV marketing scam? It's not.



You've still got a couple of months to tweak your employer-provided benefits and line up a few tax deductions that'll have you smiling next April 15.

Here are a few strategies to consider:

**401(k) plan.** If you haven't already maxed out on contributions for 2013, ask your employer if you can increase contributions to your 401(k) plan for the remainder of the year. Most people can contribute up to \$17,500 in 2013, plus an additional \$5,500 if they're over 50.

If you contribute on a pretax basis, your taxable income is reduced, which in turn lowers your taxes. If you contribute using after-tax dollars, you'll pay tax on the amount now, but the entire account value, including interest earned over the years, will be non-taxable when you retire. Either way, if your employer offers matching contributions (essentially, free money), you should contribute at least enough to take full advantage of the match.

**Flexible spending accounts (FSAs).** If you participate in employer-sponsored health care or dependent care FSAs, which let you use pretax dollars to pay for eligible expenses, be sure to spend the full balance before the plan-year deadline (sometimes up to 75 days into the following year); otherwise, you'll forfeit the remaining balance. If it looks like you'll have a surplus, consider which 2014 expenses you could pay before December 31, 2013.

You can use your health care FSA for copayments, deductibles and medical devices (e.g., glasses, contact lenses and braces). Note: Except for insulin, over-the-counter medicines are only eligible with a doctor's prescription.

**Charitable contributions.** If you plan to itemize deductions this year, charitable contributions made to IRS-approved organizations by December 31, 2013, are generally tax-deductible. If you've got extra cash now and want to lower your 2013 taxes even further, consider moving up donations you would have made in 2014.

**Gifts.** Most people probably will never reach the \$5.25 million lifetime gift tax exemption limit — beyond which you would have to pay the 40 percent gift tax. But, if you're feeling generous, remember that if you give someone gifts worth more than \$14,000 this year, you'll need to file a Gift Tax Return along with your federal tax return, even though you won't necessarily owe any taxes on the amount. (Married couples filing jointly can give \$28,000 per recipient.)

**Roth IRA conversion.** People at any income level can convert part or all of their existing traditional IRAs or 401(k) plans from previous employers into a Roth IRA. With a Roth, you pay taxes now, but future earnings will accumulate tax-free. If your retirement is a long way off or you believe your income tax rate at retirement will be higher than it is today, such a conversion might make sense.

Remember, however, that converted balances (for pretax savings and their earnings) get added to your taxable income, thereby increasing your taxes — and possibly boosting you into a higher tax bracket for the year. Just make sure you don't need to borrow money — especially from a retirement account — to pay for the additional tax burden today; otherwise you could undo the potential long-term tax advantage of converting to a Roth IRA.

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

## AARP Launches Families4Education

New Bilingual Online Resource Provides College Preparatory Information for Multigenerational Households

By National News Releases  
AARP

WASHINGTON - October, 2013-AARP has launched a new bilingual online resource to help increase the number of college educated households in underserved communities. Families4Education is designed to help African-American and Hispanic/Latino families prepare their children academically, financially and emotionally to achieve their dreams. Families4Education.org and FamiliasyEducacion.org will guide families through the college preparation, application and financial aid process and help families connect with educational resources in their local communities.

According to Education Week, 9.6% of African-American students and 17.6% of Hispanic/Latino students drop out of high school compared to 5.2% of White students. Families4Education aims to address this disparity by providing a comprehensive source of knowledge, encouragement and useful information to help families make informed decisions about their children's futures and post-high school education options.

"AARP believes that all

young people should have real possibilities for a bright future, where our children and our grandchildren can pursue their goals and live their dreams," said Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, AARP Executive Vice President for Multicultural Markets & Engagement. "At AARP, we know that a sound foundation is based on educational and career achievement. These days it takes supportive families to help children obtain a post high school education. Whether a child's goal is to attend college, a university, community college or a vocational school, Families4Education will help parents, grandparents and students navigate the process."

At Families4Education.org and FamiliasyEducacion.org, families will find information and resources about financial aid, advice on applying to college, study guides, goal planning strategies for students in middle school through the 12th grade, testimonials and online discussion groups.

#### About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, non-partisan 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



PHOTO BY AARP

**Families4Education is designed to help African-American and Hispanic/Latino families prepare their children academically, financially and emotionally to achieve their dreams.**

issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals 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 en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. 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.

#### Brown from A1

governor has had more hands-on experience ... to go out and deal with policy issues" than Brown.

Brown said he relies on partnerships, like the one with Busch, to be a better leader.

"Where they [endorsements] really matter is that it's a demonstration of the strength of this relationship," Brown said. "And this relationship is the foundation for a important part-

nership to do the difficult work that lies ahead." Brown said that in order to better serve the people, the relationships between top officials is key. "I value these endorsements because it's not just about the campaign, it's about the important work that we need to do when we govern." Eberly said endorsements are more of a "psychological boost" for candidates and a media-attention generator. However, Eberly added, "There is precious little

evidence to show that endorsements make a difference in an election."

