

# The Prince George's Post



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## Gansler Opens New Consumer Protection Office in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Attorney General

Baltimore, MD - As shoppers get set to score discount deals online and at Maryland retailers this holiday season, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler on Wednesday urged consumers to watch out for dangerous scams as he opened the sixth satellite office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, located in Largo.

"Scammers are always trying to stay ahead of the game, but it's our job to keep the public informed so they don't fall prey to

these malicious crimes that can take the joy out of the holiday season," said Attorney General Gansler. "This new office will serve the residents of Prince George's County and surrounding areas year-round by providing a nearby location where consumers can file complaints against businesses and get information on how to be smarter in the marketplace."

Attorney General Gansler was joined at the news conference by Attorney General-elect

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DANI SHAE THOMPSON.

Judge Clayton Greene Jr. listens to a teen speak at the Department of Juvenile Service's oratorical contest at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis.

## Juvenile Offenders Speak About Self-respect, Change in Oratorical Contest

By DANI SHAE THOMPSON  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS—One by one, 13 nervous teens made their way to the front of a full courtroom.

For each of them, this was not their first time in front of a judge.

However, this time was different—this time they came not as juvenile offenders, but as invited guests.

The Department of Juvenile Services, partnered with

the Maryland State Department of Education, hosted its 20th annual oratory competition Wednesday.

The 13 youths – 11 boys and two girls – came from across Maryland to compete in this final level of the competition after being selected as finalists from their respective detention facilities.

With their suit jackets, bowties, and neatly combed hair, the kids were dressed to a teenage version of the nines.

They sat in a long row of chairs behind the podium, facing their audience. To their left, a group of 13 trophies, 10 small and three larger ones for top finishers, were waiting.

Family members, teachers and other supporters gathered at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis to attend the event, presided over by Judge Clayton Greene Jr.

Each was tasked to write a 3-5 minute essay inspired by the poem, "Myself," written by

British-born American poet Edgar Albert Guest and published in 1931.

Three contest judges would then score speakers based on development of theme, clarity, poise, projection and flow.

While a major message of the poem is self-respect, each of the youths was able to relate to Guest's words in his, or her, own unique way.

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## Knox Nets Career-High of 30 Points

By GREGORY GOINGS  
Bowie State University

FAIRMONT, W.Va. – Senior Cameron Knox (Baltimore, Md.) netted a career-high 30 points and Bowie State remains unbeaten on the road after edging Fairmont State by a score of 99-96. The victory improved Bowie State's record to 6-3 overall while the Falcons drop to 5-3 overall.

Four other Bulldogs scored in double figures as junior Andre Jackson (Baltimore, Md.) added 22 points and redshirt junior Miles Jackson (Silver Spring, Md.) with 13 points.

Senior Zafir Williams (Philadelphia, Pa.) and freshman Ahmaad Wilson (Baltimore, Md.) contributed 10 points each. Sophomore Tai Marshall (Atlantic City, N.J.) came off the Bowie State bench to grab a team and personal season-high five rebounds.

"This was a big road win and big regional win for us against a tough team", said Bowie State sixth year head coach Darrell Brooks. "We did a great job offensively because they score so much, you

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## Holiday Safety - Christmas Trees & Decorations

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS Dept.

With the Christmas Holiday fast approaching many decorations have been selected and are being prepared for enjoyment. Bright lights will illuminate homes and decorations inside will soon be on display and for season's greetings. Live and cut Christmas trees have been or soon will be selected and decorated with a variety of lights, tinsel and other traditional and personal items. The men and women of the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department are providing some good common-sense safety tips to help keep you safe.

Once again we are partnering with the United States Fire Administration (USFA) in providing these safety tips for the care of your tree to help avoid a tragedy.

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and



PHOTO COURTESY THE PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

the USFA, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in an average of 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage per year.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help en-

sure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

### CHRISTMAS TREES

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

### Dry Tree vs. High Moisture Tree Fire

This dramatic clip illustrates what happens when fire touches a dry tree. Click here.

### Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and has probably dried out and is a fire hazard.

### Caring for Your Tree

Cut anywhere from 1 to 1 1/2 inches off of the tree trunk and immerse in a full basin of water. Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop

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## Maryland Horse History Trail Receives Tourism Award

By PRESS OFFICER  
MD Horse Industry Board

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The state's first horse history trail, established and spon-

land Tourism and Travel Summit last week in Ocean City. The horse history trail won in the category of best small project costing \$5,000 or less.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Horse History Trails Team (from left): Ellen Moyer, Angela Reynolds, Ross Peddicord and Margaret Worrall

sored by the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), a program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture, received the "Best Product or Event" Award of 2014 at the annual Mary

The idea for establishing a horse history trail was conceived by the MHIB's Horse History Committee to show-

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## INSIDE

### EXELON Commits to PEPCO Charities

Philanthropies were initially concerned that management changes would affect Pepco's commitment to non-profits. But Exelon has issued assurances that the company will remain committed to Pepco's 2013 level of philanthropic giving.

Community, Page A3

### Needed: A True Diversity Map for America

Sometimes childhood experiences motivate a lifetime of extraordinary work. That is certainly true for Georgetown University Law School professor and bioethicist Patricia King, a brilliant scholar and one of the most effective leaders you may not know.

Commentary, Page A4

### WebstauranStore Opens Western Maryland Distribution Center, Plans to Add 150 Jobs

WebstauranStore formed in Lancaster, Pa. in 2004. The online retailer provides food service professionals with restaurant equipment, cookware, janitorial supplies, consumable products, and other necessities for the restaurant industry.

Business, Page A5

### Movie Review: "Horrible Bosses 2"

The follow-up to the 2011 hit comedy "Horrible Bosses" reunites Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as everyone's favorite working stiffs: Nick, Dale and Kurt. Jennifer Aniston, Jamie Foxx and Kevin Spacey also reprise their "Horrible Bosses" starring roles, while Chris Pine and Christoph Waltz star as new adversaries.

Out on the Town, Page A6

### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you have any tips for helping me get my kids involved in environmental protection advocacy?

—Jeanine Black,  
Charlotte, NC

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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Remembering 25 years ago when a favorite eatery shut its doors

December 2, 1989, one o'clock in the afternoon, marks the day and hour the Hot Shoppes Cafeteria in Marlow Heights closed. Forever.

That was 25 years ago, but I still remember driving by at the time and seeing TV vans and reporters out front and wishing I'd gone in for one last serving of liver-and-onions. Blockbuster later occupied that site; today it's Scrub Pro Uniform.

The Hot Shoppes chain was born the summer of 1927 with a nine-stool root beer stand on 14th St. N. W., near Park Road. As time went on, there were Hot Shoppes drive-ins, Hot Shoppes restaurants and, finally, Hot Shoppes cafeterias. During the 1960s there were 70 Hot Shoppes, 31 of them in the Washington area.

In 1989, the Marriotts began to phase them out. The cafeteria in Marlow Heights was the last one to go. I miss it still.

### Pray the New Year in

Welcome 2015 with a New Year's Eve Retreat, Dec. 31, at Loyola on the Potomac, a Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, Md. I've been twice and hope to go again this year.

The retreat begins with dinner on New Year's Eve, followed by a time of prayer and quiet reflection, led by Fr. Frank Kaminski, S.J. Mass at 11 p.m. precedes a lavish midnight social.

Spend the night in your private room and rise to brunch before departing on Jan. 1. The fee is \$95. You don't have to be Catholic to participate; you'll love it, no matter what. For reservations or information, call 301-392-0800.

### Baby Pleasant

Somali and Jocelyn Fuller, of Morningside, have welcomed their first grandchild, Autumn Chase Pleasant, born Sept. 21, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Little Autumn is the precious daughter of Ariel and Colin Pleasant, also of Morningside.

### Neighbors

Maria De Graba, daughter of former Morningside Councilwoman Carol Kline De Graba, is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, majoring in psychology. She has been accepted into the Disney College internship program. She'll spend her spring semester as an intern at Walt Disney World, and will sing with an a cappella group which performs at Downtown Disney.

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department responded to four fires in the four days over Thanksgiving weekend. They included fires in the 4300 block of Maple Road and 5800 block of Suitland Road. They also had a serious motor vehicle accident Nov. 29 on Suitland Parkway at Meadowview Drive. They're all volunteers and they work hard!

I have just returned from a weekend in Garden City, N.Y., with my daughter Elaine. We were there to watch her daughter Rose, a dance major at Adelphi University, perform. The show was excellent and Rose danced beautifully.

