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Tribute Wall honoree Navy Veteran Raymond Poole of Bowie shared stories from his service which included the Korean War and being elbowed several times at a crowded USO event by Joan Crawford.



State Sen. Douglas Peters who represents District 23 in Prince George's County, spoke on behalf of his wife for her father and his father-in-law Richard Kott. Kott served in the Coast Guard from 1946 to 1950 and then in the Air Force from 1953 to 1975.

Veterans Tribute Wall Ceremony Brings Stories of Love and Patriotism

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Aug. 12, 2019)—Storytelling took the spotlight as the military service of 21 men and women were celebrated at the sixth annual Unveiling of the Veterans Tribute Wall held Aug. 8 on the Hospice of the Chesapeake's John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena.

Each of these veterans is now represented on the Veterans Tribute Wall which hangs in the Chesapeake Bay Room in the administrative building on the campus. The wall features photos of veteran patients during their Honor Salutes, a ceremony recognizing and thanking them for their service

"It has taught me that the end can be just as emotional and beautiful as the beginning."

to our country. It is a rare treat that a living veteran is able to participate in the unveiling of his own Honor Salute photo during the event, but this year, there were two such honorees: World War II Army Veteran John Hennen of Pasadena and Korean War Navy Veteran Raymond Poole of Bowie.

During the event, guests first enjoyed dinner donated by Cafe Mezzanotte, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Harris Teeter, Mission BBQ and Safeway followed by a moving ceremony that included Honor Salutes from active duty service members led by Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin

"Jake" Higginbotham, the Defense Intelligence Agency's command senior enlisted leader at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Higginbotham also reflected on his own experience performing dozens of Honor Salutes, saying that the largest impact he felt through the program was his perspective on life, changing the way he views both life and death. "It has taught me that the end can be just as emotional and beautiful as the beginning."

There also were messages from retired Navy Chaplain Wayne Bumbry, President and CEO Ben Marcantonio and the evening's master of ceremonies, retired

Navy Capt. Bill Malicki. Haley Marcussen, a member of the nonprofit performance group, the Voices of Vets, Inc., sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America."

Most moving of all, though, were the words of love and pride that came from the family members who attended the event, as they remembered their loved ones and shared poignant stories of how their parent, sibling or spouse had served. The unveiled photos will replace the photos that have been on display since last year. The photos from 2018 will be given to the family of each of the honored veterans.



Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin "Jake" Higginbotham, the Defense Intelligence Agency's command senior enlisted leader at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, shared reflections of his experience performing Honor Salutes for Hospice of the Chesapeake Veterans.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS CREDIT:
ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN

Prince George's Ranks 4th Among the Top Ten Digital Counties in the United States as a Leader in Predictive Modeling, Cybersecurity, Collaboration and Shared Services

Center for Digital Government survey commends counties that deploy innovative technology practices

By DAWN PAGE

Prince George's County MD
Office of Information Technology

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 12, 2019)—Prince George's County is named one of the top ten Digital Counties in the United 2019 Digital Counties Winner LogoStates, ranking 4th in the 17th annual Digital Counties Survey. The survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of government services, encourage open data, collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity and contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts.

"This important national recognition is further evidence that Prince George's County is a leader in our region, state and nation. Digital innovation is a fundamental strategy and technology is integral to the success of education, public safety, economic development priorities, and provision of government

services," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "I am proud of our Office of Information Technology and all of our county stakeholders for ensuring we have a modern, 21st century government to improve the quality of life for our residents."

"Innovative counties across the U.S. are leveraging technology and data to complete unique projects that better serve citizens, save taxpayer money and protect citizen data," said Teri Takai, Executive Director, CDG. "The Center for Digital Government congratulates this year's winners for their accomplishments to make government work for the citizens and businesses they serve."

"We applaud this year's Digital Counties Survey winners for maximizing the value of technology in serving our residents," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "Technology plays an important role in achieving healthy, safe and vibrant counties. The Digital Counties Survey demonstrates

See TOP TEN Page A8

National Down Syndrome Society to Feature Anian Caldwell in Annual New York City Times Square Video Presentation

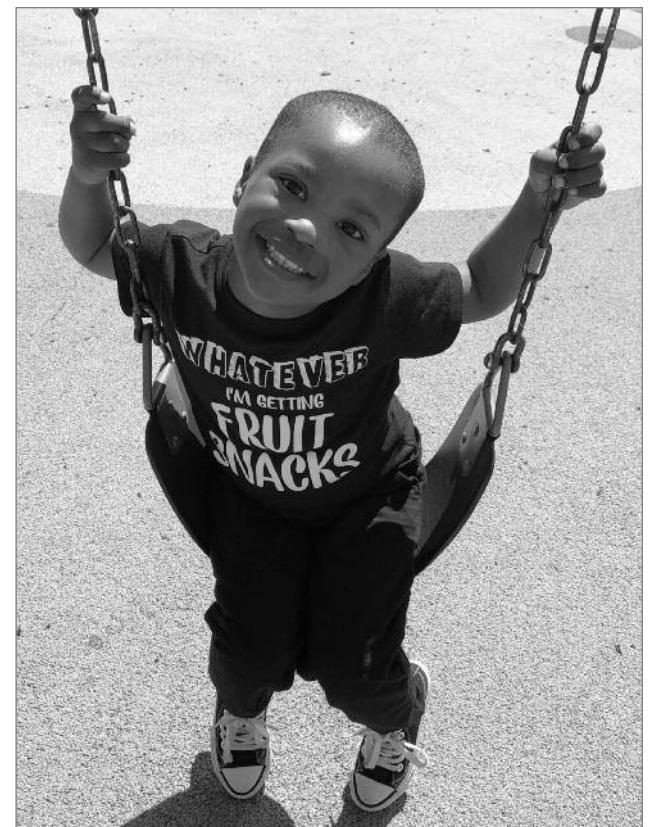
By JOSHUA HARLOW
National Down Syndrome Society

NEW YORK, NY (August 8, 2019)—Anian Caldwell (aka Boo Thang) from Upper Marlboro, MD will be featured on the big screen in the heart of New York City as a part of the National Down Syndrome Society's (NDSS) annual Times Square Video presentation on September 14. The Times Square Video presentation kicks off Down Syndrome Awareness Month on the morning of the NDSS Buddy Walk® in New York City.

Every year, NDSS reminds the world in a big way about the gifts that people with Down syndrome bring to their communities through a special video presentation on a jumbo screen in the heart of Times Square. The featured photographs highlight children, teens and adults with Down syndrome working, playing and learning alongside friends and family. These collective images promote acceptance and inclusion, which is the foundation of NDSS and the National Buddy Walk® Program. The video presentation is a reminder of the contributions, accomplishments and value of people with Down syndrome.

Anian's photo was selected from over 3,000 entries in the NDSS worldwide call for photos. Approximately 500 photos will appear in the Times Square video. Anian is entering Kindergarten this year and loves to be included, make people smile and is a natural comedian and simply a joy!

The mission of NDSS is to be the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome. NDSS provides state-of-the-art, comprehensive programming to all individuals with Down syndrome and their families, which include: The National Advocacy & Public Policy Center in Washington, DC, its Down Syndrome Health Resources & Promotion Program, the first of its kind #DSWORKS® Employment Program, which is showing the world that people



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY NDSS

Anian Caldwell (aka Boo Thang) from Upper Marlboro

with Down syndrome are ready, willing and ABLE to work as well as the National Buddy Walk® Program. NDSS envisions a world in which all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, realize their life aspirations and become valued members of welcoming communities. For more information, visit NDSS.org

The Maryland State Fair • August 22–September 2, 2019 • 2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093 • <http://www.marylandstatefair.com>

PHOTO BY THAD ZAJDOWICZ FREEIMAGES

INSIDE

K. Neal Truck & Bus Center Opens 40,000 sq. ft. New Headquarters in Greater Washington

"... This new facility would not be possible without the support of our customers and our associates," remarked Corey Neal, President of K. Neal.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: Disarm Hate

These children's message of love, nonviolence and insistence that hate has no home here must spread across our nation and world. I urge families, neighbors, businesses, congregations, schools, city halls, communities and all who oppose hate and violence to take up this cause.