Democratic competitor and Attorney General Doug Gansler appears less concerned with piling up endorsements after he announced his candidacy in September four months after Brown.

"Gansler has not necessarily presented himself as a team player," Eberly said about Gansler "[dictating] an agenda and a timetable, which ruffled

some feathers and that's not necessarily the way you win endorsements."

Brown has received support most notably from Gov. Martin O'Malley, Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., and Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. The other Democratic candidate is Del. Heather Mizeur, D-Takoma Park, who has received support from a Democrat, Baltimore City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke.

#### Rally from A1

session, which starts in January, would be similar to the Trust Act that was signed in California in early October, Shebaya said.

The act was in response to a federal program that allows state and local police to check the fingerprints of someone who has been arrested against Department of Homeland Security immigration databases. If an individual is found in any of the databases, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is automatically notified, and local authorities are asked to detain the individual for an additional 48 hours, even if the person has not been convicted of a criminal act.

"[The program] turns local police into the Department of Homeland Security," Shebaya said. "The only way to opt-out is to not upload fingerprints at all."

Several counties in states other than California have also refused to honor what is known as "detainers."

"Maryland is in a really good position to do this," Sebaya said. "Obviously the big change has to happen federally, but as long as Washington isn't acting, as long as there are things that don't get covered and there are things left out of federal immigration reform, then there's a lot of room for states to actually act."

Since Saturday, more than 40 cities held marches, public forums, rallies, discussions and

vigils to continue to target Congress and to celebrate the Oct. 5 'National Day of Dignity and Respect.

Camino Americano, which translates to "American Way"—a play on the fact that Camino can mean march, or journey in reference to the 500-mile pilgrim trail in northern Spain—was the last of more than 200 events.

"We called on the community to come out to the rally and show why immigration reform is so important," said Ashwini Jaisingh, a lead organizer for Casa De Maryland who handed out event flyers on Sunday at Saint Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring. "The urgency has only increased."

Yet not everyone agrees that comprehensive immigration legislation is best for America.

"It's going to be a disaster economically for the United States," said Delegate Patrick McDonough, R-Baltimore County, who opposed the Dream Act in 2012 for similar reasons. "It's going to cause massive job displacement and I think a pathway to citizenship already exists—it's called the federal immigration law that we currently have. ...Comprehensive

reform is nothing more than amnesty"

Several members of Congress who support comprehensive immigration reform spoke at the event, including Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, D-Ill., and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Eight congressional Democrats were arrested while demonstrating.

In total, 221 people were arrested, including Casa De Maryland Director Gustavo Torres and the Service Employees International Union affiliate Vice President Jaime Contreras.

The band Los Tigres del Norte performed, several faith leaders led the crowd in prayer and children whose parents have been deported spoke out.

"There are millions of families who are desperate, and we just heard from children whose parents have been deported in the last couple years," Liz Alex, a lead organizer for Casa De Maryland, said at the event. "Those children can't wait any longer, they can't wait for political games—they need immigration reform to pass now."

**Your Beach Home Awaits!**

Visit Windstone by LC Homes  
New Leona, Delaware  
Single Family Green Certified Homes  
Affordably priced from \$289,900\*

3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths • Energy Efficient One Level Living  
Just minutes to the Delaware Beaches & Restaurants  
Free Shipping & Delivery

Call Anytime Your Private Tour  
202.767.4600

**LC Homes**  
THE AFFORDABLE BEACH HOME

[www.LCHomesDE.com](http://www.LCHomesDE.com)

**Give**  
your garbage  
another life.  
**Recycle.**

**THIS AD FOR SALE!**

SPREAD YOUR MESSAGE to over 4 million readers with an ad this size for just \$1,400! For a limited time, BUY 4 ADS, GET ONE FREE!

**CALL TODAY!**  
1-855-721-6332  
Wanda Smith, ext. 6  
[www.indiepress.com](http://www.indiepress.com)

**INDIE Press Service**  
2008 Capitol Drive, Annapolis, MD 21401  
\*Certain conditions apply.

**JOURNALISM STUDENT?**

— PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS —

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

- News reporting
- Copy editing
- Photojournalism

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**Wednesday, November 20, 2013**

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

# COMMENTARY

**Cong. Steny H. Hoyer**  
House Democratic Minority Whip



## A Picture of (Future) Good Health

On Oct. 1, open enrollment began for the Maryland Health Connection, a new online insurance marketplace where eligible students and recent graduates — among others — can now access quality, affordable health insurance. Like other online insurance marketplaces established across the country as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Maryland Health Connection offers a range of plans to meet the different needs and varied budgets of consumers, and for those who enroll by Dec. 18, coverage will begin Jan. 1.

Thanks to a concerted effort by Gov. Martin O'Malley, Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and many other state and local officials, hundreds of thousands of state residents who are uninsured or find their current health plan too expensive can visit the Maryland Health Connection, compare plans and sign up for affordable coverage. And there are many reasons why students will benefit from checking out the Maryland Health Connection online today.