### Still I Rise Center opens

The Still I Rise Women's Wellness Center Inc. opened officially with dedication on Dec. 6. It is a non-profit community-based organization for women and teenage girls with a mission to provide a safe and nurturing environment where women and teenage girls have an opportunity to heal their hurts through faith-based outreach programs and support services. The Center is at 9015 Woodyard Road, Suite 204, in Clinton and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call 301-868-4903.

### May they rest in peace

I have just learned of the death of Agnes Barber, one of Skyline's first and longest residents. I'll pay tribute to this lovely woman in next week's column.

Clarence M. "Butch" Gates, Sr., 83, owner and operator of

Gates Automotive of Fort Washington for more than 50 years, died Dec. 8. He was the husband of the late Marjorie Gates, father of five sons, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary's Piscataway with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Donald Keith Pumroy Ph.D., professor emeritus of the University of Maryland education school's psychology program, died June 1 at his home in Hyattsville. His house was legendary as a site for welcoming parties, holidays, ceremonies and gatherings, especially for the graduate students in the psych program. With his wife Shirley, who died before him, he wrote "Modern Childrearing: a Behavioral Approach" (1978). They shared a private practice in Hyattsville. In later years he started a practice in Heathsville, Va., where the family has an old farm on Hull Creek. He had a love of life, made it a point to eat whole grains, built a bicycle from a kit, left Hershey Kisses for bank tellers, volunteered with the Red Cross and helped clean up The Bay. He volunteered with his companion Judy Blumenthal at the Smithsonian, AMVETS, and as usher at Arena Stage. When he ushered, he wore his tux. He is sorely missed at Arena, and by so many.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to my grandson Michael Gallegos, Dec. 19; Ricky Nichols, Dec. 20; Evelyn McKeown, Dec. 21; Timothy Flaherty and former Morningside Mayor Irving Robinson, Dec. 22; Paul Ford and Russ Kyser, Dec. 23; Kendall Lanehart and former Morningside Councilman Ken Miller, Dec. 24.

A special greeting to those born on Christmas Day: Jean Nichols, Jason Tomlinson, Samantha Bowie, Christine Mucker and Loretta Hooe.

Happy anniversary to Bill and Betty Malkowski, their 62nd on Dec. 20; Ray and Betty Call, Dec. 20; and Pastor and Mrs. Kelvin McCune, their 29th on Dec. 21.



## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### NEW YEARS WATCH SERVICE

The guest speaker Pastor Stroman and the Men's Chorus of Clinton United Methodist Church will be celebrating New Year's Watch Service at Zion Wesley United Methodist Church December 31, 2014 at 9:30 PM. The church is located at 11500 Berry Road, Waldorf, Maryland.

### BODY RECALL

Body Recall at Clinton United Methodist Church will be held two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning on January 13, 2015. The church address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Office telephone number is 301-868-1281.

### HIDEAWAY HORSE CENTER

This is a full service equestrian facility that offers lessons in Jumpers, Hunt Seat, and eventing for children and adults, beginner through advanced. The facility also provide camps, horse sales, boarding, a horse lease program, and an after school program.

Hideaway Horse Center is located at 12301 Cross Road Trail Brandywine, Maryland. Visit [www.hideawayhorsecenter.com](http://www.hideawayhorsecenter.com) for more information.

### CHRISTMAS ON THE POTOMAC ICE

Ice featuring Frosty the Snowman is brought to life carved from over two million pounds of colorful ice January 1- January 4, 2015. You will be able to walk thru this classic story, slide down ice slides over two stories high and watch artisans as they create these frozen marvels in a special bonus area- The Frostbite Factory (a LIVE ice carving zone). It's all part of Christmas on the Potomac at Gaylord National Resort (\$).

The location is Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center 201 Water Front Street National Harbor, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-965-2000. Visit [www.christmasonthepotomac.com](http://www.christmasonthepotomac.com).

### SHOW PLACE ARENA

City of Praise Family Ministries presents New Year's Eve Celebration 2015, December 31, 2014 (Wednesday 7:00 PM) and

January 1, 2015 (Thursday January 1, 2015 12:30 AM). Come celebrate the ending of this year by bringing in 2015 with a prophetic word from Bishop Joel and Pastor Ylawnda Peebles. There will be special guests Mary Mary, J. Moss, Kevin LeVar and Janay Peebles. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland. You can purchase tickets via [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)!

### De SOUL CAFE'

The best kept secret Soul Food Cafe' is no longer a secret. Hours of operation are Tuesday thru Thursday 11:00 AM- 9:00 PM, Friday-Saturday 11:00 AM-10:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM -8:00 PM. Join us for Sunday Brunch 11:00 AM-3:00 PM. DeSoul Cafe' is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

DeSoul Cafe' have something to satisfy your palate from seafood to soul food. Call ahead 301-782-9752 for carry out orders. We also provide catering services. Come out and enjoy dinner with family or friends.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement regarding her vote opposing H.R. 3979, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

*"This National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) extends the authority the Administration is using to justify military action in Syria for an additional two years without explicit Congressional approval or debate. I cannot support a foreign policy to train and equip Syrian rebels and fight ISIS over the long-term absent a full debate and vote by Congress — that is our constitutional responsibility.*

*"I support provisions in this House-Senate agreement to help combat sexual assault in the military, and to provide a 1.0 percent pay increase and necessary resources for our service members and their families. Nonetheless, I could not vote for this NDAA. After more than a decade of war, it's time for a debate in Congress to reassure the American people and our military community about the best path forward."*

### Prince George's County Prepares for Wintry Mix Forecast for Our Area

LARGO, MD —Prince George's County crews will deploy early Wednesday morning in preparation for the wintry mix of rain and snow forecast for our area. Crews will monitor road conditions and, if necessary, treat the roadways with salt.

Forecasters are predicting rain to begin after midnight tonight and change to snow during the afternoon on Wednesday. It is possible that there will be a coating to an inch of snow accumulation before the precipitation ends in the early evening.

"County crews will be monitoring the roadways to ensure road conditions are safe for residents and travelers during the Thanksgiving holiday," said Darrell Mobley, Director of the Department Public Works and Transportation. "Motorists are encouraged to stay alert and drive slowly."

To report adverse road conditions, please call CountyClick at 311.

### Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away!

Prince George's County to launch new campaign for free spay and neuter surgeries

The Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division (AMD) has been awarded a \$49,580 grant through the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Spay and Neuter Grants Program to launch its "Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away" campaign - an initiative providing free spay and neuter surgeries to 365 dogs and cats in Prince George's County. Beginning in January 2015, residents interested in applying for a spay or neuter pet surgery may contact AMD to request an application, which will be reviewed by the Spay-A-Day campaign coordinator. Applicants will be notified of their application approval status by the coordinator.

In total, 51 applications were received for the 2015 Spay and Neuter Grants Program, and of those, AMD and 13 other local government facilities and animal welfare organizations were selected to



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

receive grants. "This is an exciting time for Prince George's County to receive this State grant, which allows us to spay/neuter a total of 365 cats and dogs at no cost to the pet owners. Spaying and neutering is the answer to dealing with the overpopulation of stray animals," said Rodney Taylor, Associate Director of the Animal Management Division.

AMD will use the campaign to promote spay/neuter services while educating dog and cat owners in areas designated through County Executive Baker's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) on the importance of having their pets undergo this important surgery. Special radio and print advertisements will promote key campaign messages including fighting pet overpopulation, reducing high animal shelter intake and euthanasia rates, and improving pet health. AMD will perform surgeries on 219 dogs and 146 cats and provide complementary rabies vaccinations, as needed, at the Spay Spot Clinic in the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro.

For more information about the "Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away" campaign, call (301) 780-7201.

### Winter Weather Precipitation - Prince George's County Reminds Residents to Prepare for Holiday Travel

Upper Marlboro, MD — The National Weather Service predicts a Winter Weather Advisory for several jurisdictions throughout the National Capital Region and surrounding Prince George's County. The advisory remains in effect Wednesday, November 26th from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., with the anticipation of snow accumulations 2 to 5 inches in the far northern and western suburbs of Washington and Baltimore. A coating up to an inch is expected near Interstate 95.

As the Holidays approach, residents and travelers are asked to remain vigilant to changing weather conditions and take necessary precautions. Thanksgiving is one of the most frequently traveled holidays, and the Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management reminds travelers to practice safe driving tips with the forecast of winter weather precipitation.