Commentary, Page A4

New Navy Federal Branch Opens in Bowie

This new location will be Navy Federal's 336th branch world-wide, and their 48th in the Metro Washington DC area.

Business and Finance, Page A5

26th Annual Health Expo: First Baptist Church of Glenarden to Offer Free Medical Screenings, Fitness Workshops and Cooking Demonstrations

Healthy living may be a personal responsibility, but it's a community endeavor. The Health Expo is on Saturday, August 24.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

If the world is running out of fresh water, why aren't we desalinating more ocean water?

—H. Smith, Providence, RI

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Remembering the Cap Centre, now that Boulevard is being demolished

The Boulevard at Capital Centre shopping center is coming down to make way for Carillon, a new lifestyle-oriented mixed-use development. Demolition, which began in July, is expected to be complete by the spring of 2020. Eventually the site will feature a medical office building, shops, restaurants and AMC IMAX Theater.

But let's take a trip down memory lane. Remember how excited you were when the Capital Centre arena opened in 1973?

Some of our local teens worked there, and some of us made our way there for the Bullets or Capitals, All-Star games, and major tournaments. You might have been there when boxer Jimmy Young challenged Muhammad Ali in the World Heavyweight Championship. (Ali won.)

You might have gone to the first concert at the Centre, the Allman Brothers Band. Elvis Presley played there twice and Frank Sinatra four times. And there were The Eagles, Pink Floyd, Led Zepelin, Queen, The Bee Gees, Kiss, Sammy Davis Junior, Rolling Stones, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Styx, Chicago, The Grateful Dead, Madonna, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen and so many more. Early on, tickets were \$7.50, \$10 and \$12.50.

On Jan. 21, 1985, Festivities celebrating President Ronald Reagan's 2nd inauguration were moved to the Cap Centre after bitterly cold weather cancelled the inaugural parade.

In 1999, the Capital Centre closed. In 2002 it was imploded. In 2003 The Boulevard at Capital Center opened with 70 shops and restaurants. Some will remain, but 290,000 square feet are under demolition.

Then, Carillon is coming. I wonder how long it will last.

Changing landscape

The Town of Forest Heights is moving ahead with annexation of 446.88 acres, including land along Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill Methodist Church, Oxon Hill HS, and lots more, doubling the size of Forest Heights.

And speaking of annexation, the Town of Upper Marlboro's Board of Town Commissioners recently introduced a resolution that would annex

land, including nearby Show Place Arena.

Family Dollar, is hosting its Grand Opening at 8934 Woodward Road in Clinton, on the site of the former Rite Aid.

Coming up

The Maryland Horse & Pony Show will be at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Wednesday Sept. 11 to Sept. 15. Registration is required for participants. Info: 301-952-7900.

"St. Elizabeths: Then & Now" will be discussed by museum docent and historian David Wellington at the Surratt House on Oct. 5, 4 p.m. Admission is free. Find out why there's no apostrophe in the name.

Census 2020: The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. Go to 2020census.gov for information.

From the Morningside VFD website:

"Numbers are in, and it was another busy month for our volunteers. Co. 27 turned out 601 runs in the 30 days of June, while our members donated 6,170 hours of participation. Morningside is proud to serve, and it shows, a lot!"

And remember, these are all volunteers!

Dolores Steinhilber, first SCA President (continued)

In May 1970, those several hundred residents who met in the Skyline School multi-purpose room tapped Dolores Steinhilber to be the first president—of the Parkway Citizens Association!

However, that name didn't last. Before long, we decided the name Parkway Citizens Association didn't reflect us. After all, there was Skyline School, Skyline Restaurant, Skyline Terrace, Skyline Drive and Skyline Subdivision.

On Feb. 3, 1971, we voted for Skyline Citizens Association. And so it has been for nearly half a century.

Our new President assigned Charlie Tretler chairman of the By-Laws Committee, with members Gene Dunlap, Cecil Matthews, Frank Robbins and Arthur Zdobysz.

Dolores called on Mary McGrath to issue the newsletter. Mary tapped Mary McHale to help her. But before long,

Mary McGrath moved away, and the newsletter fell to that other Mary. Forty-nine years later, I'm still editing the Skyline Newsletter.

On Jan. 7, 1971, a 7-year-old-boy, on his way to Skyline School, was attacked by a dog. The Block Mothers Committee was founded.

To be continued.

Mary Bowen, wed Stanley at Temple Hills Baptist

Mary Bowen, 77, retired cosmetologist, 1960 graduate of Oxon Hill HS, died August 11. For the past 49 years she has lived in Charles County.

She met her future husband, Stanley Bowen, when she was attending Oxon Hill High. Rev. J. Suttley married them Nov. 25, 1960, at Temple Hills Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Stanley; children, Susan Marie Conner, Linda D. Bennett and Stanley William Bowen; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her brother, Charles Gaines. Services were at Raymond Funeral Home with burial at Trinity Memorial Gardens.

Glen Sweeting, Smithsonian Air & Space curator

Charles "Glen" Sweeting, of Clinton and Deltona, Fla., noted military and aviation history author, retired Air Force Master Sergeant and retired curator at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, died July 1.

His collection of uniforms, weaponry and other WWII items were procured by the Imperial War Museum in England and are on display in the Sweeting Room.

He was the husband for 68 years to Alice Joyce Sweeting, father of Linda Sweeting and Thomas Sweeting. Services were at Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home with burial later at Arlington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23; Edith Hull, Aug. 26; Shirley Holmes, Chris Busky, William Fowler and twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Aug. 27; my daughter-in-law Michelle McHale, Aug. 29; and Lavine Callicott and her husband Bill, both on Aug. 29.

Happy 16th anniversary to John and Stacie Smith on Aug. 23.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

IT'S A BACK-TO-SCHOOL COOK-OUT

Come and enjoy fellowship, games, waterslide and basketball at our back-to-school cook-out Sunday, August 25, 2019 from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish. The cook-out will be held at the outdoor parking lot (rain or shine). The church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. Admission is back to school supplies. Benefit: Peter A. Gross Sr., Scholarship/Memorial Fund Inc.

WESTPHALIA COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

Join the fun at our Community Carnival Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 12 Noon-6 p.m. This is a free event for all ages. There will be food stations, games and entertainment rides. Dr. Timothy West, Pastor. Church address is 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-735-9373. Website: www.westphaliaum.org. Email: Info@westphaliaum.org.

PATIENT AMBASSADORS

"Do you have a sunny outlook? Do you enjoy listening to people and bringing comfort and support to others? Do you have four hours or more you would donate per week to a great cause? If so, you may be right for MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center (MSMHC)'s Patient Ambassador Program".

"Patient Ambassadors take a cart on rounds of patient rooms, providing comfort items like tissue, word and sudoku puzzles, crayons, headphones or coloring books for young visitors. Ambassadors are also tasked with visiting patients to make sure their stay is going well. They must be friendly, warm, positive and caring. If this describes you, we invite you to fill out an online application. We ask for a commitment of at least four hours per week for at least three months."

Visit MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/PatientAmbassador to find an application online for MSMHC's Patient Ambassador Program.

PGCPS SYSTEMIC ORIENTATION DAY

Systemic Orientation Day: Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be Thursday, August 29, 2019 all day at all schools and centers. Please check with your child(children)'s school for more information about this day.