Those who visit the site will be able to comparison-shop among the different plans and see if they are eligible for tax credits to help further reduce the cost of insurance. State residents who meet certain income requirements will benefit from approximately \$7.5 billion in these tax credits. Additionally, those who visit the site will be able to determine if they are eligible for public health programs such as Medicaid.

Next year alone, the Affordable Care Act is expected to provide 280,000 more people in our state with access to health insurance coverage. And everyone with health insurance will benefit from the new protections the law provides to consumers. These include a ban on charging women higher premiums than men for the exact same coverage

and an end to arbitrary annual and lifetime limits on coverage and dropping patients when they become sick. Insurance companies have already been required to stop denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, and this protection will be extended to everyone starting in January.

Young Americans are already benefiting from the Affordable Care Act's insurance reforms, as they can now remain insured through a parent's plan until age 26. And they also have access to affordable care through the Maryland Health Connection. This creates two great options for recent graduates who are no longer eligible to be covered through the university's Student Health Insurance Plan and may not have an immediate offer of employer-sponsored insurance. Young people now have the freedom to seek their first jobs without the fear of having to go without insurance coverage.

These are among the many reasons why I am encouraging Maryland students and recent graduates to visit [www.marylandhealthconnection.com](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.com) to check out the many coverage options available, compare plans and enroll today. You can also call 1-855-MHC-8572 for more information or to speak with a "Navigator," whose job is to help explain how the Maryland Health Connection works, the different coverage options and how to sign up.

There is no reason why any state resident should have to worry about accessing and affording quality health care. The Maryland Health Connection offers real choices at competitive prices.

Health care reform is moving our country forward, and — for the sake of the millions who will benefit nationwide — we're not going to turn the clock back.

**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
National Urban League



## Maxine Waters Set to Become Financial Services Ranking Member

*"I will continue to champion practical regulations, while making sure they work for consumers and the financial sector, a sector which has the right to be profitable but the obligation to be fair, two concepts which are not mutually exclusive."*  
- Representative Maxine Waters

It is always big news whenever ethics charges are brought against a Member of Congress. Convictions, though rare, also make headlines. We understand that bad news sells. But we also think it is a big deal when a respected Member of Congress is completely exonerated of ethics charges -- especially when that Member is someone as powerful and effective as California Congresswoman Maxine Waters. In case you missed it, in September, after a three-year investigation, Representative Waters, a 21-year veteran of the House and a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, was cleared of all charges related to her role in assisting minority-owned banks get bail-out help through the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). While her husband owned stock in one of those banks, the investigation found that the help that bank received was the result of a request she made on behalf of all minority banks. House Ethics Committee Special Counsel, Billy Martin concluded, "The evidence in the record does not support a knowing violation of ethics rules or any standard of conduct with respect to Rep. Maxine Waters."

Since her initial 1991 election to the House, Representative Waters has been a staunch advocate for middle and working class families and has fought hard for minority inclusion in the financial services industry. In fact, she wrote the legislation creating the Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Dodd-Frank puts in place the most comprehensive financial regulatory reform measures since

the Great Depression and is intended to prevent a repeat of the reckless Wall Street behavior that caused the financial crisis of 2008. In her role as a senior member of the Financial Services Committee, Rep. Waters played a key role in shaping that legislation and was successful in including provisions specifically designed to protect low-income and minority citizens. Because of her, there is now an Office of Minority and Women at each of the federal regulatory agencies such as the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and others. These Offices will work to reverse years of underrepresentation and ensure the gender, racial and ethnic diversity of the workforce and senior management, as well as increase contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.

Representative Waters also fought to ensure that in winding down struggling financial institutions, regulators considered the impact on low-income, minority, and underserved communities where access to mainstream banking is a problem. And to help stem the tide of housing foreclosures, she secured \$1 billion — with an additional \$1 billion commitment from the Treasury Department — to help unemployed homeowners receive low-interest loans to pay their mortgages.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative Waters has also traveled the country to shine a spotlight on the problem of urban unemployment and has worked with Congressional Members of both parties to pass critical jobs legislation. With the retirement of Barney Frank, Congresswoman Waters is in line to be the ranking Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee. We applaud her leadership and are pleased that her Ethics Committee exoneration removes any obstacle to her ascendancy.



Open to the Public

The National Capital Trolley Museum

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, DC and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Stop the Shutdown, Prevent Economic Meltdown

Since the government was forced to shut down on October 1st one of the most common refrains has been that some members of Congress are acting like children—or, more accurately, worse than most children. Even five-year-olds understand that quitting the game and taking the ball home because the other team won't give you your way is wrong. Extremist Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives continue to hold funding for the federal government hostage for the second week in a row, opposing a clean extension of government funding without conditions. Their actions as they refuse to do their constitutionally mandated duty are harming the economy and countless real children and families across the country.