All residents are encouraged and reminded to stay informed and sign up for our new and improved notification system Notify Me Prince George's. The Office of Emergency Management will also keep you updated through Facebook, and Twitter accounts. Citizens can also access emergency notifications from neighboring jurisdictions around the Washington DC Metropolitan region by visiting [CapitalAlert.gov](http://CapitalAlert.gov).

If you must travel during the

Holiday: Remember to Winterize your Vehicle and stock it with Emergency Supplies:

- Check brakes, batteries and ignition systems.
- Ensure that your heater and defrost work properly
- Check oil, antifreeze levels and all fluids.
- Test windshield wipers
- Check lights and flashing hazards
- Consider snow tires or chains
- Maintain a full tank of gas
- Carry a winter storm survival kit: • Blanket; • Flashlights (batteries); • First-aid Kit; • Extra clothing; • Non-perishable foods/water; • Shovel/sand; • Jumper cables, tow rope, tools; • Trash bags, paper towels

Practice Safe Driving:

- Monitor roadways and weather conditions before your trip by listening to travel radio stations or by dialing 511 for information about traffic or roadways in Maryland.
- Allow extra travel time and drive defensively. (Precipitation on roadways may present additional challenges)
- Eliminate driving distractions, by avoiding the use of mobile devices.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained
- Monitor your speed and consider taking a slower approach during inclement weather or heavy traffic.
- Remember, slow down or move over for public safety vehicles and emergency equipment

Prince George's County residents are also reminded to utilize Prince George's County's CountyClick 311 system to obtain information about public services and to call 911 only in cases of emergency.

PG County Extends Application Deadline for the Local Development Council

Upper Marlboro, MD — Today, Prince George's County announced an extension of the application period for the Local Development Council, the body of citizens and elected officials that will advise the County on matters related to the MGM National Harbor gaming facility. Applications, which were previously due November 15, 2014, will now be due December 31, 2014.

According to State law, a Local Development Council (LDC) must be established in each jurisdiction where a gaming licensee is in operation.

This body, composed of 15 unpaid individuals, consults with the County on the development of a multiyear plan for the expenditure of local impact grant funds, reviews a master plan for the facility, and provides input in the development of a comprehensive transportation plan. In addition to three representatives from the General Assembly and one from MGM, the LDC will be composed of seven residents of communities and four representatives of businesses/institutions located in immediate proximity to the facility.

Information on the Local Development Council as well as the application can be found on the Local Development Council Website. Applications may also be downloaded by clicking here. Questions about the application process may be directed to Jennie Nevin at [JFNevin@co.pg.md.us](mailto:JFNevin@co.pg.md.us) or (301)-952-4724.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### IRS Pension Update: New Limits for 2015

Is it ever too late to plan for retirement? No, as long as you're willing to be thrifty and extend your working years and be mindful of your individual and employer-based retirement savings options. Building a successful, comfortable retirement depends on a variety of individual factors, including where you live, how long you plan to work, your health and your other investments and assets.

The IRS recently announced an update for your options, including cost-of-living adjustments that will give many taxpayers the advantage of putting more away during 2015. Here's a summary:

❑ **Regular contribution limits for 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal employee Thrift Savings Plan. Increased from \$17,500 (for tax year 2014) to \$18,000 (for tax year 2015).** The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 in these plans is increased from \$5,500 to \$6,000. Contribution deadline: Dec. 31.

❑ **Annual contribution limits, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).** For both traditional and Roth IRAs, the annual contribution limit is not subject to a cost-of-living adjustment and remains at \$5,500. The over-50 catch-up contribution amount is \$1,000. There are particular restrictions (<http://www.irs.gov/publications/p590/index.html>) based on income levels, workplace retirement plan coverage among other issues. Contribution deadline: April 15.

❑ **Higher 2015 income phase-out levels for traditional IRA contributions.** For singles covered by a workplace retirement plan, the 2015 cutoff is now increased to a modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$61,000 and \$71,000. The IRS website details other significant increases and updates in phase-out levels for married couples and singles.

❑ **Higher 2015 income phase-out levels for Roth IRA contributions.** The IRS website also updates higher phase-out levels for married and single taxpayers on its website. For married couples filing jointly, the 2015 level is now \$183,000 to \$193,000.

Here's what you can do if you're in your 50s and you haven't yet saved much for retirement:

❑ **Get qualified financial advice.** Organizations such as the Association for Financial Counseling Planning and Education (<http://members.afcpe.org/search>), Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards list qualified financial advisors, and your state CPA society can suggest tax professionals in your area.

❑ **Budget and downsize.** Want to retire? Start living like a retiree while you're still working. Most experts believe late starters (50 and over) need to put away at least 10 percent of gross income to start making headway. Create a realistic budget, trim debt and consider cheaper housing, transportation and lifestyle options.

❑ **Take advantage of "catch-up" contribution limits.** Retirement savers over the age of 50 have the option to put more away not only in traditional and Roth IRAs but also 401(k) plans — not including SIMPLE 401(k)s, 403(b) plans, SARSEP and 457(b) plans (see Annual contribution limits, IRAs above).

❑ **Keep working...strategically.** If you're lucky, you love your work or are in a position to change careers to one with better retirement savings options. If so, consult an expert on ways to keep earning and investing effectively.

Bottom line: The government's cost-of-living adjustments will allow you to save more for retirement in 2015, but don't wait until then to evaluate your goals to set — or reset — your retirement planning going forward.



### EXELON Commits to PEPCO Charities

By Yevgeniy Trapeznikov  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — Local charities are looking forward to continued support from Pepco, the region's oldest utility provider, even as state authorities review a proposed merger with Chicago-based utility Exelon.

Philanthropies were initially concerned that management changes would affect Pepco's commitment to non-profits. But Exelon has issued assurances that the company will remain committed to Pepco's 2013 level of philanthropic giving.

That is good news for charities throughout the region.

"I look forward to watching our Pennies for Patients program surpass the million dollar mark," said Beth Gorman, executive director for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, speaking of one of her organization's regional projects. "With Pepco's help and commitment I know that we'll be able to get there."

#### Safety from A1

or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Thoroughly inspect all electrical wires on decorations. If a wire is cracked or frayed — dispose of it immediately and purchase a new set.

#### Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dis-

pose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

month and replace batteries at least once-a-year.

Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor stated, "The common denominator with all of the holiday events and religious celebrations is for everyone to keep safety in mind to ensure everyone goes home."

Having a working smoke alarm and a practiced home escape plan improves the chances of surviving a home fire by over 50%.

Plain and simple working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives!!! Everyone should be protected by a working smoke alarm and, if needed, a working carbon monoxide alarm as well. If you need a

month and replace batteries at least once-a-year.

pose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

#### Everyday Protection - Smoke and CO Alarms

An everyday of the year reminder to have working smoke alarms and if needed, a carbon monoxide detector, in your home to protect you, your family and visitors. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, primarily outside of sleeping areas and if you sleep with your bedroom door closed; install a working smoke alarm inside of your bedroom as well. Test all alarms monthly on the first day of the

there. And Exelon's support to what we have been doing is just going to continue," said Debbi Jarvis, Pepco's vice president of Corporate Citizenship and Social Responsibility.

Gorman said she would like to see the partnership with Pepco expand.

Each year about 20 local high schools compete against one another in a fundraising effort as part of the Pennies for Patients program.

"In fact, our two top high schools typically come from the Maryland area," said Gorman, adding that out of all the participating institutions, Walt Whitman and Walter Johnson high schools each raised more than \$80,000 this year.

The society's goal for the program in the upcoming season, which lasts January through April, is \$900,000.

Pepco became involved with the program three years ago, Gorman said.

In addition to a direct contribution of about \$45,000 a year, Pepco has provided a summer

internship to one student from the school that raises the most money, Jarvis said.

\*Separate from its charitable activities, Exelon also plans to invest billions in its current utility business.

\*\*Over the next five years, Exelon alone on the utility side of the business will be investing \$16 billion in the communities we serve," said Chris Crane, Exelon's CEO, speaking during an October event in Washington.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the proposed merger of Exelon Corporation and Pepco Holdings last Thursday.

The company is now awaiting approvals on the deal from public utility commissions in the district, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.

According to the Maryland Public Service Commission, the next set of hearings where public comments about the merger will be heard are scheduled for January.

smoke alarm and can not afford to purchase one on your own, call 311 and make arrangements to have a firefighter visit your home and install a working smoke alarm, free of charge.

Carbon Monoxide detectors should be purchased by the homeowner and installed on every level of your home.