Systemic Orientation Day: New 6th and 7th Middle Schoolers and New 9th Graders will be Friday, August 30, 2019 at all schools and centers. This day is only for new 6th graders, 7th grade middle-schoolers and new 9th graders. This is a full day activity. Check with your school for the day's schedule.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOOTBALL JAMBOREE

The Prince George's County Football Coaches' Association, in partnership with the Office of Athletics will conduct a Football Jamboree for the school community to provide a snapshot of the 2019 football teams. The Jamboree will be held Wednesday, August 28, 2019 from 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Charles Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick-Ardmore Road Springdale, Maryland 20774. Teams will play for 30 minutes each. Athletics office number is 301-669-6050.

THE SURRATT HOUSE MUSEUM

Freebie Fridays at the Surratt House Museum, cool history in a cool house every Friday in August at 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-868-1121. Visit the website at www.surrattmuseum.org history.pgpcps.com. Parks & Recreation MNCPPC.

NAACP

NAACP founded 1909 Charles County Branch #7016 NAACP 32nd Annual Freedom Fund Gala will be held Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Middleton Hall Renner Road, Waldorf, Maryland. Dinner, Dancing and celebrating 110 years of Civil Rights History. Advanced tickets are \$55, limited tickets at the door are \$65. CHARLESCOUNTYNAACP.ORG. Cheryl Botts 301-580-0487 and William Braxton 301-481-2745.

ALUMNI DAY

Pomomkey High School Alumni Day was held Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 1-6 p.m. It was a day to return, engage, connect and discover. We had lighting of Memorial Candles, honoring class of 1969, roll call of classes 1924-1969, and recognized School Teachers. Music provided by The Sounds of Leon.

All proceeds will benefit restoration of the old Pomomkey High School and Scholarship Fund. Thanks to everyone who helped to make our day a great success.

Around the County

Council Announces Fourth Consecutive Year of Domestic Violence Grant Funding For Local Nonprofits

\$500,000 Grant Program Seeks Community Solutions for Ending Domestic Violence in Prince George's County; Pre-Proposal Conference August 26

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 19, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council will continue its commitment to heighten awareness, strengthen the County's safety net, and enhance the effectiveness of non-profit partners with its appropriation of \$500,000 in the FY 2020 approved County Budget to support domestic violence programs in Prince George's County for the fourth consecutive year.

The FY 2020 Prince George's County Council Grant Program provides funding support to programs that serve the housing, counseling or advocacy needs of County residents who are survivors of domestic violence. The program also supports prevention activities through a coordinated and collaborative community response to domestic violence in the County.

"Domestic violence, unfortunately, is still a pervasive issue in our communities that will require ongoing attention and sustained engagement," said Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D)—District 4. "Eradicating domestic violence will also require a collaborative effort between nonprofits, public safety officials, residents and County Government, and this funding reaffirms the Council's ongoing commitment to address the issue and support victims."

The Prince George's County Council staff will host a Pre-Proposal Conference for the Prince George's County Council Grant Program on Monday, August 26, 2019 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., in Council Committee Room 2027, Second Floor, County Administration Building, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, in Upper Marlboro.

Interested nonprofit organizations may attend the conference to receive additional information about the Council's Domestic Violence Grant Program and how to apply. For additional information on the Council's Domestic Violence Grant Program, including the application and process timeline, visit <http://pgccouncil.us/DVGP>.

—Angela J. Rouson, Prince George's County Council Media

Local Students Honored

Maryland Scholars Among AAUW Fellowships and Grants Recipients

Programs aim to tackle barriers women face in education

WASHINGTON (August 13, 2019)—The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has awarded four of its 2019-20 fellowships and grants to scholars from Maryland. Recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

- Jessica Malisch is the recipient of an American Fellowship. She is currently pursuing a research in Ecological Physiology at St. Mary's College of Maryland.
- Melissa Benitez is the recipient of an American Fellowship. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Gender & Sexuality, Labor Studies at the University of Maryland.
- Quodesia Johnson is the recipient of a Career Development Grant. She is currently pursuing an M.B.A. in Arts Administration at Goucher College.
- Jenny Trieu is the recipient of a Selected Professionals Fellowship. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

AAUW is one of the world's oldest leading supporters of graduate women's education. Since 1888, it has awarded more than \$115 million in fellowships, grants and awards to 13,000 recipients from more than 145 countries. For the 2019-20 academic year, AAUW awarded a total of \$4.3 million through seven fellowships and grants programs to 270 scholars, research projects and programs promoting education and equity for women and girls.

"In the 130 years that AAUW has been providing funding, our fellows and grantees have contributed so much to their schools, their communities and to society at large," said Kim Churches, chief executive officer of AAUW. "We know that this year's recipients will continue in that esteemed tradition, and we are honored to provide the resources they need to excel in their academic work—and to ultimately make a difference in the world."

Educational funding is especially important given that women are disproportionately burdened by student debt. And their ability to pay off that debt is hampered by a lifelong pay gap that affects women in nearly every profession. The pay gap widens over time and has consequences on all aspects of a woman's financial life, from paying for an education to saving for a comfortable retirement. AAUW's awards help to alleviate the burden of student debt so women can focus on developing their skills and experience.

Applications open August 1 each year. Deadlines vary by program. To find out more about this year's exceptional class of awardees, visit the online directory at www.aauw.org.

—Mary Hickey, AAUW

Salisbury University Spring 2019 Grad List

SALISBURY, Md. (August 8, 2019)—Some 52 Prince George's County students recently graduated from Salisbury University. They were among the 1,691 students who received 1,442 bachelor's degrees, 243 master's degrees and six doctoral degrees during a ceremony at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center.

Bowie area residents include Iman Aliou, B.A., sociology; Maggie Anderson, B.A., international studies, University Honors; Lindsay Barzanti, M.S.W.; John Boyd, B.S., interdisciplinary studies; Danielle Burnette, B.S., early childhood education; James Dickie, B.S., management; Sloane Henderson, B.S., community health; Cheldone Jones, B.A.S.W.; Patrick Laughrige, B.S., finance and information systems; Lilly Metcalfe, B.S.N.; Chuckwubuiem Okafa, B.S., computer science; Donyae Pannell, B.S., marketing; Victoria Smalling, B.S., information systems; and Kourtney Washington, B.A., psychology.

Clinton area residents include Kiarra Davis, B.F.A.; Emmanuel Ekhatior, B.S., respiratory therapy, B.A., psychology; and Marquis Holland, B.S., marketing.

Fort Washington area residents include Lannea Boyden, B.S., chem-

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Is Your Memory Beginning To Worry You?

You may have seen a sign or t-shirt with the slogan, "My ability to remember song lyrics from the 80s far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen." It's a funny quote, but one clearly based on a real issue many people experience as they age.

Why do we seem more forgetful or have more problems with short term memory as we grow older? In some cases it can be an early indication of a more serious problem—Alzheimer's disease. This disease affects 5.8 million Americans and is the nation's 6th leading cause of death.

But for most of us, it's simply that as the years are passing our brains experience various physiological changes. It's quite common for our brains to function a bit slower, taking longer to learn or recall information. Sometimes what seems like memory loss simply requires giving our brains a little more time to pull up the memory or words.

However, beyond aging, there are also other factors that can affect our memory, and, most importantly, there are things we can do to improve brain function.

Certain drugs, for example, can negatively affect memory. If you're taking a variety of medications, check with your family physician or pharmacist to see if there's any connection to memory issues. Your doctor can also evaluate other health issues that impact memory, including high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and some illnesses.

And yes, our bad habits can also impact memory. Smoking, a poor diet, and heavy alcohol usage can all play a role in how well we think and remember.

Changing some of our lifestyle habits can boost memory function. Staying physically active has been shown to actually help improve memory. You can also get a memory boost from eating better, specifically a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, low in fat and cholesterol, and including omega-3 rich fish.

Brain function also appears to improve with brain exercise. Keeping mentally active through reading, doing puzzles, playing games and perhaps even using online brain exercise programs all may possibly improve memory.