Fortunately, some of the programs families with children depend on aren't affected by funding tied to the shutdown, including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps). There are others, including many education programs, where funding has already been provided for the year. However, many other federal programs that help low income families meet everyday needs have been forced to stop operating due to the shutdown, including some of the same programs already hit hard by sequestration cuts earlier this year. Children have only one childhood. Every day that children are being denied early education and food causes lasting damage to their chances of living to their full potential.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is without its regular funding due to the shutdown, leaving at risk nearly nine million pregnant women, recent mothers, and their children under age five who rely on the program's supplemental vouchers for healthy food, expensive infant formula, and other necessities. Fifty-three percent of all infants born in the U.S. are fed through the WIC program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture originally estimated that state funds and contingency funds would be enough to cover only a week of nutritional supports during the shutdown. Fortunately the Department this week transferred unspent fund-

ing from last year to states to avoid shutdowns through the month of October—but not beyond. Some states have already stopped applications for new benefits because they are unsure of what will happen next month.

Head Start serves more than one million poor children, who are particularly in need of early education programs to succeed and thrive. Twenty-three Head Start programs servicing nearly 19,000 students across 10 states and Puerto Rico did not have access to federal funding on October 1st because the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services could not process Head Start grants due to the shutdown. Head Start grantees are funded on a yearly basis, and for some that grant year begins on October 1st. When these programs didn't receive their annual grants as scheduled, they were forced to close their doors and furlough their workers unless they had alternative sources of revenue. At the end of the first week of the government shutdown, seven Head Start programs in six states (Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Mississippi) were closed, leaving 7,195 of our nation's most vulnerable children without access to Head Start. These programs were able to reopen thanks to a private pledge of \$10 million from John and

Laura Arnold. Under sequestration Head Start already had to cut 57,000 children from the program.

Funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) shouldn't have been affected by the shutdown, but because the legislation reauthorizing it was delayed along with the spending bill, states are not receiving their October federal funds. Since TANF is funded through both federal and state funds, most states should have the flexibility to continue providing benefits, and the federal government has also let states use leftover funds from previous years. But at least one state—Arizona—stopped TANF payments starting October 3rd to 5,200 families out of the Arizona TANF caseload of 16,300 families.

As many Americans have already learned, even life-saving research for children with serious medical needs has been affected. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that for every week the shutdown continues, 30 children—10 of whom have cancer—will not be able to begin their clinical trials.

States use the \$1.7 billion Social Services Block Grant for child abuse and neglect services, child care, and other family services, but due to the shut-

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260  
Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147  
Contents © 2013, The Prince George's Post

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

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

# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Minimizing the Chaos of School Mornings

Is the average school day morning at your house a 3-ring circus? Shouting parents, still sleepy kids, suddenly missing homework, and favorite clothing hiding somewhere? This is typical at far too many homes.

It doesn't have to be like that. With a few simple changes you can help reduce that school-morning frustration, stress and anger.

A starting point is that instead of blaming your kids, let them know you're not happy with how you're acting and that you'd like to change. Get them involved by letting them see that you need their help to end early morning battles.

Step one is to make your kids more time responsible. Time is a hard concept for younger children, so try a kitchen timer to help them finish breakfast and get dressed in a timely manner.

For older kids, give them an alarm clock and let them choose the time to wake up and still be ready for school without making everyone rush. Agree on a "no-snooze-alarm" rule.

Then set consequences. Agree on a favorite something they'll give up if they dawdle over breakfast or don't get up on time. But also agree to your own consequence if you fall back into morning nagging to get them moving.

Next, turn off that distracting morning TV! Instead, try background music. Studies show it actually helps some kids focus better.

Then help your kids be better organized. Create an area where backpacks and books can go, then make sure that they're in place before bedtime.

Clothing is another organization opportunity. Having the kids lay out the next day's clothes before bed avoids morning panic over missing items. Make sure hats, mittens and shoes are also ready.

A common issue is that forgotten permission slip that needs to be signed, or the last minute lunch money search. Set up an in-box for each child where papers that need signing must go right after school each day, and where the signed papers and lunch money are waiting in the a.m. Make your child responsible for dropping off the needed papers and for remembering to take them in the morning. If he forgets, then let him face the consequences.

Even with a good system, some mornings will still be hectic. But make your kids partners in getting organized and you'll make most mornings more enjoyable, as well as give them skills that can help throughout life.

"Counseling Corner" is provided by the American  
Counseling Association.

Comments and questions to

ACAcorn@ counseling.org or visit the ACA website at  
www.counseling.org

## Business Spotlight

### Officials Celebrate Completion of One Maryland Broadband Network

ANNAPOLIS (October, 2013) -- Governor Martin O'Malley joined Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and state and local officials to observe new broadband capabilities at Kent Island High School and celebrate the completion of the One Maryland Broadband Network.

