

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 87, No. 51 December 19 — December 25, 2019 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Merry Christmas from The Prince George's Post

PHOTO BY
MARIANA B. ON UNSPLASH

In Maryland, Advocates Educate Immigrants About the Census

By IAN ROUND
Capital News Service

LANGLEY PARK, Md. (December 11, 2019)—Two men smoked cigarettes and talked outside an apartment building in Langley Park, an area where almost everyone is from Central America. Three women wearing CASA de Maryland gear approached them, but the men did not appear interested in speaking. One didn't speak at all, and the other gave one-word answers and looked around as they spoke, not giving them his complete attention.

Those women, led by María Gutierrez, CASA's field director for three states, were canvassing the neighborhood on a recent Saturday to convince residents to fill out the 2020 census.

Gutierrez, speaking in Spanish, asked one of the men his name and whether he knew what the census

was. With her red shirt, she identified herself as a member of CASA, the prominent immigrant advocacy organization, which enjoys the trust of Maryland's immigrant community. (CASA's headquarters, in an old mansion, is visible from this apartment building.)

She told him why the census—the survey of every resident of the United States, conducted every decade—is important: An accurate count will bring more political power, money and resources here, meaning better roads, schools and services. If this area is undercounted, that money will go elsewhere.

Furthermore, she said, the census gives the community a voice.

"It's an obligation to know about the census," Gutierrez, who is from Puerto Rico, told the man. "It's important to be counted so we can be respected."

After testing various messaging strategies over

the summer, CASA organizers have begun their census education campaign in Maryland's immigrant communities.

CASA's efforts are part of a wider effort in Maryland, where the state government is spending \$5 million to encourage "hard-to-reach" communities to participate in the survey.

The Trump Administration sought to include a question about citizenship on the census, but the Supreme Court struck down that question in June after months of legal challenges.

Researchers at Harvard's Shorenstein Center published a study in April that estimated more than 6 million Hispanics would not be counted if the question was included, or more than 12% of the Hispanic population.

An undercount of this population would result in \$1,800 per person, per year that the area would not receive from the federal government, according to multiple sources. Furthermore, it could tilt political representation and federal funding toward areas with fewer immigrants.

Even though the 2020 census will not include that question, advocates say, the controversy was enough to scare people.

"People are definitely moved by the resource argument," said Elizabeth Alex, CASA's director of organizing. The other most effective message, she said, was "this idea of being heard, the idea of voice and representing my community and not being erased."

Gutierrez told Capital News Service that many immigrants, regardless of their legal status, are afraid of interacting with the government, or assume they're not supposed to fill out the census. She said President Donald Trump's strict immigration policies have created an unprecedented atmosphere of anxiety and fear in these communities.

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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT IAN ROUND/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

María Gutierrez, CASA de Maryland's field director for Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, tells a man in Langley Park about the census on a recent Saturday. Beside Gutierrez, wearing a white coat and knit hat, is Meybelin Juarez, a CASA volunteer whom Gutierrez trained. "It's important to be counted so we can be respected," Gutierrez told the man in Spanish.

Steny Hoyer Sees Experience as His Advantage

By HORUS ALAS
Capital News Service

GREENBELT, Md. (December 12, 2019)—House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, doesn't seem especially concerned about his reelection next year.

"My strategy for reelection is to continue to do a job every day that people will see and appreciate," he told Capital News Service from his office on the third floor of the U.S. District Court.

Hoyer has represented Maryland's 5th Congressional District for 38 years. And despite primary challenges this election cycle from two young, progressive women of color—McKayla Wilkes and Briana Urbina—he feels confident that at age 80, he can win reelection and continue to serve his district well.

Hoyer laughed at the prospect of retirement, and said it would happen, "at some point," when the currently longest-serving member of the Maryland congressional delegation no longer feels he can do "a good job for the people of the 5th Congressional District and our state."

He didn't act like an octogenarian. Hoyer joked and spoke boisterously, and insisted that "people who work with me see me at an energy level that has not changed."

His storied career has taken Hoyer from the Maryland State House to leadership in Congress to

the chairmanship of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Since 2003, he has served as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's second-in-command, both in the majority and minority.