Not everyone has memory problems as they age, but when such issues appear it can be troubling. If you find you're forgetting more frequently, repeating yourself in conversations, or being confused by familiar activities, check with your doctor to ensure it's not a more serious problem.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

K. Neal Truck & Bus Center Opens 40,000 sq. ft. New Headquarters in Greater Washington

Korey Neal unveils new headquarters for one of only two minority-owned commercial truck and bus dealerships in the country

By NATASHA DUGGAL
K. Neal Truck and Bus Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (August 1, 2019)—Stephen and Korey Neal, Prince George's County's father-son duo, unveil phase one of a 170,000 square foot mixed-used land development project. The first phase of the project includes a 40,000 square foot, two-story new headquarters for one of the only two minority-owned commercial truck and bus dealerships in the country, K. Neal Truck and Bus Center (K. Neal).

"I want to extend my congratulations to the K. Neal Truck & Bus Center on its grand opening in Hyattsville," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "Our community and the American economy depends on the health of our small and medium-sized businesses. Having such a successful, minority-owned business in our community will further strengthen our local economy and provide numerous opportunities to Marylanders."

"We're grateful for all of our loyal customers. This new facility would not be possible without the support of our customers and our associates," remarked Korey Neal, President of K. Neal. "I'd also like to thank our manufacturers—Navistar, International, IC Bus, Hino, Isuzu, Mitsubishi Fuso, and Cummins—for their strong partnership over the years. We're grateful to have such wonderful partners who share the same dedication to reinvest back into the community."

More than 150 prominent business owners, fleet operators, and elected officials attended the event to celebrate the opening of the new state-of-the-art, energy-efficient environmental 16-service bay and corporate office facility as well as to unveil phase two and three of this mixed-use development area, critical to the prosperity of Prince George's County. Elected officials included Senator Joanne Benson, District 24; Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47; Delegate Andrea Harrison, District 24; Council Member Jolene

Ivey, District 5; and Council Member Calvin Hawkins At-Large.

K. Neal Truck and Bus Center (K. Neal) is a full-service multi-location commercial truck and bus dealership with multiple locations throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. K. Neal offers a complete product line of Class 3 to 8 Commercial Vehicles that represent the following manufacturer brands: International Trucks, IC School Bus, Hino Truck, Isuzu Truck, Fuso Truck, Collins Bus, Diamond Bus, and Cummins. Their dealership serves as a one-stop shop for our clients, providing new and previously owned sales, all-makes parts, as well as best in class service and maintenance.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF K. NEAL TRUCK AND BUS CENTER
L-R is Korey Neal and Stephen Neal.



Stephen & Korey Neal celebrate the grand opening of K. Neal Truck & Bus Center's new headquarters with a ribbon cutting ceremony alongside community partners and elected officials.

Maryland State Police Reminding Motorcycle Riders to Take Safety Precautions Following Recent Fatal Crashes

By RON SNYDER
Maryland State Police,
Office of Media Communications

PIKESVILLE, Md. (August 14, 2019)—Recent motorcycle crashes are prompting Maryland State Police to issue a reminder for both motorcyclists and other drivers to take precautions, especially during the remaining warm weather months.

Since July 28, troopers have responded to six fatal crashes across the state that have involved motorcycle riders. The crashes represent reminders to take extra precautions while driving.

Consider the following:

On Aug. 12, a 44-year-old Harford County man died after losing control of his motorcycle and crashing into a light pole in the area of northbound Bel Air Road north of Rock Spring Road.

On Aug. 10, a Baltimore County man died after crashing his motorcycle in Rosedale, Md. Investigators believe that he was traveling the ramp from Golden Ring Road to the inner loop of I-695 and failed to yield the right of way to oncoming traffic, striking a vehicle on its passenger side and overturning. The motorcycle then slid to the right side of the roadway and the motorcyclist was ejected. A car traveling in the lane where the motorcyclist was ejected then struck him.

On Aug. 5, a 26-year-old Prince George's County man died after the motorcycle he was driving crashed into a car on Central Avenue at Watkins Park Drive in Largo, Md. The preliminary investigation indicates the driver of the car was attempting to make a left from westbound Central Avenue. The motorcycle was traveling eastbound on Central Avenue when the crash occurred. Charges against the driver of the car are pending the outcome of the investigation.

On Aug. 4, a 34-year-old Baltimore County man died after crashing his motorcycle in the area of I-695 and Maryland Route 2 in Glen Burnie, Md.

On Aug. 4, a motorcyclist died when he lost control of his motorcycle, traveled across a grass median and struck two other motorcycles as he drove from on the ramp from Harry S Truman Drive to westbound Central Avenue in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

On July 28, a 61-year-old Baltimore County man died after crashing his motorcycle on the

inner loop of I-695 between North Point and Merritt boulevards.

In Maryland, an average of 70 traffic fatalities and 1,400 injuries associated with motorcycles are reported each year, with 82 such fatalities in 2017 alone, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office. Common factors associated in motorcycle crashes include alcohol impairment, lack of helmet use and aggressive driving.

Here are some basic tips for motorcycle riders:

- **Get trained and properly licensed:** A motorcycle license is required to ride on the roads in Maryland. There are also basic rider training courses riders can take in Maryland prior to testing for the license. Learn more at: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/motorcycle/training/register.htm>
- **Stay sober:** Nearly 1/3 of fatalities in motorcycle crashes in 2014 were alcohol-impaired.
- **Obey speed limits:** In 2015, speeding was a factor in more than 30 percent of motorcycle crashes.
- **Wear proper protective clothing, especially a helmet:** Wearing a helmet is the law in Maryland. Violators could be fined up to \$500.

- **Allow for proper space** for emergency breaking on the road
- **Don't drive aggressively**

Here are some basic tips for general motorists:

- **Be alert for motorcyclists.**
- **Motorcyclists have the same rights and privileges** on the road as any other driver
- **Yield the right-of-way** to an oncoming motorcycle when turning left
- **Give motorcycle riders plenty of space**
- **Use care when driving near a group of motorcyclists.**

For more information about motorcycle safety in Maryland, visit <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-motorcycle-safety.htm>

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COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Disarm Hate

On August 2 I wrote about the relentless scourge of gun violence and the two children killed in Gilroy, California and asked: Why does gun violence remain a uniquely horrible American epidemic and why does it go on and on and on and on? Two days later a new shooting made national headlines when an employee killed two people and injured a police officer at a Mississippi Walmart.

Then came El Paso. 22 died. 24 injured. Then came Dayton. 9 died. 27 injured. In one week 36 people died and more than 60 were injured not including the dozens of others killed by daily gun violence. A child or teen is killed by gunfire every two hours and 34 minutes in our nation. People of all ages are killed with guns every 14 minutes.

None of this is normal and should not continue to be normalized in the United States of America. In fact it is absurd and morally intolerable in a pur-

ported democratic nation where our pledge of allegiance declares liberty and justice for all.

The FBI has opened domestic terror investigations into the Gilroy and El Paso shootings. The El Paso shooter's manifesto echoed the same hateful and racist language permeating our nation, beginning in the Oval Office. We must band together to fight resurging racism and white supremacy with urgency and persistence at every level and in every institution in our national life.

A kindergartener and third grader have shown us the way with their words. They created the slogan behind "Hate Has No Home Here," an awareness campaign that began in a Chicago neighborhood. These children's message of love, nonviolence and insistence that hate has no home here must spread across our nation and world. I urge families, neighbors, businesses, congregations, schools, city halls, communities and all who oppose hate and violence

to take up this cause. If you believe everyone in America should be safe from violence and hate, then act! Visit Hate Has No Home Here to download the free artwork uplifting this simple expression of human decency in a number of languages, and display it on posters, yard signs, bumper stickers, buttons and everywhere you can hang a banner or sign.