The Fire/EMS Department strongly encourages residents to purchase and install 10-year smoke alarms and install one on every level of your home, outside of sleeping areas and inside of bedrooms. Combination 10-year smoke and CO alarms are also available at most home improvement stores.

#### Offenders from A1

"Anyone who has a conscience will remember the hurtful things they have done to others. I think this is what the poem means by 'I don't want to stand with the setting sun, and hate myself for things I've done,'" said Jeff, a 17-year-old from Green Ridge Youth Center in Allegany County. Contestants' last names are not being published, at the request of officials, because they are juvenile offenders.

"I think about the bad things I've done before I go to sleep at night and I have regrets. ... I want to be able to like myself, so in the future I will make different choices. I want to stand with the setting sun at the end of my life and respect myself for the things I've done.

Jeff's father came to the competition to hear the speech. He said this was the first time he felt proud to come to court in support of his son.

A few teens spoke about getting involved with selling or doing drugs; one shared his memory of being incarcerated on his 16th birthday.

Another speaker acknowledged that his reason for wanting to change was to be a better father to his young son.

"They thought a great deal about this poem and what it meant to them," said Greene.

"I thought it was wonderful that these young folks had an opportunity to think about where they are in their lives, mistakes that they've made, ways in which they can overcome their mistakes ... and where they'd like to be and what they'd like to do in the future."

The Department of Juvenile Services is an executive agency



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DANI SHAE THOMPSON.  
A teen reads his speech at the Department of Juvenile Services' oratorical contest for the Court of Appeals in Annapolis.

tasked with supervising the treatment of youths who enter the juvenile justice system in Maryland.

"This competition fits right in with their curriculum in school—their writing skills, learning to speak well and present," said Eric Solomon, Department of Juvenile Services spokesman.

"And then deeper, they are learning to analyze someone's poem and internalize it with their own story. I think that's the best rehabilitation there is."

The Department of Juvenile Services provides other developmental opportunities for young offenders.

Facilities offer instruction in woodworking, screen-printing and ceramics. Some teens also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Solomon said.

"We try to get them involved with a lot of things so they can see not just what's inside their facilities—but what's outside," Solomon said. The oratory contest falls in line with this part of the Department of Juvenile Services' mission.

Although Greene made sure to emphasize his congratulatory

remarks were for all 13 participants, who would each take home a small trophy for making it to this level, there would be only one winner.

This year, that winner was 17-year-old Wayne from Baltimore, who related Guest's poem to that of Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

"I see worth in myself. A young man who can change. Making that change means my thinking has to change," Wayne said in his speech.

"I don't want to be a self-made carbon copy of what peo-

ple think I am because I am caged. My mind is not caged."

Although he was excited to win, Wayne was not entirely surprised.

"I was confident when I came because I was born with the gift of gab," Wayne said.

"I had the mindset that I would win."

He was also quick to thank his schoolteachers for helping him practice and perfect his winning speech.

Almost as quickly as this group of strangers came together to share some of their most vulnerable feelings and experiences, they left to go back in their separate directions—back to their detention facilities to serve the remainder of their sentences.

Whether their inspirational, hopeful, motivational speeches will translate into real actions is up to them.

"As I told (the kids), success just doesn't happen. You have to work for success. You have to be prepared, you have to be determined, you have to be disciplined—and there has to be an opportunity," said Greene.

"And today was their opportunity to shine."



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DANI SHAE THOMPSON.  
A teen receives a trophy for his participation in the Department of Juvenile Services' oratorical contest at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis.

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# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin, Mikulski, Delaney Announce Almost \$43,000 In Federal Funding To Foster Job Creation In Western Maryland

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara A. Mikulski along with Congressman John Delaney (all D-Md.) today announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded a \$42,780 federal grant to Allegany Community College, also called the Allegany College of Maryland (ACM), for the ACM Automotive Technology Workforce Development. The program will serve 25 businesses and enroll 25 students and 15 workers in the first year.

*"To maintain our position as the world's strongest economy we need to continue to educate and train the American workforce," said Senator Cardin. "This investment by ARC will directly support more than a dozen new jobs today, and, by educating more than two dozen students, even more family-wage jobs tomorrow. I will continue to work in the Senate to fund this kind of innovative, job creating, public-private partnership."*

*"This grant is jobs, jobs, jobs in Western Maryland," Senator Mikulski said. "The ACM Automotive Technology Workforce Development program will forge public and private partnerships between students, educational institutions and local businesses. Together, they'll create new jobs, train the next generation for jobs tomorrow and grow Western Maryland's economy."*

*"I'm happy to congratulate Allegany College of Maryland on receiving a workforce development grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission," said Congressman Delaney. "This grant helps to ensure that students at ACM receive a*

*state-of-the-art education, investing in an institution that has helped to prepare generation after generation of Marylanders for success in the workforce. As we search for ways to strengthen our economic competitiveness, I'm proud to see ARC and ACM helping us meet the challenge of training the future of the American workforce."*

Allegany Community College offers two-year and one-year career path courses of study in Automotive Technology. The program will serve 25 businesses and will enroll 25 students and 15 workers in the first year. The funding will also assist the college in purchasing state-of-the-art equipment for use in both the one-year certificate and two-year degree training programs. The equipment to be ordered in a combination of the diagnostic and repair tools found in modern auto service centers and simulators that provide students experience with several types of systems that are typically not available for training purposes. Following the updates, the college will be better able to prepare new workers and upgrade the skills of those already in the workforce.

In addition to ARC funds, local sources will provide \$42,780, bringing total funding for the project to \$85,560.

Senators Cardin and Mikulski have been leading supporters of the ARC Commission in the U.S. Senate. In recognition of his support of regional economic development and the ARC, Senator Cardin received the 2012 Congressional Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia.

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### 10-Point Justice Plan: National Urban League Police Reform and Accountability Recommendations

*"...a country's conscience sometimes has to be triggered by some inconvenience, because I think a lot of people who saw the Eric Garner video are troubled, even if they haven't had that same experience themselves, even if they're not African American or Latino."*

— President Barack Obama in an interview with BET Networks this week

The phenomenon we have seen in America since the announcement of the non-indictments of officers in the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner is new to a generation, but not to the nation. Young people have always helped to fuel historic social change. We must not forget — 50 years ago, it was young people on that bridge in Selma, Alabama; young people riding Freedom buses all over this nation challenging conventional laws and the status quo; and young people like Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney losing their lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi. A multicultural band of young people, united with historic civil rights organizations, legislators, clergy, and everyday Americans who decided that it was time for our country to do better and be better, have been the impetus for so many of the changes we've witnessed as a nation through the decades.

Millions of Americans have now taken to the streets and to social media not because the problems that have caused the outrage just began yesterday, but because sometimes difficult circumstances present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring about historic change. Now is that time. Now is our time.

This conversation and the subsequent action that will result from it will continue because we remain committed to the idea that these cases — Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Akai Gurry, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Marlene Pinnock and others — do not end where they are. In addition to the opportunity for the Justice Department to conduct independent investiga-

tions, we each have an opportunity to participate in our great democracy by helping to ensure that the America of tomorrow is better than who we are today.

For our part, the National Urban League has developed the following 10-Point Justice Plan for Police Reform and Accountability. We believe that these action steps will be a major step forward in helping to repair police-community relations in cities across America, in significantly reducing inappropriate use of excessive force by law enforcement, particularly against unarmed citizens and in holding police accountable for misconduct:

1. Widespread Use of Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras
2. Broken Windows Reform and Implementation of 21st Century Community Policing Model
3. Review and Revision of Police Use of Deadly Force Policies
4. Comprehensive Retraining of All Police Officers
5. Comprehensive Review and Strengthening of Police Hiring Standards
6. Appointment of Special Prosecutors to Investigate Police Misconduct
7. Mandatory, Uniform FBI Reporting and Audit of Lethal Force Incidents Involving All Law Enforcement
8. Creation and Audit of National Database of Citizen Complaints against Police
9. Revision of National Police Accreditation System for Mandatory Use by Law Enforcement to Be Eligible for Federal Funds
10. National Comprehensive Anti-Racial Profiling Law

We know the problems before us — now let's work towards solutions.