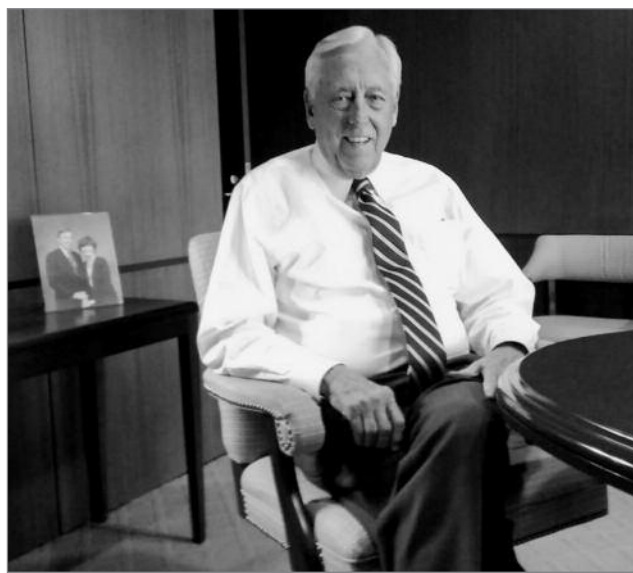
And now, during his second tenure as House majority leader, Hoyer sees an opportunity to focus on legislative priorities like mass incarceration, redistricting reform, voting rights and equal pay for minorities.

"I know how you can get a bill passed and how you can just float an idea which is not going to pass," he said of his record. "I've served a long time, but I've also learned a lot."

The tale of Hoyer's path to public service began on a warm spring day in 1959 at the University of Maryland's campus in College Park.

Then-18-year-old Hoyer was a business major who worked nights as a file clerk at the CIA. He said that before leaving campus for work on the afternoon of April 27, he caught a glimpse of the convocation speaker riding in a convertible with the top down.

"I saw him and recognized him and said, 'I'm gonna go hear him speak.'" Hoyer recalled. "That's really cool."



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT HORUS ALAS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

GREENBELT, Maryland—House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, discusses his life and tenure in Congress at his district office.

The speaker was the then-junior senator from Massachusetts and future president, John F. Kennedy, about a month from his 42nd birthday. About eight months later, Kennedy would be announcing his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

See HOYER Page A4

Purple Line Corridor Coalition Releases Housing Action Plan to Preserve Affordability Along New Light Rail Route in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Public, private and nonprofit partners seek to ensure housing stability for existing residents and preserve or create at least 17,000 affordable homes along new Purple Line transit corridor

By JORDAN MILLER
The Purple Line Corridor Coalition

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (December 12, 2019)—The Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC), a public-private-community collaboration in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, [last week] released a regional Housing Action Plan outlining a pathway toward preserving housing affordability along the planned Purple Line route, which currently contains at least 17,000 homes affordable to families earning less than \$70,000 per year. The Plan contains 12 specific recommendations to work in concert with existing policies and programs and is designed to help ensure that existing and future individuals and families of all income levels benefit from the 16-mile Purple Line light rail upon its completion in 2023.

Founded in 2013, the PLCC's most recent work is based on a voluntary Community Development Agreement signed in 2017 by the Montgomery and Prince George's County Executives before they left office. The agreement was cosigned by dozens of public and private community-based organizations who committed to working together to leverage the Purple Line investment to create opportunity for all who live, work and invest in the corridor.

The Housing Action plan was developed by the PLCC's Housing Action Goal Team, which is led by co-chairs Enterprise Community Partners, MHP and the Housing Initiative Partnership.

Nearly 70 percent of the 170,000 people who live along the corridor are of color, and nearly half of all households earn less than \$70,000 per year. Without concerted investment, homes along the Purple Line corridor will become unaffordable for the individuals and families who live here.

As members of the PLCC, the Montgomery and Prince George's County Executives are engaged in the work to promote housing affordability and economic opportunity along the Purple Line Corridor and informed the recommendations in the report.

"We stand committed to leveraging our collective resources across county lines and will work to support the existing residents that live along the Purple Line corridor as well as create new affordable and market rate housing along the Line," said Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks.