"If we are to continue to grow our economy and create jobs and opportunities in Maryland, we must make the better choices that will allow us to upgrade both our physical infrastructure—our roads, bridges and public transit—as well as our cyber infrastructure," Governor O'Malley said. "Broadband is the backbone of a 21st century innovation economy like Maryland's, and I am pleased that we have partners at the federal level, like Senator Mikulski, and at the local level, like County Executive Ulman, to help strengthen that backbone."

"I'm so proud that the final mile of the digital highway is complete and that Maryland is wired up and ready to go. From the waters of the Eastern Shore to the Bedrock Counties of Western Maryland, our high-tech digital highway is complete" said Senator Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Broadband is about jobs, making our state more competitive in the global marketplace for the next generation and beyond. We've always been one Maryland, but with the One Maryland Broadband Network, we are one digital Maryland, taking ideas, opportunity, jobs for the future to every single county in Maryland. Together with Team Maryland, I have fought to tear down the digital divide so that no one will be sidelined or redlined. We truly are one Maryland, and ready to roll."

The completed One Maryland Broadband Network connects over 1,066 community anchor institutions by building out 1,321 miles of fiber. Anchor institutions include schools, police facilities, libraries, colleges and universities and other community support centers. The One Maryland Broadband Network was completed at a total cost of \$158.4 million,

## Maryland Submits Application to Modernize All-Payer System Proposed Model Focuses on Prevention, Quality Care and Value

By Governor's Press Office

BALTIMORE (October, 2013) -- Governor Martin O'Malley announced that Maryland submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a revised proposal for an unprecedented and innovative model to improve health care outcomes, enhance patient experiences, and control costs across the State.

The proposal, developed and revised over the last year with input from a broad range of stakeholders, will modernize the State's all-payer rate setting system for hospital services. The state is proposing a fundamental shift away from fee-for-service reimbursement towards health care delivery that emphasizes prevention, quality care, and value.

"Our goal is a health care system that enhances patient care, improves health outcomes, and lowers costs," Governor O'Malley said. "As we see around the country, the fee-for-service status quo leads to ever-increasing costs with often mediocre outcomes. In Maryland, we're making better choices. The innovative approach we're submitting today will produce better results at lower costs by incentivizing quality of care, not quantity of care."

The proposed plan includes:

A five year model focused on improving health care quality,

delivery of services, and the affordability of health care.

A new approach to Maryland's all-payer hospital waiver, which moves from the current statutory approach to all-payer hospital payment, which is based on Medicare payment per admission, to a new model that focuses on overall hospital expenditures.

Strong incentives for better outcomes at lower cost, by shifting away from fee-for-service reimbursement to models that reward hospitals when care is high quality and fewer admissions are needed.

Improved quality, including substantial reductions in hospital readmissions and potentially preventable complications.

Controls on costs, including an annual limit on the total increase in revenue based on the 10-year average growth in the state's economy and at least \$330 million in savings over five years to Medicare. The Health Services Cost Review Commission will be working with payers, providers, and many others to develop innovative approaches to create savings.

The proposal has the support of key stakeholders, including the Maryland Hospital Association, the state's largest insurer CareFirst, and other medical and consumer organizations.

Federal elected officials endorsing the proposal include Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin,



FLICKR

No matter what state you live in, you'll be able to use the Marketplace to apply for coverage, compare your options, and enroll.

Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Congressman John P. Sarbanes, Congressman Donna F. Edwards, Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, and Congressman John Delaney. These elected officials sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius "to express our strong support of Maryland's proposal...to modernize the state's all-payer system of hospital payment." The letter further stated, "If Maryland is successful in meeting the ambitious goals set out in the application, Marylanders will clearly benefit from improved health, better quality care, and lower costs. The federal government will also benefit, not only through savings to Medicare and other federal payers, but also by providing an

opportunity to evaluate innovative approaches to reform that may be applied elsewhere."

State Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch also endorsed the proposal.

"This proposal builds on a foundation of innovation in hospital payment to improve the health and well-being of Marylanders," Speaker Busch said.

"Our shared goal is a health care system that provides better value -- quality health care services at lower cost. Modernizing the all-payer system gives us the opportunity to reach that goal," Senate President Miller said.

The proposal is available on the DHMH website at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Medicare%20Waiver%20Modernization.aspx>

### ACA from A1

in the country he's been in since he was 1.

Gomes' lawyer advised him to spread his story, so he spoke in churches and rallies and to television reporters. The Department of Homeland Security eventually designated his case low priority, halting his deportation process.

Going public about one's undocumented status is known as "coming out of the shadows" in the immigrant community.

Today, he affords college through a private scholarship, and now, the Maryland Dream Act, which will save him about \$19,000 a year. But his immigration status is still pending in the background and his parents are still gone.

He is one of an estimated 1,294 undocumented immigrants in a Maryland college, according to the study by the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research.

The Maryland Dream Act was passed in 2011, but its opponents quickly petitioned it to referendum, gathering 104,728 signatures in around two months.