## The National Archives and Records Administration



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA; COUTESY NARA

### THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) invites individuals, families, and tours and community groups to discover our nation's archival heritage in the Washington, DC area and at our nationwide facilities. Established in 1934, NARA serves as the official repository for all federal records judged to be of enduring value. Its holdings date from the 18th century to the present and include the famous Charters of Freedom—the original Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. National Archives in College Park, Maryland, 8601 Adelphi Rd, College Park, MD 20783

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Needed: A True Diversity Map for America

Sometimes childhood experiences motivate a lifetime of extraordinary work. That is certainly true for Georgetown University Law School professor and bioethicist Patricia King, a brilliant scholar and one of the most effective leaders you may not know. She's spent forty years at Georgetown Law School and has long been involved in higher education leadership. A graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts and Harvard Law School, she's served on both institutions' governing bodies as a member of the Harvard Corporation and the first woman, first African American, and first alumni to chair the Wheaton College Board of Trustees. Earlier this year she gave the Faculty Convocation Address at Georgetown University and spoke movingly about her "life of learning," explaining that her passions for education and health that have shaped her professional life—and her perspective—are rooted in her segregated childhood in Norfolk, Virginia in the 1940s and 1950s.

She and her sister were raised by their single mother, and their world mostly revolved around the all-Black neighborhood where they lived in a public housing development. Health care was one of the few needs that occasionally took them out of their community, and the mixed-race clinics where Blacks were clearly treated as second-class patients provided some of her most traumatic childhood experiences with segregation and racism. One of her strongest memories is of the public health facility where her family was required to get regular screenings for tuberculosis. Black patients always had to wait longer, and there was no privacy or separation for Black men and women asked to wait half-dressed in their segregated waiting room. She found this especially humiliating as a pre-teen and experiences like this helped spur her lifelong interest in the intersection of race and health and the inequitable treatment of members of some groups.

They also helped her realize early on that she wanted to get out of the segregated South. Although she was a strong student and valedictorian of her class, she had no idea how she might be able to make it to college until

her senior physics teacher took her under his wing. He brought her the paperwork to register for the SAT and achievement tests needed for college applications, and when she explained she couldn't afford the test fees — by then her mother was working three jobs just to keep the family afloat — he wrote a check himself and put her in contact with the National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, an organization that matched Black students with colleges willing to provide them financial aid. She was accepted to Wheaton, a small women's liberal arts college in Massachusetts. Her trip to the quiet New England campus was her first time out of Virginia.

Wheaton paved the way for her later success and was also the place where, she said, "I began to understand that real diversity can't just be cosmetic. Real diversity is about affording all community members the respect and dignity they deserve." She experienced being encouraged by an adviser to apply for a summer camp job where Black students were hired only as busboys or maids and being required to take train trips to visit Boston museums as part of an art history class — extra expenses not covered by financial aid or her own means.

Worst, she said, was how often she was simply made to feel like an outsider, without ever receiving recognition or welcome for having a different perspective.

At Harvard Law School, all of the "micro aggressions" she'd felt in college because of race and class were compounded even more as one of the small minority of women law students. She explained, "Being marginalized in multiple ways was unbelievably hard. Years after I graduated from Harvard, Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, another Harvard Law grad, wrote a brilliant article which put a name — intersectionality — on the problem that I experienced. In her article, Professor Crenshaw explains that 'the intersectional experience may be greater than the sum of racism and sexism.' Each of us enjoys a mix of privileges and burdens that overlay in complex ways. This truth simply highlights the dedication and nuance with which institutions have to engage with real, deep diversity in order to change."

Now Patricia King is in positions where she is able to help institutions engage with diversity and make those changes happen. She says that "it takes a lot of

See WATCH, Page A12

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### How To Keep That Holiday Party From Becoming A Holiday Disaster

If the holiday season brings office parties and social events that have you feeling nervous or fearful, you're not alone. We've all heard of office parties where a few drinks led to a terrible outcome, or that family gathering where a relative decided to tell everyone just what he or she really thought of them.

But holiday parties needn't be disasters. A little planning and common sense can help ensure that an upcoming event is a good time for you, not something to feel anxious about or avoid altogether.

For starters, do go to that event, whether it's an office party, neighborhood gathering or a family get-together. It's good for your reputation to make an appearance, even if you just show up early, stay for a short time, thank your host and leave. That's better than being a no-show, and there's always the chance that you might enjoy yourself and want to stay.

The most important tip is to avoid alcoholic drinks, the major factor in most holiday party disasters. Even one or two drinks can affect your judgment and have you saying or doing something you'll later regret. Have a juice or soft drink (cola or club soda looks like a mixed drink) and stay in control.

Planning ahead can also lessen the stress of holiday parties. Instead of worrying about what you'll wear, ask others how they're dressing. If there's a gift exchange, ask what gifts or dollar values are appropriate, and avoid gag gifts that can be embarrassing.

Even the most sober of partygoers can cause problems with critical and negative comments. Inevitably, those comments will get repeated to all the wrong people. A holiday party is a time to enjoy, not vent frustrations about work or other people.

Lastly, make sure to use common sense and courtesy. Don't overdo it at the buffet table. Be sure to thank your host or hosts. And avoid problem people who might be there. If there's someone with whom you always clash, spend your time instead with people you enjoy. If someone tries to start an argument with you, simply refuse to respond and excuse yourself politely.

Holiday invitations shouldn't trigger fear or anxiety. They should be enjoyable events, even if you feel "required" to attend. Simply plan on staying sober and being sociable and polite and you may find that your "dreaded" holiday party is actually a pleasant experience.

*Counseling Corner* is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

### Tourism from A1

case Maryland's proud equine heritage that spans nearly 400 years and to inventory the historic equine sites around the state. The trail was originally envisioned to be statewide, but there are so many sites, MHIB decided to establish several trails in various counties or regions. This first trail that won the award is called "Horses At The Beach" and showcases 11 historic equine sites in Worcester and lower Wicomico counties.

The "Horses at The Beach" project was spearheaded by Angela Reynolds, a member of MHIB's Horse History Committee and long active in the Ocean City-Berlin tourism industry. Ellen Moyer of Annapolis and Margaret Worrall of Cambridge, both equestrian historians, helped Reynolds with the project. All three were honored at the awards banquet last week.

"The history of horses in Maryland mirrors the history of the state," said Jim Steele, MHIB chair. "We greatly appreciate this award and particularly the efforts

of Angela Reynolds and her team."

MHIB contributed \$3,800 to establish a website ([www.MDHistoricHorseTrails.com](http://www.MDHistoricHorseTrails.com)), accompanying brochure and display materials for the trail. Other partners offering support and ideas were the Worcester County Office of Tourism, the Town of Berlin and the Maryland Historical Society.

This first trail serves as a template for other similar trails currently being developed, including one in Southern Maryland, the Annapolis area, Baltimore City, and the Preakness Trail. It is the second year that a product conceived and established at MDA received this award. The winner last year was MDA's "Ice Cream Trail."

Winners in the larger divisions were the Delmarva Chicken Festival and the City of Frederick's War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Celebration.

For further information concerning the Horse History Trail, contact MHIB Executive Director Ross Peddicord at 410-841-5798 or [ross.peddicord@maryland.gov](mailto:ross.peddicord@maryland.gov).

## WebstaurantStore Opens Western Maryland Distribution Center, Plans to Add 150 Jobs

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley joined with Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Director Matthew Diaz to announce that WebstaurantStore, the largest online supplier of food service equipment, is opening a distribution facility in Western Maryland. The company has purchased a 525,000 square-foot space in Cumberland which will become its second distribution location on the East Coast.

As part of the company's expansion into Maryland, WebstaurantStore plans to create 150 new jobs in the next two years. To assist with project costs, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) is providing a \$300,000 conditional loan through the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF). Additionally, Allegany County is offering a \$30,000 conditional loan to the

company on the same terms as the State.

"Our investments in education, innovation, and infrastructure get results: they create jobs, spur innovation, and provide the most competitive, highly-skilled workforce in the nation," said Governor O'Malley. "More and more fast-growing companies like WebstaurantStore are setting up operations in Maryland to take advantage of our dynamic economic climate that fosters business to growth. We welcome WebstaurantStore and look forward to seeing their business expand and grow in our great State."

"Along with my fellow Commissioners, Crede Brodie and Bill Valentine, we are delighted to have a company like WebstaurantStore locate in Allegany County," said Allegany County Commissioner President Michael W. McKay. "As Commissioners, we work daily to promote job growth and the redevelopment of properties that will allow our tax base to grow."

"This will prove to be a great win for not only Allegany

County, but the entire region. Projects like this show the importance of tax credit incentive programs such as the Enterprise Zone and One Maryland," said Director Diaz. "Without these programs and a true partnership with our friends at DBED, these projects would be extremely hard to make happen."