"The Purple Line Corridor Coalition organized an extraordinary team of community and public representatives to document the needs of the community and to identify tangible objectives. Montgomery County made the commitment with our investment in the Purple Line light rail that it would prioritize serving the interests of the current residents and businesses in the Corridor, and we fully support the recommendations, the objectives and the accountability outlined in the Housing Action Plan to help meet that commitment," said Montgomery

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INSIDE

Free Holiday Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

The 2019 Holiday SoberRide® program will be in operation nightly, beginning at 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from December 20, 2019 to January 1, 2020 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Community, Page A3

National Urban League Warns Trump Administration: Don't Weaken Community Reinvestment Act to Allow Racial Discrimination in Lending and Access to Financial Services

In 2019, the homeownership rate for Black families is lower than it was in 1968.

Commentary, Page A4

SBA Modifies Annual Small Businesses Revenues Calculations

The SBA changed its regulations from a three-year averaging period to a five-year averaging period, with the exception of the SBA's Business Loan and Disaster Loan Programs.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Spotlight on Holiday Fun for Everyone

Holiday Tours, Sing-Along, Pajama Movie, Festival of Lights and more holiday happenings around the county.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is climate gentrification and where is it happening?

—Jamie B., Boston, MA

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Construction underway for La Reine Science Center at McNamara High School

Groundbreaking for the new La Reine Science & Innovation Center was held last week at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville. The ceremony took place in a tent adjacent to the school, located in the main drive circle, soon to serve as the grounds for the Science Center and the new Legacy Courtyard.

Among the special guests were Bernardine Franciscan Sisters who founded La Reine in the late 1950s, as a Catholic girls' high school, and Holy Cross Brothers, who founded McNamara in the mid-1960s as a high school for boys. In 1992 La Reine closed its doors and McNamara became co-ed. This new Center will honor La Reine as the fine school it was.

Among other distinguished guests: Thomas V. Miller, Jr., President of the Senate, Melony G. Griffith, Maryland State Senator, Auxiliary Bishop Roy Edward Campbell, Jr., Superintendent of Schools William H. Ryan, lead benefactors Mr. Steve Proctor and Mrs. Diane Proctor and Mr. G. Thomas Borger and Mrs. Gerry Borger, and numerous other generous donors and guests who have been champions to make the dream of the La Reine Science & Innovation Center a reality.

"The addition of this Center is undoubtedly the most significant development in our school's history," said Dr. Marco J. Clark, McNamara President/CEO. "Indeed, our school's legacy is proud, but our future is even brighter with the coming of the La Reine Science & Innovation Center."

A pet for Christmas?

Prince George's Animal Services, on Brown Station Road, would love to have you give one of their dogs or cats a happy Christmas with a loving family. They have cut the price: Dogs are \$125 (regularly \$225) and cats are \$70 (a second cat for \$25). Hours: Mon, Tues. & Fri., noon to 6 p.m.; Wed., 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and Thursdays. Info: www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

Born on Christmas Day

Jean Nichols was born on Christmas Day in 1964. And now I've made a small list of other locals who celebrate the day: Jason Tomlinson, Dec. 25 (1983), Samantha Bowie and Christine Mucker. Also, two who are now deceased: Loretta Hooe and Florine Miles (1911). I'm sure the Christ Child is happy to share His birthday.

Neighbors & other good people

Seventy-seven years ago, Dec. 23, 1942, Jerry Glaubitz managed to get leave from the War to fly to Nebraska and marry his Jean. Sadly, both are no longer with us; they celebrated their anniversary in Heaven.

Condolences to Father Patrick Lewis, pastor of St. Philip's Parish, on the death of his mother Patricia Jean Lewis, of Silver Spring, on Dec. 9. She was the widow of Steven Lewis, mother of four, and grandmother of six. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Andrew Apostle in Silver Spring, with burial at Gate of Heaven.

Time to retreat

Making a retreat on New Year's Eve is special. I've done this three times—it's wonderful. It will be Dec. 31-Jan. 1 at Loyola on the Potomac, in Faulkner.

From the website: "Join us as we pray in the New Year. The retreat begins with Dinner at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve and is followed by a time of prayer and quiet reflection. We celebrate the Eucharist to bring in the New Year followed by a social (in the lounge near the cozy, warm fireplace).

"New Year's Day begins with Prayer and Brunch prior to departure. Fee: \$110. For information contact Lisa White at (301) 392-0801, or lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org."