However, groups like Casa de Maryland, an immigrant-rights organization, and activists -- including Gomes and other dreamers -- campaigned heavily in support of the law. The law -- Question 4 on the November ballot -- was approved 1,123,536 (59 percent) to 852,937 (41 percent), according to the Maryland State Board of Elections.

To qualify for in-state tuition, dreamers are required to sign an affidavit saying they will apply for citizenship within 30 days after becoming eligible, provide transcripts proving they attended a Maryland high school for three years and show proof of high school graduation, as well as document that they or their parent guardian paid state-income taxes for the past three years.

Students must also obtain 60 credits from a Maryland community college before applying to a four-year university.

One of the law's main issues is its cost, opponents say. Maryland dreamers can cost the state thousands per semester depending on what school they attend. At Montgomery College, in-state tuition is about \$2,000 cheaper than out-of-state.

These costs, according to the study by the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, are far outweighed by their benefits to the economy via jobs and taxes, with an estimated net-gain of more than \$60 million annually.

However, Brad Botwin, director of Help Save Maryland, a non-profit organization which actively fought the law, believes the study contains "cooked" stats.

"About 50 percent of college grads are getting jobs," he said. "They estimated 100 percent. They assumed every single student gets a job when they're done."

Marv Mandell, professor of

public policy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and one of the study's two authors, said he did not project full employment.

But "it does make the assumption that they will have the same unemployment rate as other people with similar educational attainment," he said. "It (also) assumes that they will all remain around in Maryland."

Botwin not only questions if the dreamers will get jobs in Maryland, but if they will get jobs at all.

Many younger undocumented immigrants currently obtain work permits through Deferred Action, a program authorized by President Barack Obama last year. The program gives out and renews permits every two years on a case-by-case basis.

"Obama isn't going to be president forever," Botwin said, adding that businesses won't hire someone who can't legally work, making a subsidized college degree useless. "I had to educate them K-12 for free. I had to subsidize their college education and now, I guess I'm going to pay for their unemployment."

Claudia Quinonez, 18 and undocumented, worries about employment, but is optimistic that national immigration reform will pass some day.

Like Gomes, she thought of herself like everyone else, even after her mother told her when she was 12 to never tell anyone about their immigration status.

"I was in the eighth-grade when I first realized it was an

issue," said Quinonez, whose family is from Bolivia.

Quinonez was accepted into a private high school on a scholarship at that time thanks to her grades and recommendations from her teachers, but when her documentation was brought up, she was refused entry.

Majoring in biology at Montgomery College, Quinonez hopes to go to Johns Hopkins University for medical school to become a neuroscientist. She has saved thousands through the Maryland Dream Act.

All of her six courses are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays to free up time to hang out with her friends and work as an intern at Casa de Maryland.

When she came out of the shadows at 17, it was like "a weight was off my chest."

"I'm just fighting and sacrificing so many things," she said.

Quinonez was arrested Aug. 1 for blocking traffic at a peaceful protest for immigration reform outside the Capitol.

Botwin and other critics of the Maryland Dream Act aren't just worried about the costs to the state, but whether it makes common sense.

"We were opposed to it from a fairness standpoint, primarily," Botwin said.

"These are people who are not citizens and you're giving them a higher status than you would someone from New Jersey who is coming to Maryland" to get their higher education.

Help for people with  
**Macular Degeneration**  
And out if special glasses can help you see better.  
Call for a FREE phone consultation.  
**888-707-2059**  
www.LovisionMD.org

**Pick a state, any state!**  
MDDC Press Service  
2010 Capitol Drive, Annapolis, MD 21401  
**1-855-721-6332**  
www.mddcpress.com

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Zero Charisma”

*Zero Charisma*

A funny, uneven story about a misfit among misfits

Grade: B

Not rated, probably R for a dozen or so F-words

1 hr., 26 min.

Movies about slovenly man-children in a state of permanent adolescence have thrived in the last decade, probably due to the growing number of slovenly man-children in the audience and in Hollywood. But few of these comedies (they're almost always comedies) have explored the hierarchy within the world of immature adults, the varying degrees to which one kind of nerdiness is acceptable while another kind is for losers. Why is it cool to spend hours playing Grand Theft Auto V but not to spend the same number of hours with a tabletop role-playing game?

The answer suggested by Zero Charisma is that it's not the activity itself that matters; it's the person engaging in it. Whatever kind of game you're playing, at the end of the day, it's still just a game. Your participation in it only warrants scorn if your obsession with it brings out your worst personality traits. The film, a likably blunt glimpse into the geek microcosm by Austin filmmakers Katie Graham and Andrew Matthews, boldly presents us with a seriously scorn-worthy main character, then roots around uncomfortably (and amusingly) in his neuroses. The payoff is lacking -- for all the suffering he endures he ought

to come away with more substantial lessons learned -- but it's a funny, no-holds-barred look at a world many viewers will recognize with satisfaction and/or shame.