Everyone should want and work to ensure that our children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, worshippers, communities, nation and world are safe from terror. But making children feel welcome and valued is hollow if we cannot protect them from the guns that make hate uniquely dangerous in our nation.

Guns lethargize hatred, anger, domestic disputes, mental illness and despair. Easy access to guns—including military-style weapons that should have no place in civilian hands—has made expressions of hate and violence devastating. The shooter in Dayton had an AR-15-style assault rifle with 100-round drum magazines. Police responded and stopped him in 32 seconds. But it took only 32 seconds for him to kill nine people and injure more than two dozen others. The Gilroy and El Paso shooters used similar semiautomatic weapons.

What a difference moral political leadership at the highest levels of government makes. In New Zealand, less than a week after the horrific mass shooting in March 2019 that snuffed out the lives of 51 people of Muslim faith, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern proposed a national ban on all military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles,

high-capacity ammunition magazines and parts that allow weapons to be modified into semiautomatic guns and a government funded buyback of existing assault weapons. Within weeks, New Zealand's Parliament enacted her proposed assault weapons ban.

Between 1994 and 2004 our federal government banned civilian ownership of semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. In the fifteen years since this ban expired, most members of Congress have refused to renew this urgently needed ban or pass any other common-sense gun legislation. So here we are again with a rash of tragedies and a groundswell of voices demanding Congress and governors do something right now. What will it take to end the indifference to the lives and safety of our children?

Please speak out, organize and vote to save child lives and do not stop until all our children are safe. The House of Representatives has passed several measures to keep guns out of the hands of those who might harm children and communities but the Senate has refused to act on these measures. Demand Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell end the slaughter of children in Kentucky and throughout the nation and urge him to reconvene the Senate immediately to pass effective gun violence prevention legislation.

All of us must disarm hate and violence in America. We must drown out voices of hate and White supremacy with love and action and end our national gun violence epidemic. We don't have another moment—or life—to waste.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Toni Morrison's Passing Is a Loss for the Racial Justice Community as Well as the Literary World

"Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence; does more than represent the limits of knowledge; it limits knowledge. Whether it is obscuring state language or the faux-language of mindless media; whether it is the proud but calcified language of the academy or the commodity driven language of science; whether it is the malign language of law-without-ethics, or language designed for the estrangement of minorities, hiding its racist plunder in its literary cheek—it must be rejected, altered and exposed. It is the language that drinks blood, laps vulnerabilities, tucks its fascist boots under crinolines of respectability and patriotism as it

moves relentlessly toward the bottom line and the bottomed-out mind."

—Toni Morrison, Nobel Lecture, 1993

A few years after being awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, for a body of work known for centering the Black American experience, Toni Morrison was asked by a white reporter when she would "incorporate white lives" into her books "in a substantial way."

"You can't understand how powerfully racist that question is, can you?" she asked. "You could never ask a white author, 'When are you going to write about Black people?' Whether he did or not, or she did or not. Even the inquiry comes from a position of being in the center."

Morrison likened herself to a Russian author, writing in Russian, about Russia. "The fact that it gets translated and read by other people is a benefit, it's a plus. But he's not obliged to ever consider writing about French people, or Americans, or anybody."

Morrison's death this [month], at the age of 88, is a loss not only to the literary world, but to the cause of racial justice and civil rights. And it comes at a time when her unique voice is especially relevant.

Shortly after the election of Donald Trump in 2016, she published an essay entitled "Make America White Again," in which she argued that white America's loss of "the conviction of their natural superiority" had led to its debasement. The slaughter of unarmed men and women of color at the hands of police and racially-motivated mass murder, the bombing of Black churches—and white America's apparent tolerance for all of it—she asserted, were part of the death knell of white superiority.

"If it weren't so ignorant and pitiful, one could mourn this collapse of dignity in service to an evil cause," she wrote.

It is telling that what the interviewer noticed most about Morrison's work was the absence of white characters; white privilege can be like air or light, notable only when it is absent. And according to Morrison, white voters were beginning to feel it ebb away.

"Toni Morrison" may have been as much a creation as her novels; she said she regretted using the

nickname, derived from her chosen confirmation name, Anthony, and always thought of as Chloe, her given name. She grew up in the integrated town of Lorain, Ohio, and was disillusioned by what she saw as rampant colorism when she arrived at Howard University in 1949. Unlike classmates who had grown up in the south, she experienced legal segregation for the first time in Washington, D.C., but could not believe it was real.

"I think it's a theatrical thing," she told the New York Times. "I always felt that everything else was the theater. They didn't really mean that. How could they? It was too stupid."

When Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, it had been more than 30 years since an American-born author had won, but her status as the first Black woman honored overshadowed her Americanness.

And while she had complained that her work was more likely to be taught in women's studies or African-American studies classes than in English classes, she hoped her work "fit first into African-American traditions and, second of all, this whole thing called literature."

Today, even high-school students across the country are familiar with her work, reading her alongside Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain. She has staked out the African-American experience as part of the broader American experience.

As politicians seek to divide us and racial violence swirls around us, it is this lesson—that Black America is America, that we must keep firmly in our hearts.

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Hoyer, Cardin, Van Hollen Announce \$1.1 Million to Boost STEM Education at University of Maryland, College Park

By ANNALIESE DAVIS
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON, DC (August 14, 2019)—Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-05) and Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) have announced \$1,115,270 in federal funding for the University of Maryland, College Park. The funding, awarded through the National Science Foundation (NSF), will allow the University to study how educational simulations can help undergraduate students understand and engage with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers. The project aims to enhance the career awareness and skills of students in two areas of national interest: cybersecurity and crisis response.

"I am pleased that the University of Maryland, College Park received this important funding," said Congressman Hoyer. "Encouraging students to explore careers in STEM fields is critically important and will strengthen our workforce. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress to improve access to STEM programs for our students."

"Our national security depends on students' access to high-quality education and exposure to the STEM industries," said Senator Cardin.

"The University of Maryland, College Park has proven a strong partner in preparing the next generation to tackle the challenges of tomorrow, and I am confident that these federal funds will further that goal."

"Encouraging students of all backgrounds to pursue careers in STEM fields is vital to our economic growth, national security, and global competitiveness and innovative programs like this show Maryland's commitment to making that goal a reality. In particular, our state is home to both public and private organizations focused on cybersecurity and creating a well-trained cyber workforce is important for the safety of our country. I will continue working in Congress to make sure that our students receive the very best education and training so they are prepared for future success in the workplace," said Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Budget and Appropriations Committees.

NSF supports research, innovation, and discovery that provides the foundation for economic growth in this country. By advancing the frontiers of science and engineering, our nation can develop the knowledge and cutting-edge technologies needed to address the challenges we face today and will face in the future.

Maryland and Other U.S. States Lead the World in Organ Donation Rates

JAMA Study Reports America's "Opt-In" System is More Effective Than "Opt-Out" Approach in Other Countries

By JECOLIAH ELLIS
Washington Regional Transplant Community

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (August 15, 2019)—A recent analysis of organ donation rates around the world reports that U.S. states, including Maryland, lead the world in organ donation with 43 of the top 50 performing international jurisdictions being U.S. states. Maryland donation rates rank an impressive 14th out of the study's 90 national and international donation regions. In addition, Maryland's neighboring District of Columbia ranked 5th. The findings are published in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The report, which found that nine of the top 10 performers were U.S. states and D.C., looked at international donation rates per 10,000 deaths occurring in independent, legal jurisdictions around the world. Among its findings was that regions that have an "Opt-Out" program—where the government assumes under law that individuals are donors unless they formally register their decision not to participate—have donation rates that are 27 percent lower than the "Opt-In" regions, including the U.S.