By the way, each retreat has his or her small private room with bed, desk, comfy chair, dresser, toilet and sink. And a window to look out at the beautiful Potomac or the wooded entrance-way.

Allan Swenton, who collected key chains

Allen Swenton, 71, who lived almost

all of his life on Suitland Road in Morningside, died Nov. 29. He was a member of SPRED (Special Religion Education) at St. Philip's and received training at Sheltered Workshop. Over the years he collected calendars and key chains. (I gave him plenty of each.)

He was the son of the late William and June Swenton and the oldest of their six children, which include Rick, Nancy, Carol, Trudy and the late Larry. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Patrick Lewis at St. Philip's with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

In her eulogy, his sister Nancy told us, "He was a great kid for all of us."

Tootsie Colabucci, "She was love"

Angela "Tootsie" Colabucci, 84, who grew up in Washington, graduated from St. Patrick's HS, moved to Dixon Street in Hillcrest Heights, and Dower House Road, died Dec. 5.

She had been a volunteer in the nursery at Southern Maryland Hospital.

Tootsie was the wife of 64 years for Lawrence Colabucci; mother of Brian, Kevin, Patrick, Lauren, Lesley and the late Michael; grandmother of 12 and great-grandma of 7. Mass of Christian Burial was in a full house at Most Holy Rosary in Rosaryville. Her son Kevin gave a delightful eulogy. He said of her, if you said "I love you" she replied "I love you more."

Milestones

Happy birthday to 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; Jean Nichols, Jason Tomlinson, Samantha Bowie and Christine Mucker, Dec. 25; Jeffrey Norton and Michael Nichols, Dec. 26.

Happy anniversary to Ray and Betty Call, Dec. 20; and Pastor and Mrs. Kelvin McCune, their 34th on Dec. 21, 1985.

A Blessed Christmas to all!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church (New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish) Rev. Constance C. Smith, Sr. Pastor invites you to join us for a Community Christmas Fellowship December 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. You will be able to enjoy an evening of food, singing, poetry and dance. Please bring a non-perishable food item or socks, hats, gloves, toys for the homeless. Our address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Ring in the New Year Service and Fellowship will be held at Christ United Methodist Church December 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Christ Church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

EDUCATION ON STAGE

The Publick Playhouse presents a series of midweek matinees that are entertaining educational performances for the enrichment of local students. Teacher and student guides are available for most programs, and productions run 45-60 minutes to fit field trip schedules. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket. For reservations, please call Group Sales at 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544. Performances labeled "GEICO Gecko Series" are free to qualifying Prince George's County Title 1 schools. GEICO logo denotes eligible performances.

In this enchanting new show Once Upon a Moon for the youngest audience members recommended for grades Pre-K-2 performers and puppets spin new and old stories about the moon's magic and introduce the exciting Apollo mission that brought us to its surface. The show is Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 10:15 a.m. and 12 Noon. Curriculum: Literature, Science. Tickets (General Admission \$8/person: \$6/person groups of 20 or more).

Address is 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784. Telephone number is 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544. Website: arts.pgpc.com.

CLASS OF 2019 CANDY STRIPERS

"Each Summer, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center (MSMHC) welcomes a new class of Candy Stripers. These Candy Stripers are high school students who went

through a rigorous application process for the chance to volunteer and participate in a unique learning experience as they consider an eventual career in the medical field."

"Candy Stripers performed administrative duties at departments throughout the hospital. They had the opportunity to learn about different specialties. They also attended Lunch and Learn sessions with MSMHC physicians and spent time in MedStar's mobile education learning about various procedures."

If you know of a student who is interested in pursuing a career in healthcare, please encourage them to visit MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Volunteer to learn more about this unique summer program.

WINTER TAKEOVER 2020

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9:30 p.m.—Sunday, January 12, 2020, 2 a.m. EST we're taking it back to the 80s, 90s and 2000s for the biggest Winter Homecoming and Founders Day event in the USA at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, Fort Washington, Maryland 20745. Hosted by DMV-area chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Get ready to party like we did back in the day and rep your school, fraternity and sorority to raise money for charity. Use Eventbrite to purchase tickets. There will be no refunds.