Our disheveled hero is Scott (Sam Eidson), a portly, chin-bearded stereotype whose primary function in life is to serve as Game Master for a small group of equally dorky dice-rolling, spell-casting friends. With his teddy-bear physique, wide nose, and sloping brow, he looks like a fantastical creature from one of his games. Scott is prickly and sarcastic with his friends, especially Wayne (Brock England), a wispy-mustached skinny fellow who acts as his sidekick. Scott is bitter about losing his job at a gaming store, haughty toward anyone who doesn't grasp the nuances and complexities of role-playing games as well as he does, and fussy when his grandmother (Anne Gee Byrd) -- whom he lives with, rent-free -- interrupts the game to make herself a sandwich. In short, Scott is hard to get along with. What's worse, he thinks he's a jovial, good-time guy.

His insular world is shaken up by two developments. One, his flighty absentee mother (Cyndi Williams) returns with her well-meaning fiancé (Larry Jack Dotson), rekindling old resentments between mother and son. But this takes a backseat to the greater crisis: Miles (Garrett Graham), a new addition to the gaming group who's hipster-cool, physically fit, and



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Scott Weidmeyer, an overweight and overbearing fantasy role-playing gamer finds his life turned upside-down when a handsome and charismatic hipster joins his game. Plagued by angst and self-doubt, Scott's troubles worsen with the faltering health of his grandmother, who has cared for him all his life, and the sudden arrival of his estranged mother and her new fiancé. Short-sighted and ill-tempered, Scott finds his once safe and comfortable life spinning wildly out of control. (c) Official FB**

has a pretty girlfriend. Everything Scott and his buddies are into, Miles is into it too -- yet somehow he's better at it than they are. Scott is furious with jealousy at the way Wayne and the others fawn all over the newcomer. What does this guy have that he doesn't?

The film has a Napoleon Dynamite vibe at first, both in the scenario (unaware doofus who lives with his grandmother; Wayne is a version of Napoleon's brother Kip) and in the way the characters are treated with what feels like a mixture of disdain and affection. But the point of Zero Charisma isn't to mock the gaming world. I don't know for sure, but I'd guess from watching it that the filmmakers are gamers themselves. The details in the dialogue, the pecking order among

the characters -- it all has the air of authenticity. There's a brief, subtle joke about in-depth fantasy-game knowledge being no better or worse than statistic-heavy sports geekery, and some digs at hipsters who dabble in nerd pastimes without committing to them.

Sam Eidson is terrific as Scott, walking the line between being a pathetic buffoon and being a relatable young man with issues. The movie is sloppy in its treatment of Scott's relationship with his mother; we never get a firm grasp of what went wrong or how it pertains to Scott's current situation. But that's in the periphery anyway. At the center is this funny, uneven story about a misfit among misfits, a rough-edged character who just might become a new cult hero.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### All Players United: NCAA Athletes Take a Stand for Change

*"[College Sports] has just been a big charade for years. It's about time for it to come to an end."*

—Arian Foster



This past weekend, Dick Vitale called Houston Texans All-Pro running back Arian Foster, one of the smartest people to ever put on shoulder pads, “a prostitute.” Foster’s great crime, according to Vitale, was telling the world that he received under-the-table payments while a player at the University of Tennessee.

This reveals less about Foster than it does about Vitale’s stunning lack of self-awareness. For thirty years, “Dickie V” has made himself extremely wealthy by being a carnival barker for the unpaid exploits of people like Arian Foster. We can ask the question: “If Foster is a prostitute, what in the world does that make Dick Vitale?” But instead, we should just marvel at how reflexively the people who benefit from the “charade” of amateurism defend their system. We should also ask the question, What would it take to actually end this charade once and for all?

I’ve come to the conclusion that the diseased power relationships in big-time, revenue-producing college sports will never change on their own. I once thought the scandals that take place with the consistency of a metronome would be enough to spur reform. But with comments like Vitale’s, it’s evermore clear that the system will never change on its own, because the weight of the injustice in the NCAA invariably falls on those with the least amount of agency. Those in power—and their media prizefighters—have never been doing better. When you make millions of dollars, you are not searching to change the status quo. You are only looking to calcify it.

The only social force in the sport with both an interest in change and the social power to do it is the athletes themselves. If the stars refused to take the field, then this ossified system would crack like an egg. This is one hell of an ask of a group of disproportionately poor 18–22-year-olds who want nothing more than a good report from their coaching staff to NFL and NBA scouts that they are “coachable” (obedient). As Richard Sherman can tell you, even the most talented prospective pros can be subordinated by a head coach with a grudge. They are risking years of hard work, and it is nothing they asked for, but like Malvolio said in Twelfth Night, “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” This past weekend, we saw players attempt to reach for this greatness, and their efforts demand our support.

A significant group of college football players taking the field on national television this past weekend, including Georgia Tech quarterback Vad Lee and Northwestern QB Kain Colter, wore the letters APU on their uniforms. No, they are not Simpsons enthusiasts. The letters stand for All Players United, and their coordinated action was put together by the National Collegiate Players Association. The NCPA is an organizing body fighting for very modest reforms, including greater medical coverage for head injuries, compensation for players if their names and faces are used to turn a buck, and scholarship renewal for incapacitated players so they can continue their education even if they cannot take the field.