"In the U.S., we allow individuals to make a legally binding decision to register to be an

organ, eye and tissue donor and we encourage them to share their decision with their loved ones," said Lori Brigham, President and Chief Executive Officer, Washington Regional Transplant Community. "Opt-In donation also allows families to

See ORGAN DONATION Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Is My Benefit Amount Determined?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty:

I am 60 years old. I have worked full time since age 22. I am thinking about working part-time ages 62–65. When I start collecting my social security benefit sometime after age 65, will my monthly amount be based on only the last few years of my working? Can you please explain how my monthly amount will be determined?

Signed: *Planning My Future*

Dear Planning: I admire that you're thinking ahead to your retirement years and I'm happy to clarify this for you. Your Social Security benefit, when you claim it, will be based upon the highest earning 35 years of your lifetime working career (not only the last few years). To determine your benefit, Social Security will take your entire record of lifetime earnings, adjust each year for inflation, and select the 35 years in which you had the highest earnings. After totaling those years they'll divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to determine your "average indexed monthly earnings" (AIME). They then break your AIME into several parts (using what's known as "bend points") and then take a percentage of each part and add it up to arrive at what's called your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA." The "bend point" values change each year, but for 2019 they are \$926 and \$5583. To compute your benefit, the formula will take 90% of the first \$926 of your AIME; 32% of your AIME between \$926 and \$5583; and 15% of any amount of your AIME over \$5583. The product of those three computations are added together to arrive at your PIA.

Your PIA is the amount you will get at your full retirement age, or your "FRA," which for you (born in 1959) is 66 years and 10 months. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, your benefit will be reduced—about 29% less if claimed at 62. If you wait beyond your FRA the benefit will be more—8% more for each year you delay, up to age 70 when maximum is reached. At age 70 your benefit will be about 25% more than it would be at your FRA. But a note of caution: any benefit estimates you have now from Social Security assume you'll keep earning at your current level until you reach your FRA, so if you work part-time starting at age 62 your benefit amounts will be less than those shown in the current estimates.

Finally, the above applies to your own individual SS retirement benefit from your own lifetime work record. If you are married, and your PIA is less than 50% of your husband's PIA, then you might also be eligible for a spousal boost from your husband. Or if you are the higher earner, your husband might be eligible for a spousal boost from you when you claim your Social Security benefit.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

State's Powerful Small Business Tool Offers 24/7 Access

FY2020 Procurement Forecast Now Available on Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs Website

By ALISON TAVIK

Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 13, 2019)—The State of Maryland's Procurement Forecast for Fiscal Year 2020 is now available on the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs website. The database is populated with solicitations of \$100,000 or greater that are expected to be advertised or awarded through June 30, 2020. It comprises both new and recurring contracts.

"This is a powerful business intelligence tool for small, minority, women and veteran business owners," said Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs. "It provides insight on what is likely to be coming down the pipeline and helps vendors make connections with buyers at the agency level."

Small businesses often seek contracting opportunities below \$100,000. As a result, many state agencies include information on projected contracts between \$15,000 and \$99,999.

"Projects with lower dollar thresholds are a great entry point for firms looking to break into the state contracting arena," Rhee said. "This tool is a valuable resource that many small businesses don't even know exists."

To heighten awareness, the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs demonstrates how to use the Procurement Forecast at their outreach and training events statewide.

Users can choose from six different options to focus their search. By downloading search results to Excel, an expanded date function is provided, to view the buyer's name and contact information. To access the database, visit the Procurement Tab on the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs website at <https://gomds-mallbiz.maryland.gov/Pages/Forecasting.aspx>.

New Navy Federal Branch Opens in Bowie



On Monday, August 12, Navy Federal Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of its newest branch office at 16409 Heritage Blvd., Bowie, MD 20716. This new location will be Navy Federal's 336th branch world-wide, and their 48th in the Metro Washington DC area. This new branch will serve more than 5,000 Navy Federal members who live and work in the Bowie community, all part of the credit union's commitment to improve upon exceptional service to members. And, in honor of the grand opening, the Baltimore region chapter of Blue Star Families was presented with a donation for \$2500. At left is the branch team from the new Bowie location.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's Department of Cardiology

Earns Reaccreditation for Echocardiography

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

CLINTON, Md. (Aug 13, 2019)—The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) has re-accredited MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center (MSMHC)'s Department of Cardiology for an additional term of three years.

"We began the accreditation process for IAC in November of 2018," said Ora Reaves, MBA, RN, Director of MSMHC's Cardiology Services. "It was an intensive application and review process. The team in Non-Invasive Cardiology, our Echo Department, worked diligently to ensure all compliance requirements were met. This demonstration proves we are committed to quality patient care and the pursuit of excellence in Echocardiography. I am proud of the work we have accomplished at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center."

To earn reaccreditation, MSMHC had to undergo an extensive application and review process wherein the hospital had to have demonstrated compliance with published standards and a commitment to quality patient care in echocardiography. IAC accreditation includes meeting both critical operational and technical components, as well as demonstrating competence on case studies and final reports.

"The dedication and commitment of the Division of Cardiology

is once again recognized with the IAC reaccreditation of our superb Non-Invasive Services," said William Suddath, MD, Chairman, Department of Cardiology at MSMHC. "We are proud to be recognized for our high quality of care and service to the Southern Maryland community. As a leader in Cardiovascular Care, it is a pleasure to once again recognize our physicians for their dedication, commitment to service and exceptional care of patients."

"The tireless work put in by our wonderful clinical, ancillary support, and administrative teams has left an indelible mark on our Southern Maryland patient population and has been rewarded with an IAC reaccreditation," said Alex Ryzhikov, MD, MSMHC's Director, Noninvasive Cardiology and Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation. "I'm extremely proud of everyone involved in this effort for continuing to deliver exceptional medical care to our community."

"IAC accreditation is a seal of approval that patients can rely on as an indicator of consistent quality care and a dedication to continuous improvement," said MSMHC President Christine Wray. "I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the team who earned this accreditation."

This news comes on the heels of MSMHC recently earning a five-year designation from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System, which allows the hospital to receive critically ill heart attack patients transported by EMS providers.

Comcast Announces Largest Ever Expansion of Its Internet Essentials Program to Reach All Low-Income Americans

Three Million Newly Eligible Households Include Those with Disabilities and Seniors
In Eight Years, the Program Has Now Connected More Than Eight Million People From Two Million Households to the Internet at Home

By SAVANNAH ISNER
COMCAST

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (August 6, 2019)—Comcast announced today it is significantly expanding eligibility for Internet Essentials, which is the nation's largest, most comprehensive, and most successful broadband adoption program in America, to include all qualified low-income households in its service area. The expansion is the most significant change in the program's history. The Company estimates that more than three million additional low-income households, including households with people with disabilities, are now eligible to apply. It estimates a total of nearly seven million households now have access to low-cost Internet service, which literally doubles the total number of previously eligible households. In addition, the company announced that, since August 2011, Internet Essentials has connected more than eight million low-income individuals, from two million households, to the Internet at home, most for the first time in their lives. Today's announcement follows 11 prior eligibility expansions, including last year's extension of the program to low-income veterans.

"This expansion is the culmination of an audacious goal we set eight years ago, which was to meaningfully and significantly close the digital divide for low-income Americans," said David L. Cohen, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer of Comcast NBCUniversal. "The Internet is arguably the most important technological innovation in history, and it is unacceptable that we live in a country where millions of families and individuals are missing out on this life-changing resource. Whether the Internet

is used for students to do their homework, adults to look for and apply for new jobs, seniors to keep in touch with friends and family, or veterans to access their well-deserved benefits or medical assistance, it is absolutely essential to be connected in our modern, digital age."

To be eligible to apply to the program, low-income applicants simply need to show they are participating in one of more than a dozen different government assistance programs. These include: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A full list of these programs can be found at www.internetessentials.com. The Company already accepts applications from households that have a student eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program, live in public housing or receive HUD Housing Assistance, including Section 8 vouchers, or participate in the Veterans Pension Program, as well as low-income seniors and community college students in select pilot markets.