Sounds by DJ Flava of WKYS and Majic 102.3. Casual attire. Dress to party. Wear your college gear and 'nailia if you want. Must be 21 or over to attend. Complimentary admission for members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. who attend the Metro Founders Day banquet at Gaylord National Resort January 11, 2020.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

A stroke support group meets the last Thursday of every month from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Multipurpose Room. The address is 7503 Surratts Road, Clinton, Maryland. Registration is required. Cost is free. Please call 301-877-5858 for details on these programs and others or visit their website: MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Calendar.

Around the County

Hospice of the Chesapeake Seeks Volunteers With 4-Wheel Drive Vehicles

PASADENA, Md. (December 11, 2019)—Do you like to go in the snow? Are you proud of how safely you handle your vehicle in bad weather? Use that skill to help people in need. Volunteers with four-wheel drive vehicles are needed to assist Hospice of the Chesapeake patients and team members in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties during inclement weather conditions. For additional information or to volunteer, contact the Volunteer Department at 443-837-1508 or joinus@hospicechesapeake.org.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

—Elizabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

In Search of the Next Hoop Shoot Champion

Camp Springs Elks Lodge invites local area youths between the ages of 8-13 to participate in its National Free Throw Shooting Competition at Oxon Hill Senior High School on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. This is an individual competition with all of the tension of the Scripps Spelling Bee with even more fun and unique skill. We celebrated 9 year old Saige Oliver, from Prince George's County earlier this year, who made it to the 2018-2019 National Finals.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT DAVID OLIVER

This year the competition will feature an open round in the morning between 9:30 a.m. and noon where the winners will advance to the afternoon competition against champions from various schools, community centers, and other clubs. The afternoon winner will compete for the South Western Maryland championship and an opportunity to additionally compete for the Maryland, Delaware, DC Championship. The state champions advance to the Regional and potentially the national finals. National Finalists win a trip for their entire family to go to Chicago for the Hoop Shoot championship with the national champion earning the opportunity for their names to be placed in the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

For individuals you can pre-register at Eventbrite and search Oxon Hill and Hoop Shoot. If you would like your school or organization to host a competition and advance to the local championship round on 12 January in the afternoon please contact dewaynewilcher@yahoo.com.

—Dewayne Wilcher, Camp Springs Elks Lodge

Join Us at Our Bilingual Job Fair

The Office of the County Executive, Employ Prince George's, and several organizations are partnering to host a bilingual job fair on Thursday, January 30, 2019. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at LAYC/Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers, located at 6200 Sheridan Street, Riverdale, Maryland 20737.

If you need resume or career readiness preparation, we are hosting several sessions prior to the job fair throughout the month of January. If you would like more information on any of these events, or if you would like to register to attend one or more events, please visit the Employ Prince George's website: www.employpg.org/events/.

—Community Connections Newsletter, December 11, 2019

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Upcoming Holiday Schedule

RIVERDALE, Md. (December 9, 2019)—All Department of Parks and Recreation community centers, arts and sports facilities in Prince George's County will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25, 2019 for Christmas Day and Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for New Year's Day. Regional parks, playgrounds and trails will be open during the normal hours.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 & Wednesday, January 1, 2020

All FacilitiesCLOSED
Historic Sites/RentalsOPEN for rental events ONLY
Regional Parks.....OPEN reg. hours
Festival of Lights—Watkins Regional ParkOPEN (5-9:30 p.m.)
Tuesday, December 24, 2019 & Tuesday, December 31, 2019***
Indoor Pool ComplexesOPEN
Outdoor Pool ComplexesCLOSED
Regional Parks.....OPEN
Historic Sites/RentalsOPEN for rental events ONLY
Community Centers and Arts CentersOPEN
Senior Activity Centers.....OPEN
Sports FacilitiesOPEN
Festival of Lights—Watkins Regional ParkOPEN (5-9:30 p.m.)

***On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, all facilities will close at 4 p.m. except rentals. Rental venues will be open for scheduled event times. For more details, see the full Holiday Schedule at http://www.pgpc.com/1341/Holiday-Schedule.

—Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Prince George's Soil Conservation District—Monthly Board Meetings

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District hosts public, monthly board meetings at its headquarters office located at 5301 Marlboro Race Track Rd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, starting at 6:30 pm. Please call the District at 301-574-5162 ext. 3 prior to each meeting to confirm its date and time.

—Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Open Call for Maryland State Arts Council's Winter 2020 Exhibition, "Dear, Mom"

Submissions due January 6, 2020

The Maryland State Arts Council is presenting four seasonal open-call exhibits in our gallery space! We are kicking off our exhibit season with "Dear, Mom"—a non-juried show that features visual art and written messages between a child and mother-figures in the form of greeting/postcard art. To apply: https://tinyurl.com/scbomlw

—Maryland State Arts Council

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Holiday Depression Is a Common Problem

'Tis the season when we're all bombarded with happy holiday images. Advertisers continually show us rejoicing families with their new cars, kids opening piles of presents around the Christmas tree and countless cheery family gatherings—upbeat images, laughing children and plenty of holiday joy.

Except this simply isn't true for everyone. All those happy holiday images and promotion of all the good times and pleasures of the season can build up unrealistic expectations and not just for those children asking Santa for a pony. Adults can just as easily get overwhelmed by the holiday hype and find themselves disappointed and depressed when they aren't able to provide or participate in the holiday happiness that it seems everyone else is enjoying.

There are a variety of things that can contribute to holiday depression aside from the realization that your holidays are not going to be like the "perfect" ones that the media and advertisers love to portray. One important factor can be the transition to winter. The shorter, darker and colder days can bring on "seasonal affective disorder" (SAD) for many, in which the reduction in sunlight in this season can leave a person feeling listless and moody.

The holiday season can also bring lifestyle changes. Holiday treats and more opportunities to drink can mean healthy diets take a backseat. Add in a busier schedule, holiday parties, gift buying tensions and any number of other holiday pressures and it's easy to feel tired, unhealthy, overweight and depressed.

And how can you avoid all these problems? Start by first being very aware of the holiday challenges you're facing. Skip all those holiday treats and parties and you'll end up feeling deprived and more likely to over-indulge. Instead, use common sense and moderation. Enjoy the parties, but drink sensibly, don't overeat and get plenty of rest.

It's also a season when it's easy to forget to get regular exercise. Studies show that even moderate amounts of exercise can lift your spirits as well as burn off the unwanted calories of the season.

Don't let depression rule your holidays and leave you hiding. Socializing has been shown to be a great way to combat the blues. But if you find that holiday depression is continuing, it may be time to talk to a professional counselor. Depression is a serious and potentially dangerous mental health issue but one that is very treatable.

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.

Workshops on Grief

Workshop on grief in the winter new to nonprofit's Prince George's County programs

LARGO Md. (December 11, 2019)—An evening workshop designed to help people learn how to cope with loss through the winter months is one of three grief programs that will be offered through March at Chesapeake Life Center's Prince George's County office, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. Living with Loss: Through the Darkness will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 16. Participants will share a light dinner while learning how to find moments of rest and reflection in the quiet depth of the winter months. The cost is \$10.

The Prince George's office also offers grief support groups that meet monthly. They include:

- Prince George's County Teen Support Group is a way for youth ages 13 to 18 to connect with others their age who also grieve the death of a loved one. It meets monthly from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and March 11.
- SoulCollage Grief Support Group has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 6, Feb. 3 and March 2. The cost is \$10.

Children are not permitted in any of the adult groups. Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center offers 5-part series on integrative healing

PASADENA, Md. (December 11, 2019)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a series of workshops that will explore the many ways integrative arts can support those who are caring for loved ones struggling with illness or grieving the loss of someone dear. All will be held on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

The first event is a free opportunity to see demonstrations and learn about more than 10 different healing practices. The Integrative Healing Informational Evening will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 22 and will feature aromatherapy, yoga, pet therapy, SoulCollage, reiki, therapeutic music, Comfort Touch, art therapy, acupuncture, energy balancing, gardening and more. There is no charge, but registration is required.

The series continues through May, with a new monthly offering:

- Acupuncture & Comfort Touch will explore the benefits of acupuncture and the soothing qualities of Comfort Touch during an afternoon of learning about self-care. It will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 25 and costs \$10.

- Gardening & Healing will help participants discover a path to peace and wellness as they explore how nature can promote healing and provide comfort. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. March 31 and costs \$10.

- Aromatherapy will introduce participants to how essential oils can provide comfort on your healing journey. It will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. April 9 and costs \$10.