As NCPA director and former college football player Ramogi Huma told USA Today, this idea to wear the letters APU came from a group of active players on the NCPA board trying to figure out a way to show solidarity with the current athletes who have joined the “O’Bannon Lawsuit” against EA Sports’ use of their likenesses in their video games.

“They came up with a way they felt comfortable to show unity. This is an effort, this is a call for players of all sports, anyone who supports players pursuit of basic protections,” said Huma. “I think the way they see it, guys write things on those areas all the time. Sometimes guys write biblical passages, some put area codes, just different things. It’s not anything different than what they’ve been doing, other than it’s the first time to make a statement to better their futures and their situations.”

As modest as this sounds, actions like this could be the start of something far more significant, because it signifies the overcoming of fear. When Arian Foster decided to go public, he said, “I feel like I shouldn’t have to run from the NCAA anymore. They’re like these big bullies. I’m not scared of them.” Foster and the players donning APU have decided to stop being afraid. In every social justice movement in human history, that’s always the first step.

The mountain is high, but a group of players are attempting to climb it in the face of a hostile bureaucracy, a largely indifferent public and adults-in-charge who use them with callous insistence on the status quo. They shouldn’t have to do it, but they are the only ones who can, and they deserve our unflinching solidarity.

### Illness from A1

most statuses about infections. The Baltimore-based company launched the site in 2011, but is still in beta mode.

Now, Sickweather is introducing a new smartphone app in six to eight weeks that will alert users every time they are in the vicinity of a sick person. The launch is just in time for the beginning of influenza season, a fact that Dodge said is a “just a happy coincidence.”

The Sickweather app uses a unique feature called “geosensing” to notify people when they are entering a sick zone. Soon, before you enter a Starbucks or sit on a crowded city bus, you will be able to know if some people inside have had a fever in the past 24 hours, or a chickenpox-ridden child at home.

“The idea of data mining social media to identify sick people and outbreaks is really cool,” said Phil Fogel, 27, a user from New York City.

About the upcoming app, he said: “It sounds really awesome as a novelty, but I’m not going to avoid a place simply because it’s possible that someone with the flu was there.”

Experts in the medical field say that information gathered via social media could be helpful, but should only be used in conjunction with traditional outbreak research.

“We are open to that kind of thing. At this point it can’t replace tried and true techniques,” said Dr. Lucy Wilson, of Maryland’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “I think if it can be validated and shown to fit with surveillance trends then yes, it has that

potential.”

Data on illnesses that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene collects from hospitals, nursing homes, jails or other institutions can take up to six months to validate before being put up on the web. While doctors react to outbreaks immediately, the case numbers aren’t uploaded in real-time.

Wilson, chief of the department’s Center For Surveillance, Infection Prevention, and Outbreak Response, also said the public health system already has various groups that use social media for markers of different health issues.

Although using data collected via Twitter and Facebook to follow medical trends might seem suspect to some, the team at Sickweather uses a patent-pending algorithm. The Sickweather team is also advised by Michael J. Paul and Mark Dredz of Johns Hopkins University, who created a model in their study “You Are What You Tweet” to track illness via Twitter.

Their equation collects certain keywords from Twitter like “flu,” “sick,” and “sneezing,” to create a map of general locations where the most keywords appear. Although Paul and Dredz admit that Twitter doesn’t always give the most scientifically accurate results, the information they do receive is valuable for getting a broad sense of where diseases are heading.

Using its system, Sickweather was able to predict last year’s early flu season six weeks before the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, Dodge said.

Sickweather’s advantage, Dodge said, is that it works in real time. Google’s Flu Trends, for example, is on a 48-hour lag and reports from CDC can be several weeks behind.

Recently, on Sickweather’s blog, it was announced that Sickweather had been tracking reports of chickenpox on social media since October 2011.

Maryland was named No. 1 best friend of chickenpox as the state is at the top of the “Chickenpoxensie” States list.

Don’t worry too much. This could just mean that Marylanders are more vocal on Facebook when complaining about the disease.

“The bigger point of this is that anecdotal data has a place in this world of clinical data,” said Dodge. “If people think their kid has something or think they have something and they’re being told this isn’t true, if they can’t afford the lab to get concrete results, this offers data to help people make educated guesses.”

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

**Your Beach Home Awaits!**

Visit Windstone by LC Homes  
New Levitt, Delaware  
Single Family Green Certified Homes  
Affordably priced from \$289,900!

3 Bedrooms • 2 Bath • Energy Efficient One Level Living  
Just minutes to the Delaware Seaside State Park  
Tax Free Shopping and much more!

Call Anytime Your Private Tour  
202.767.7600

**LC Homes**  
THE MOUNTAIN BUILDERS

www.LCHomesDE.com