"We are happy to be opening a distribution center in Cumberland. The State and County worked together to put together an attractive incentive for bringing jobs to Western Maryland," said Dave Groff, President of WebstaurantStore. "Our company is excited to commence operations in Cumberland and looks forward to being part of the community for many years to come."

WebstaurantStore formed in Lancaster, Pa. in 2004. The online retailer provides food service professionals with restaurant equipment, cookware, janitorial supplies, consumable products, and other necessities for the restaurant industry. Known as the leading restaurant supply store, the company currently has three other distri-

bution centers in the country, located in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Nevada. WebstaurantStore's parent company, Clark Associates, employs over 900 people and was recently named one of Central Penn Business Journal's fastest growing companies.

### About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org).

## Maryland Casinos Generate \$90.2 Million in Revenue During November

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced November 2014 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos – Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. November 2014's combined statewide revenue totaled \$90,170,865.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$6,162,925 from both slot machines and table games in November. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$149.93 for slot machines, \$2,352.56 for banking table

games and \$358.53 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's November 2014 revenue decreased by \$457,581, or 6.9%, from November 2013. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 1,158 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$23,371,051 from both slot machines and table games in November. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$171.99 for slot machines, \$2,694.74 for banking table games and \$1,027.22 for non-banking table games. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,500 slot machines and 145 (120 banking and 25 non-banking) table games. The casino opened to the public in August 2014.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$53,779,355 from both slot

machines and table games in November. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$258.52 for slot machines, \$4,672.79 for banking table games and \$1,357.23 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's November 2014 revenue increased by \$356,514, or .7%, from November 2013. Maryland Live Casino operates 4,185 slot machines and 189 (137 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$3,336,323 in November, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$139.01. Casino at Ocean Downs' November 2014 revenue decreased by \$132,052, or 3.8%, from November 2013. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$3,521,211 from

both slot machines and table games in November. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$167.55 for slot machines, \$1,332.08 for banking table games and \$357.07 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap's November 2014 revenue increased by \$192,553, or 5.8%, from November 2013. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 577 slot machines and 17 table games (15 banking and 2 non-banking).

In a year-to-year comparison, November 2014 casino revenue increased from November 2013 by \$23,330,484, or 34.9%. In a comparison excluding Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, which opened in August 2014, year-to-year revenue decreased from November 2013 by \$40,567, or .06%.

## University of Maryland University College Repeats as Maryland Cyber Challenge Champions

By ROBERT LUDWIG  
UMUC

Students capture College Division, while team of faculty and alumni take Pro Division of premier Maryland cyber competition

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) last Wednesday swept two divisions of the Maryland Cyber Challenge for the second consecutive year, capturing first place in the College and Professional divisions of the premier Maryland cyber competition held at the annual Cyber Maryland conference in Baltimore.

"This is a tough competition and to beat many great teams just to get to the finals in the college and professional divisions is an amazing accomplishment," said Jeff Tjiputra, chair of UMUC's undergraduate cybersecurity program and academic advisor to the cyber competition teams. "We fielded four teams for this competition (two in each division) and all four made it to

the final round. That speaks to the quality of our teams."

The "capture the flag" competition required teams to score points by hacking into a server and planting a flag (i.e. a digital signature) in that server. In some cases, another team may have planted a flag on the server, so the new team must remove the first team's flag before planting their own. The team with the most points after a six-hour time period was declared the winner.

The UMUC team that captured the Professional Division title accumulated 10,025 points and finished ahead of the second place team by more than 5,000 points. Conversely, in a tight battle for the College Division crown, UMUC's Cyber Padawans claimed victory by being the only team to put points (1,025) on the board, penetrating the server and planting a single flag during the competition.

"Our hard work and dedication has paid off and once again we are the champions," said Wilbert Francis, captain

of the victorious UMUC collegiate division team and a master's degree student in the digital forensics and cyber investigation program. "The collegiate division was more challenging than previous years. However, through teamwork and perseverance we were able to pull off a win. I am really proud of our teams. And special thanks go to Professor Jeff Tjiputra, our coach and mentor. Today's win would not have been possible without his support."

Francis was joined on the winning College Division team by Thomas Burgin, Nathaniel Davis, and Kwasi Robinson. Richard Hidalgo competed in the qualifying rounds but could not attend the final round.

In the final round, UMUC defeated another team from UMUC as well as two teams from University of Maryland, College Park, two teams from University of Maryland Baltimore County and one team each from Towson University and George Mason University.

The champion UMUC Professional Division team was led by Matt Matchen, a UMUC alumnus and systems engineer at Braxton Grant Technologies. Other members included Daniel Coyne, Rob Murphy, Mark Stevenson, Jeff Tjiputra and Jakob Truhlar. Tjiputra, the cyber competition program's coach, participated in the qualifying rounds but did not compete in the final round.

Matchen and Murphy were members of the UMUC Cyber Padawans team that recently captured the 2014 Global Cyberlympics championship, held in Barcelona, Spain.

"It was a bitter-sweet win," said Matchen. "I didn't enjoy the fact that I was competing against another UMUC team [the other UMUC team that reached the final round finished in third place], but I did notice at one point in the competition that UMUC teams held first and second place,

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Horrible Bosses 2”

*Horrible Bosses 2*

Grade: B

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity and sexual vulgarity, brief strong sexuality, comic violence

1 hr., 48 min

Understand: Nobody “needed” a sequel to *Horrible Bosses*. But that summer 2011 movie made \$209 million worldwide, which for a comedy means a sequel will be spawned automatically, whether anyone wants it or not. Fortunately, *Horrible Bosses 2* turns out to be another funny romp down the avenues of vulgarity, a success due largely to the unquenchable chemistry that has developed between its three stars.

This time around, Nick (Jason Bateman), Kurt (Jason Sudeikis), and Dale (Charlie Day) have set out to be their own bosses, launching a company to manufacture a bathroom gadget they’ve invented. The film opens with their appearance on a morning talk show to promote it, a sequence that relies heavily on an old sight gag but which is otherwise an apt reintroduction to the trio’s dynamics. Dale is sweating nervously and jabbering like an idiot; Kurt alternates between ogling women and enabling whatever nonsense Dale is up to; and Nick, the most sensible of the three, tries to preserve their dignity while maintaining a low-boiling exasperation with them (and with life itself).

The three get screwed over by an investor, catalog tycoon Bert Hanson (Christoph Waltz), and his jerky son, Rex (Chris Pine). Their financial ruin is imminent unless they can recoup \$500,000. If only



ROTTENTOMATOES

The follow-up to the 2011 hit comedy “*Horrible Bosses*” reunites Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as everyone’s favorite working stiffs: Nick, Dale and Kurt. Jennifer Aniston (“*We’re the Millers*”), and Oscar (R) winners Jamie Foxx (“*Ray*”) and Kevin Spacey (“*American Beauty*,” “*The Usual Suspects*”) also reprise their “*Horrible Bosses*” starring roles, while Chris Pine (“*Star Trek: Into Darkness*”) and Oscar (R) winner Christoph Waltz (“*Django Unchained*,” “*Inglourious Basterds*”) star as new adversaries standing between the guys and their dreams of success. (c) Warner Bros

they knew someone rich and loathsome whom they could kidnap and hold for ransom...

Like many comedy sequels, *Horrible Bosses 2* is as much a remake as it is a continuation. It has a different director (Sean Anders, of *Sex Drive* and *That’s My Boy*), and different writers (Anders and his regular collaborator John Morris), but many of the situations are replayed with slight variations. Jennifer Aniston’s sex-addicted dentist returns, only this time Bateman’s character falls for her, a great detail that makes Nick seem even more pathetic. Kevin Spacey’s bad boss is in prison, where the three stooges visit him for

business advice. Jamie Foxx is back as MF Jones, guiding our heroes through their life of crime as before, as bad at negotiating his fees as ever.

But despite the repetition (and there’s plenty of new material, too), *Horrible Bosses 2* works as a sophomoric dark comedy because of Bateman, Sudeikis, and Day’s fearless commitment to their characters’ short-sightedness and self-destruction. The group dynamics lead to consistently ripe comic scenarios. Dale is the manic idiot, Kurt is a little brighter but easily distracted, and Nick is “smart” yet ultimately pliable. There’s something inherently amusing about

three morons all accusing each other of being morons. Elsewhere, Waltz seems to be enjoying himself in the role of another smiling, merry villain, and Pine is surprisingly sharp as his son, wisely playing it seriously, the way a dramatic actor would.