According to U.S. Census data, households living in cities with the highest poverty rates, are up to 10 times more likely than those in higher earning communities not to have fixed broadband at home. For example, in Palo Alto, California, or Bethesda, Maryland—where poverty rates are very low—only about six percent of households do not have a broadband Internet subscription—94 percent are connected. But in Trenton, New Jersey, and Flint, Michigan—where poverty rates are way above the national average—60 percent or more of households do not have fixed broadband at home—that is, less than half are connected. That gap of more than 50 points defines the digital divide in this country.

Internet Essentials has an integrated, wrap-around design that addresses each of the three major barriers to broadband adoption that research has identified. These include: a lack of digital literacy skills, lack of awareness of the relevance of the Internet to every day life needs, and fear of the Internet, the lack of a computer, and cost. As a result, the program includes: multiple options to access free digital literacy training in print, online, and in person, the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer for less than \$150; and low-cost, high-speed Internet service for \$9.95 a month plus tax. The program is structured as a partnership between Comcast and tens of thousands of school districts, libraries, elected officials, and nonprofit community partners. For more information, or to apply for the program in seven different languages, please visit www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. Spanish-only speakers can also call 1-855-765-6995.

The most significant barrier to broadband adoption in low-income communities remains a basket of digital literacy deficits, lack of digital awareness, and fear of the Internet. To help address this barrier, since 2011, Comcast has invested more than \$650 million to support digital literacy training and awareness, reaching more than 9.5 million low-income Americans. In addition, the company has either sold or donated more than 100,000 discounted and heavily subsidized computers to families and veterans that need one.

Comcast Corporation (*Nasdaq: CMCSA*) is a global media and technology company with three primary businesses: Comcast Cable, NBCUniversal, and Sky. Visit www.comcastcorporation.com.

OUT on the TOWN

26TH ANNUAL HEALTH EXPO

First Baptist Church of Glenarden to Offer Free Medical Screenings, Fitness Workshops and Cooking Demonstrations

August 24 event to provide community residents, including those without health insurance, FREE access to essential services

By SONJI JOYNER

First Baptist Church of Glenarden

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 13, 2019)—For 25 years, First Baptist Church of Glenarden has provided community members access to FREE health information and services through a wide range of fitness and health-related exhibits, screenings, workshops and cooking demonstrations at its annual Health Expo. The 2019 theme is “Living a Healthier Life Together.” Healthy living may be a personal responsibility, but it’s a community endeavor. From doctors and healthy restaurants to workout buddies and government agencies, everyone plays a part. Attendees can find a community of support at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden’s 26th

Info At-A-Glance
Saturday, August 24, 2019
10 a.m.–3 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Glenarden,
Worship Center, 600 Watkins Park
Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Annual Health Expo on Saturday, Aug. 24. The expo will begin at 10 a.m. at the church’s Worship Center.

Event organizers aim to remove social and ethnic health disparities through education, awareness and empowerment. The FBCG Health Expo will provide participants with the tools and knowledge needed to take control of their health, along with the community of support needed to implement lasting change. This event is

FREE and open to all ages, with special areas for specific audiences, such as a Senior Cove, Man Cave, and Teen Scene!

For more information, log on to FBCGlenarden.org/healthexpo. Follow us on Twitter at @FBCG, Instagram @FBCGlenarden and Facebook @FirstBaptistGlenarden.

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, led by Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr., is a vibrant, Bible-based church located on three campuses in Prince George’s County, Md. With more than 11,000 active members, FBCG is one of the largest congregations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It has impacted both local and global communities through its 100-plus ministries, outreach and educational programs.

Spotlight on Nature

Wildlife Conservation and Recreation Day

Date and Time: Saturday, August 24, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Description: Learn about wildlife conservation and recreational opportunities through habitat exploration, children’s crafts, fishing, archery and firearm demonstrations. The public is invited to take guided hikes, participate in a scavenger hunt, learn tips on birding, wildlife photography and observation, practice fly tying, fishing, see raptors and other live birds, watch working dogs retrieve, participate in archery and firearms demonstrations, and engage in crafts for the younger children. All this and much more...No registration needed. See OPEN TO THE PUBLIC feature below.

Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract, 230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD 20724
 Contact: 301-497-5770

Looking Up at the Stars: A Venture into the Night Sky

Date and Time: Sunday, August 25, 2019, 7:45–10 p.m.
 Description: This is a walk-up event—no reservations are required! Parking is available at the corner of 55th Avenue and Berwyn Road. Join our hosts, Department of Recreation Park Rangers and a local Astronomy club, for a night of stargazing! Learn about viewable planets, constellations and their notable stars, and distant galaxies. It’s a fun time to learn—open your mind to endless possibilities! Observing equipment will be provided by National Capital Astronomers. Rain, or even just clouds can cancel this event. Check the Prince George’s County Parks Nature Facebook page for updates on event day.

Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Lake Artemesia, 8200 55th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
 Contact: 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544

The Bowie Center For Performing Arts Announces August/September 2019 Calendar of Events

Largest summer season ever celebrates drama and diversity with three plays and Mexican dance festival; early fall dates also announced

By DAVID ANDRUSIA

The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (August 12, 2019)—The Bowie Center for Performing Arts has announced its widest range of late summer offerings in the venue’s history, with end-of-summer dates reflecting a wide range of performance events for residents of Prince George’s and Anne Arundel Counties, and beyond.

“The last weeks of August and early September are typically dark for arts presenters,” said Executive Director Jason Cook, “and that makes our roster of events a welcome addition to the cultural scene. We are proud to offer a diverse range of performances, all at prices that are easily affordable for members of our community and their families,” he added. “Our September events continue the trend of exciting, budget-conscious, and culturally rich programs that all members of our community may enjoy.”

The roster of performances includes:

August 24 at 8 p.m. Nuthin’ but the Truth, a gospel stage play. <https://tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1135701>

August 25 at 3:30 p.m. Family Affair, a story of “love, forgiveness, and deceit.” <https://tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1138129>

September 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. The Family Dinner, where “nothing goes as planned.” <https://tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1126262>

September 21 at 7 p.m. México en la Piel, a celebration of music and dance. <https://www.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1149815>

Tickets are available at www.tix.com. For more information, please contact David Andrusia at david.andrusia@pgcps.org or 415-283-7375

The Bowie Center is a multi-arts professional theatre and black box located at 15200 Annapolis Road in Bowie, MD 20715. In 1995, a unique partnership of government and private organizations formed to establish the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, a state-of-the-art venue offering a wide variety of entertainment specials, theater and concerts. These range from professional musicals to classical and modern dance companies to touring musical artists of local and national repute. The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts is committed to diversity and inclusion of artists and audiences alike. Situated in Prince George’s County, the Center also draws audiences from Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties, and from Washington, D.C. itself.

Save the Date: Holiday Arts & Crafts Market

Date and Time: Saturday, November 23, 2019, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Description: The Arts Committee is hosting a Holiday Arts & Crafts Market at the Bowie Senior Center. Vendors interested in participating in this event must **register by October 18, 2019**. For information and an application, contact Neil Norris at 240-544-5601 or nnorris@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org.

“State of Justice” Symposium in Prince George’s County

September 10, 2019 • 6–9 p.m.
 The Hotel at College Park
 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
 This symposium brings together partners in public safety, elected officials, lawmakers, community leaders, advocacy groups and concerned citizens who share common interests and goals to increase public safety in our County.
Register at eventbrite.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



National Wildlife Visitor Center

PHOTOGRAPH BY P.G. POST STAFF

Located in Laurel, Md., the **National Wildlife Visitor Center** is a science and environmental education center situated in the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. The interactive exhibits, gallery, and special events allow visitors to explore and learn about global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats, endangered species, creature life cycles and the research tools and techniques used by scientists. Afterwards, take what you’ve learned out into the Refuge and watch the wildlife, hike, or bike the trails. You can even take a tram tour when weather permits. The Visitor Center is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hiking trails are open from sunrise to 4:30 p.m.