This is all more or less how I felt about the first *Horrible Bosses*, too, so perhaps your feelings about one will match your feelings about the other. I, personally, laughed more at *Horrible Bosses* and *Horrible Bosses 2* than I did at all three *Hangover* films. What can I say? I’m a sucker for stories where bosses are murdered and/or kidnapped.

## Maryland Department of Planning to Run National Clearinghouse on Smart Growth

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Taps Department to Lead Information Dissemination

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Dept. of Planning

BALTIMORE, MD (December 5, 2014) - In a nation with ever-changing demographics and economic shifts, the challenges of planning for growth and development continue to require a comprehensive approach. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which funds a national smart growth website and network, this month awarded a grant to host and coordinate duties to the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

MDP staff, who applied for the grant last spring, assumed the role of hosting the national Smart Growth Information Clearinghouse and helping staff the Smart Growth Network immediately.

The comprehensive website provides a national repository of educational resources, funding opportunities, news and upcoming events to help state and local decision-makers better perform their jobs. MDP was chosen for its track record of developing and advancing smart growth and sustainable community planning in Maryland.

MDP staff will go beyond maintaining the Clearinghouse site to evaluate how to improve web functions and interactivity, extend outreach and marketing to new user groups and emphasize the quality of the user experience. This proposal seeks to build the functionality and overall success of the SGIC and Smart Growth Network (SGN) through a variety of strategies and channels.

The network serves as a unifying and information-sharing

resource for professional organizations, historic preservation advocates, developers, real estate interests and government representatives. EPA chose MDP after a national call for proposals for its wealth of experience in communications and outreach.



Happy Holidays

From all of us at

The Prince George's Post Newspaper

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### New NBA Union Chief Michele Roberts Slams the League’s Old Labor Practices



The labor movement slogans that have guided generations include “an injury to one is an injury to all” and “solidarity forever.” But my favorite—because it speaks most directly to strategy—is, “The best way to avoid a strike is to prepare for one.” In other words, bosses will only back down and blink if they survey your side and think that they can lose.

That is why anyone who cares about the rights of labor on the highest possible public platform has to be inspired by the recent comments of new NBA Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts. In an interview with Pablo Torre of *ESPN the Magazine*, Roberts took a step back from the decades of established labor practices that have governed sports and basically said, “This is bullshit.”

Because of various congressional shields and anti-trust exemptions, pro sports operate in a constitution-free zone, without the customary rights accorded in labor law. You get drafted to your city of work, a salary cap determines what you can make and, arbitrarily, you can be deemed not old enough to work.

Most of the sports media—not to mention fans—have either scoffed at or ignored these realities, saying that the exorbitant salaries—the NBA average is \$4.5 million a year—more than justify any hardships. But that does not change the fact that wages are artificially capped, with the supposed business geniuses that own NBA franchises protected from their own checkbooks like over-caffeinated teenagers. It does not change an accepted narrative that trickles down into the main vein of US life: that the bosses always know—and do—what’s best.

Michele Roberts took a blowtorch to this narrative, saying, “I don’t know of any space other than the world of sports where there’s this notion that we will artificially deflate what someone’s able to make, just because. It’s incredibly un-American. My DNA is offended by it.”

She also said that the current revenue split, where 50 percent goes to ownership, was ridiculous and would change when the players opt out of the current CBA—a CBA that shifted billions of dollars in wealth from players to owners—and renegotiates in 2017.

“Why don’t we have the owners play half the games?” Roberts said. “There would be no money if not for the players. Let’s call it what it is. There. Would. Be. No. Money.”

Every quote from Roberts is a gem, the sort of thing player and labor advocates have been saying on the margins for decades. Whether blasting the rookie wage scale, the “monopoly” practices of the league, or the hypocrisy of owners, she is reframing consecrated conventional wisdoms with a sandblaster.

Not surprisingly, NBA commissioner Adam Silver, who took a break from his recent campaign to get the owners a cut of the \$400 billion illegal gambling industry, released a statement blasting Roberts’s assertions.

“We couldn’t disagree more with these statements,” Silver said. “The NBA’s success is based on the collective efforts and investments of all of the team owners, the thousands of employees at our teams and arenas, and our extraordinarily talented players. No single group could accomplish this on its own. Nor is there anything unusual or ‘un-American’ in a unionized industry to have a collective system for paying employees—in fact, that’s the norm.... We will address all of these topics and others with the players association at the appropriate time.”

Make no mistake what this is about. The league is about to be engorged by television revenue, \$24 billion over six years, as live sports has become the tent pole of commercial television in our live streaming and DVR’d universe. Roberts is sending a shot across the bow that the owners will not be the primary beneficiaries of this broadcast bonanza and they will no longer, as she put it, “control the narrative.”

You don’t become the first woman elected to head a men’s sports union by playing nice. Adam Silver, a child of privilege from the New York City suburbs, should take note of Roberts, who has traveled from a housing project in the South Bronx to becoming a professor at Harvard and a high-powered attorney called “the finest trial lawyer in the nation.” “My past,” she told a room of NBA players, “is littered with the bones of men who were foolish enough to think I was someone they could sleep on.” If Adam Silver did not take Roberts seriously before, he had better start. In the new narrative, Silver and the owners have a debt to pay.

## Calendar of Events

December 18 — December 24, 2014

### Xtreme Teens: Christmas Social

Date and Time: Friday, December 19, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Dress up in your finest attire and get ready for the the Christmas Social! You'll dance with friends and sing along to the best holiday tunes.

Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center  
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

### Xtreme Teens: Cookie Decorating

Date and Time: Friday, December 19, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: The holidays are upon us. Spend it baking holiday cookies with friends; don't forget to bring your creative flair when decorating these delicious treats.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705

Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

### Xtreme Teens: Rolling into the Holidays

Date and Time: Friday, December 19, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Now, this is a fun way to enjoy winter break. Celebrate the close of the first half of the school year with a roller skating party.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3

Ages: 10-17

Location: Good Luck Community Center  
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham 20706

Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-445-4512

### Hansel & Gretel Tea Party

Date and Time: Saturday, December 20, 2014 2 pm  
Description: Visit Darnall's Chance when it is decorated like a gingerbread house to listen to the story of Hansel and Gretel! Tea and dessert will be served to get in the holiday spirit. Registration fee required for all attendees – children and adults. Capacity is limited; advance reservations and payment required

Cost: Resident \$17; Non-resident \$20

Ages: 5 & up

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: Winter Festival of Lights (Beltsville CC)

Date and Time: Saturday, December 20, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Celebrate the holidays with your Xtreme Teens family with a trip to the Winter Festival of Lights at Watkins Park! We will depart at 7 pm and will return by 10 pm. You must have your signed permission slip by a parent/guardian to attend this trip.

Please bring money for food.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705

Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

### Breakfast with Santa

Date and Time: Saturday, December 20, 2014 10 am-12 noon  
Description: Families will enjoy a memorable morning with Kris Kringle complete with festive findings, from a catered breakfast to live entertainment and other surprises reserved for the day.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Free: 3 & under; \$8/person (4-12);

\$10/person (13 & up)

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Suitland Community Center  
5600 Regency Lane, Forestville 20447

Contact: 301-736-3518; TTY 301-203-6030

### Xtreme Teens: Holiday Shopping

Date and Time: Saturday, December 20, 2014 5-10 pm  
Description: It's your last chance to get the best gifts. Join your fellow teens on a Holiday Shopping trip to the Tanger Outlets. Van departs at 5 pm and returns by 10 pm.

Please be sure to bring spending money and the signed permission slip by a parent/guardian.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Kentland Community Center  
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785

Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-445-4512

### Holiday Tea

Date and Time: Sunday, December 21, 2014 1:30 pm  
Description: See Montpelier decorated for the holidays and enjoy a prix fixe menu of seasonal cakes and pastries, fine finger sandwiches, buttery scones and a selection of two quality loose leaf teas, all served on china in Montpelier's elegant East Wing. Reservations and advance payment required.

Cost: \$29/person; \$25/Friends of Montpelier members.

Ages: 18 & up

Location: Montpelier Mansion  
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708

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

### Holiday Break Camps

Date and Time: Begins Monday, December 22, 2014  
Description: Kids home for the holidays? Sign them up for Holiday Break Camps! Choose from general arts and crafts, cheer-leading, basketball, dance and others.

For more information, flip to page 36 of Your Guide, then register with SMARTlink.

Cost: Varies

Ages: 5-16 years

Location: Various community centers

Contact: 301-699-CALL (2255); TTY 301-699-254-4301

## EARTH TALK ... Getting Kids Into Environmental Activism

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you have any tips for helping me get my kids involved in environmental protection advocacy?