National Wildlife Visitor Center:
 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708 • 301-497-5760
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/>

ERIC D. SNIDER’S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Aladdin (2019)

Aladdin (2019)
 Grade: C
 Rated PG, mild whatever.
 2 hrs., 7 min.

The new “Aladdin,” directed by English film lad Guy Ritchie (“Snatch”), is unnecessary even by the standards of unnecessary remakes. It has the exact same plot as the 1992 animated classic, slowed down so it takes a half hour longer. The songs are the same but lack motion because they’re arranged as moderate hip-hop-inspired tracks instead of quick-step Jazz Age numbers. It’s less of a comedy this time, with the previously funny characters of Abu the monkey and Iago the parrot (even Rajah the tiger had his moments) now played entirely straight. Will Smith, charismatic as he is, doesn’t have a fraction of Robin Williams’ manic energy as the Genie, and he’s missing the thing that complemented Williams’ performance and

made it so iconic: colorful, fluid, zippy animation. Ritchie’s live action, even with heavy assistance from CGI, feels mundane in a way that hand-drawn cartoons rarely did.

Aladdin the street rat and Jasmine the princess are played by Mena Massoud and Naomi Scott, both possessed of strong singing voices and pleasing physical features. Their dynamic is the same, but Jasmine doesn’t just want the freedom to leave the palace now; she wants to be sultan after her father (Navid Negahban) retires or dies, and sings a new song (lyrics by “La La Land’s” Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, music by original composer Alan Menken) about how she will not be silenced. (The song is fine. I don’t remember any of the melody. I saw the movie two hours ago.) The villain, Jafar (Marwan Kenzari), his parrot devoid of levity, is purely an antagonist now, his motivations expanded to include a warmongering, Cheney-under-

Bush attitude toward foreign policy. New characters, both likable but underused, are Jasmine’s handmaiden, Dalia (Nasim Pedrad), and a himbo suitor, Prince Anders (Billy Magnussen).

Some minor changes in the lyrics make sense. The reference in “Prince Ali” to “your Sunday salaam” has been revised to “Friday salaam,” since that’s the Muslim holy day. But the same song’s line “He’s got slaves, he’s got servants and flunkies” has been modified to “He’s got ten thousand servants and flunkies,” lest viewers think that someone as handsome as Prince Ali could possibly have had slaves, and the Genie’s line “Heard your princess was a sight lovely to see” is now “Heard your princess was hot—where is she?,” which is crass and doesn’t fit the meter (the latter bothers me more than the former).

Will Smith, who it turns out is not much of a singer, sings three songs, sometimes easing into it with a delivery that’s closer to rap. Two of those numbers, “Prince Ali” and “Friend Like Me,” are supposed to be showstoppers, but they don’t build to the kind of climax that brings the house



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A street rat frees a genie from a lamp, granting all of his wishes and transforming himself into a charming prince in order to marry a beautiful princess. But soon, an evil sorcerer becomes hell-bent on securing the lamp for his own sinister purposes.

down. Smith is too laidback and cool, as if not fully committed to the lunacy of what he’s supposed to be doing, and Ritchie is lost when it comes to staging musical numbers, perhaps so chastened

by previous complaints of his choppy editing and frenetic action tendencies that he overcompensated and got too calm. Like that “Beauty and the Beast” thing a couple years ago, this improves

on the original in no way whatsoever and is only palatable if you’ve never seen the other one. And if you haven’t seen the other one, well, do that. Why are we wasting our time here?

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Top Ten from A1

how we embrace cutting-edge approaches to strengthening our communities."

Prince George's County placed 4th among counties in the 500,000-999,999 population category.

500,000-999,999 Population Category

- 1st: Snohomish County, WA
- 2nd: County of Sonoma, CA
- 2nd: County of Ventura, CA
- 3rd: Gwinnett County, GA
- 4th: Prince George's County, MD
- 5th: County of San Mateo, CA
- 6th: DeKalb County, GA
- 7th: Douglas County, NE
- 8th: San Joaquin County, CA
- 9th: County of Chester, PA
- 10th: Polk County, FL

For the full list of winners, https://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-counties/digital-counties-survey-2018--winners-announced.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

The 2019 survey found that the top ten technologies and initiatives which are likely to have an increased focus in local governments in the next year are:

- Cybersecurity (#1 for six years consecutively)
- Citizen Experience/ E-Service Provision (moved up from #3)
- Hire and Retain Competent IT Personnel (moved up from #4)
- Business Intelligence/ Analytics (moved up from #8)
- Disaster Recovery/ Continuity of Operations (was #2)
- Data Governance
- Infrastructure Modernization
- Cloud Computing
- Budget & Cost Control and Increased Agency/Department/IT Collaboration
- Shared or Collaboration Services

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focused on technology policy and best practices in state and local government. CDG is a division of e.Republic, the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

Organ Donation from A4

choose organ donation if their loved one has not made a prior decision. This approach has proven to be effective in helping to save more lives through donation."

The JAMA article identifies the collaboration of U.S. Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), donor hospitals, state donor registries and 155 million Americans who have registered as donors as the reasons for the U.S.'s donation success, which is evidenced by a 30% increase in deceased organ donors—from 8,269 in 2013 to 10,722 in 2018.

This research identifies Spain as the only Opt-Out country ranked among the highest performing U.S. states. The heads of Spain's program attribute their success not to Opt-Out but to their robust donation infrastructure and exceptional hospital-based, donor family support system that offsets Spain's lack of a donor registry system.

The JAMA analysis supports national and local efforts to increase organ, eye and tissue donor registration via public education and partnerships with local DMVs and MVAs. Individuals can learn more about donation and can register to be a donor at BeADonor.org.

Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC) is the federally-designated organ procurement organization for the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. It is a non-profit organization responsible for recovering and distributing organs and tissues used in lifesaving and life-enhancing transplants, as well as medical research and therapy. WRTC serves approximately 5.5 million people, 44 hospitals and six transplant centers.

Salisbury University Graduates from A2

istry; Darrian Hollings, B.S., exercise science; and Angela Noland, M.S.W.

Glenn Dale area residents include Jelani Clyburn, M.S., applied health physiology; and Alexis Isherwood, B.S., marketing.

Lanham area residents include Leslie Aquino, B.S., respiratory therapy; Iphigenie Leonard, B.A.S.W., cum laude; and Denel Robin, B.S., biology.

Laurel area residents include Adetomiwa Adesokan, B.A., English; Lorenzo Escano, B.S., information systems; Leonel Estevez, B.S., biology; Kaylyn French, B.A., psychology; Jacob Harkcom, B.S., finance; Iliana Jones, B.A.S.W.; David Krause, B.S., finance; Asha Modali, B.A., communication arts; Samuel Mudd, B.S., mathematics, cum laude; Mia Rutherford, B.S., biology; and Sarah Wagner, B.F.A., magna cum laude.

Oxon Hill area residents include Juwan Jordan, B.A., psychology; Diamond McGill, B.A., communication arts; and Jahvier White, B.S., exercise science.

Upper Marlboro area residents include Tiara Broome, B.A., communication arts, magna cum laude; Patricia De Jesus, B.S., chemistry; Shaelon English, B.A., communication arts, cum laude; Faith Haley, B.S., earth science; Kara Hart, B.A., communication arts; and Kia Porter, B.S., computer science.

Other area residents include Promise Harrison, B.S., elementary education, magna cum laude, of Hyattsville; Josue Louissaint, B.A., conflict analysis and dispute resolution, of Beltsville; Dasch'E Hall, M.S.W., of Brandywine; Cornelius Sekamatte, B.S., computer science, of Capital Heights; and Victoria Alexander, B.S., community health, cum laude, of Riverdale.

—Nabria Milbourne, Salisbury University

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