— Jeanine Black,  
Charlotte, NC

There's no time like the present to teach kids to respect their environment and be willing to stand up to protect it. Of course, any good environmental education starts at home: parents should always keep in mind that they are role models for their kids, and should act responsibly. And most schools today incorporate issues of sustainability into their curricula. But kids who want to do more can sync up with one of any number of nonprofits focused on getting young people involved with volunteering and advocacy on behalf of the environment.

One of the best places to start is Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!), a nonprofit that runs a national speakers' and workshop tour around the U.S. and beyond as well as summer camps devoted to teaching kids how to take action on behalf of the environment. The group also runs JAMs, bringing together "young changemakers" from local communities to brainstorm ideas for solutions to local, national and international environmental problems. The YES! website features information on a wide range of environmental topics as well as videos focusing on organizing and coalition building around shared environmental goals.

Another great resource is the Center for Biological Diversity's Generation Wild program, designed to help kids learn about and help protect local wildlife. The program's website offers kids tips on things like how to write an effective and compelling "letter to the editor" for publication in a local newspaper, creating a backyard wildlife sanctuary, encouraging teachers and schools to undertake projects that help local wildlife, and spreading the word via social media.

Meanwhile, Earthforce, Inc. helps kids ages 10-14 develop citizenship skills and address both local and national environmental problems. Participants get hands-on, real-world opportunities to learn about the issues and develop skills that can help them become lifelong leaders in addressing them. Another leading youth environmental group is Tree Musketeers, which empowers kids to use innovative approaches in launching their own environmental campaigns where they live. Through its Young Executive program, the group provides resources to help kids learn the practical, logistical and personal skills to lead environmental actions and spread the word about the need to live more sustainable lifestyles.

Yet another nonprofit vehicle that helps kids get active is SustainUS, which focuses on sustainable development. Its Agents of Change program sends youth delegations to United Nations conferences on climate change, sustainable development, women's issues and biological diversity—and its



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Teen activists in Newton, Massachusetts show their true environmental colors at a presentation for the non-profit Green Decade/Newton. v

Lead Now Fellowship trains and supports young people in becoming leaders in advancing sustainable development.

Last but not least, TakingItGlobal is an international network of young people working to tackle global environmental challenges. Its Digital Youth Engagement, Global Education and Social Innovation programs focus on creating the next generation of environmental leaders around the world.

Young people can also get involved in environmental protection efforts right in their own

backyards even without the support of a non-profit. Examples include organizing a local e-waste recycling drive, asking schools and businesses in the area to refrain from using noxious chemicals for landscaping, and coordinating carpools to reduce traffic-related greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, kids can learn a lot by finding a local green group and volunteering to help canvass for funds, clean-up a beach or waterway, or lobby local officials to take sustainability into account. Indeed, our common future may well depend on it.

CONTACTS: YES!, [www.yesworld.org](http://www.yesworld.org); Generation Wild, [www.biologicaldiversity.org/youth](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/youth); Earthforce, [www.earthforce.org](http://www.earthforce.org); Tree Musketeers, [www.treemusketeers.org](http://www.treemusketeers.org); SustainUS, [www.sustainus.org](http://www.sustainus.org); TakingItGlobal, [www.tigweb.org](http://www.tigweb.org).

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### Knox from A1

have to score a lot of points ... Cam (Knox) carried us in the first half, cooling off a bit in the second half but his teammates picked him up in the second half."

Nick Harney (Cleveland, Ohio) paced the Falcons of Fairmont State with 26 points and tied for game-high rebound honors with six. Jamel Morris (Gahanna, Ohio) matched Morris' rebound total and tallied 21 points in the loss. Will Martinez (Gurabo, Puerto Rico) and Caleb Davis (Charlotte, N.C.) scored in double figures as well, adding 15 and 11 points respectively.

Both teams shot extremely well in the first half as Fairmont State hit 19-for-31 field goals, which included five 3-pointers

while Bowie State went 20-for-33 from the field which included seven 3-pointers.

Both teams shot over 50 percent from the floor, with the Falcons holding a slim advantage (56.7-54.0). FSU also held a 35-29 advantage on the glass and scored 44 points in the paint. Bowie State knocked down 10 three-pointers and scored 22 points off 18 FSU turnovers in the game. The Bulldogs also knocked down 21-of-27 free throw attempts in the victory.

Bowie State opened up an 11-point lead less than five minutes into the game, led by 11 points from Knox, to force a Fairmont State timeout. Following the timeout, FSU slowly chipped away at the lead and cut the advantage to just three after a Brandon Vega three at the 11:12 mark.

The score remained within six for the next 11 minutes of the half with five ties, including a 49-49 score at the half. Knox scored 22 points and Jackson chipped in 14 to lead BSU at the half. Harney and Morris each scored 11 for the Falcons in the opening half.

The second half score was within six for the first 16 minutes before the Bulldogs grabbed the largest advantage of the second half at the 4:02 mark (89-83). Fairmont State answered with an 8-2 run over the next two minutes to tie the game for the 14th times at 91-91. However, each time Fairmont State tied the game, Bowie State had an answer at the opposite end and never allowed the Falcons to take the lead the rest of the game. Following a Martinez missed free

throw with less than 25 seconds to play, the Falcons grabbed the offensive rebound and had two missed layups that could have tied the game.

With 8.8 seconds remaining, Knox was fouled and a pair of free throws put Bowie State ahead, 98-94. At the opposite end, FSU's Martinez was fouled going to the rack and cut the Bulldog lead to just two with 4.3 seconds remaining. Knox returned to the foul line for Bowie State and went 1-of-2 to give Fairmont State one more opportunity but a late turnover sealed the 99-96 victory for Bowie State.

The Bulldogs return home to take on the Tigers of Holy Family University – Wednesday (December 10) at 7 pm in Bowie State's A.C. Jordan Arena.

### Champions from A5

and that was nice to see.

"The competition was extremely challenging," Matchen added. "Particularly as time wore on and teams began to alter techniques to get into systems. The last two to three hours of the competition we were battling over flags on

three machines on which our flags were planted. One of the other teams managed to kick us off the box completely and supplant our flag with theirs.

"Not only was the competition tough, so was the game environment itself," Matchen continued. "We were hampered by the fact that there was no internet connection to be able to

download tools and that there were only two systems per team that could actively be used to attack the targets. In spite of these challenges, we managed to persevere and win."

Matchen concluded: "I'm thankful to my team who stuck with it to the very end and for their respective skill sets. Each member was invaluable as we

all worked together to accomplish our goal of winning."

Each member of the first-place team in the collegiate division won a \$5,000 scholarship cash prize, while members of the first-place team in the Professional division each won an IT certification voucher and a professional development kit.

### Consumers from A1

Brian E. Frosh, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, and numerous other elected officials and community members involved in consumer protection issues.

Speakers highlighted the use of Green Dot MoneyPak cards as an increasingly common way for scammers to take consumers' money, a so-called "Mystery Shopper Scam" that has been around for several years, and several alarming scams or crimes that have been reported in retail parking lots. The event also focused on providing consumers with holiday shopping tips regarding gift cards, return policies, and defective merchandise,

as well as advice on buying online, preventing identity theft and giving to charities.

The opening of the Prince George's County office gives the Consumer Protection Division a brick-and-mortar presence in the most populous region of the state. Prior to the new office's

in addition to its headquarters in Baltimore, the Division has satellite offices in Hagerstown and Salisbury staffed full-time, and outposts in Cumberland, Frederick and Hughesville that are staffed part-time.

Legislation to establish the Prince George's County office

*As shoppers head to stores and buy online, consumers need to be on guard  
New office in Largo will mediate complaints, provide volunteer opportunities*

opening, southern Prince George's County residents who wanted to file a consumer complaint in person had to travel all the way to Baltimore to do so.

passed unanimously in the Senate and with an overwhelming majority in the House of Delegates during the 2014 legislative session. The office is staffed by

two mediator supervisors and one administrative assistant, and can accommodate up to 20 volunteer mediators.

The Division handled more than 10,000 consumer complaints and recovered \$8.7 million for consumers in fiscal 2014 through mediation and enforcement action. The Division also educates the public about common scams, identity theft, landlord-tenant issues and more. Consumers who wish to file a complaint or want more information about the mediation process should call the consumer hotline at 410-528-8662 or 888-743-0023, or go to <http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer/complaint.htm>

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