- Mindfulness, the final session, will teach participants how to find ways to relax, retreat and replenish body, mind and spirit. It will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on May 6.

Registration is required for all programs and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

—Elizabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

Free Holiday Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

More than a third (38%) of U.S. highway deaths during the holiday involve drunk drivers

By TAMMY WAN
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO (December 9, 2019)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than a third (38%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers*, a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County, Maryland during the winter holidays beginning on December 20.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the **2019 Holiday SoberRide® program will be in operation nightly, beginning at 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from December 20, 2019 to January 1, 2020** as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Each evening, during this six-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. A separate Holiday SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on December 20, 27 and 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last December, nearly 2,000 (1,988) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used

WRAP's Holiday SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.

"More than a third (38%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during the holiday season in 2018 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

"Lyft is proud of the role ridesharing has played in reducing impaired driving across the nation. Here in the DC area, partnering with the Washington Regional Alcohol Program allows us to take our commitment to providing reliable, convenient, and responsible transportation a step further, particularly during times of the year when people are out celebrating and in need of a ride home," said Steve Taylor, Regional Director, Lyft Washington, D.C.

Sponsors of WRAP's Holiday SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-

Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Heineken, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, MillerCoors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 78,926 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, see:

https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/holiday-season

This Year's White House Ornament Marks First Presidential Helicopter Ride

By DANA GRAY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (December 5, 2019)—This year's White House Historical Association's 39th official White House Christmas ornament honors a precedent that, to later generations of Americans, became routine.

That precedent was a president of the United States riding in a helicopter. The first president to do it was Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This year's ornament takes the shape of a helicopter, representing Eisenhower as both an innovator and the first president to have flown in that aircraft while in office.

"It was sort of by happenstance that Eisenhower took his first helicopter ride," association president Stewart McLaurin told First Coast News in November.

Following Eisenhower's presidency, the use of helicopters has become a standard feature of presidential travel.

Flight crews from the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps provided flights for the president. However, to show impartiality, Eisenhower (even though he was a former five-star Army general) alternated between the two helicopters and respective military personnel.

To highlight this, the official White House ornament does not represent the helicopter in the specific designs from either military branch.

One side of the American-made ornament features the presidential seal marking Eisenhower's two terms as the 34th president from 1953 to 1961. The other side honors Eisenhower's five-star rank as General of the Army.

The inside of the ornament packaging depicts the South Lawn where the presidential helicopter lands when arriving at and departing from the White House.

The Lockheed Martin Co. has built the presidential helicopter since 1957 and has flown every president since Eisenhower. The White House Christmas ornament is supported by Lockheed Martin and celebrates that legacy.

Following their commission in 1981, the annual ornaments have become a long-standing tradition to celebrate American presidents and historical White House milestones.

Past ornaments have highlighted different achievements of the presidents. Last year's ornament, which was a tribute to President Harry Truman, highlighted three major changes made to the White House during his presidency.

These changes included the addition of the Truman Balcony on the south side of the White House, the renovation of the Blue Room, and alterations made to the presidential seal.

The White House Historical Association was founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has worked to preserve and honor the history of the White House as well as the country.

First Lady Nancy Reagan introduced the tradition of the annual ornament in 1981, 20 years after the association's founding.

Since then, the official Christmas ornaments have become collectors' items, having sequentially honored each president from George Washington through Eisenhower as



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT HEATHER KIM/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—The 2019 White House Christmas ornament celebrating President Dwight D. Eisenhower is displayed outside of the White House Historical Association's offices near the White House.

well as celebrating the bicentennial of the presidency, the bicentennial of the White House cornerstone and the 200th anniversary of the White House.

"Mrs. Reagan was very wise in deciding that we would feature president's sequentially so we don't have to decide who it will be each year," Stewart said.

Profits from the yearly Christmas ornaments assist in supporting the association's work with "acquisition, preservation, research, and education efforts," according to the association's website.

The 2019 ornament is available for \$22.95 online at the White House Historical Association's website, on Amazon or in person at the White House Visitor Center in Washington.

Previous years' ornaments are still available for purchase, accompanied by detailed brochures highlighting the historical significance of each ornament.

Maryland Department of Health Announces New Regional Leadership For the Developmental Disabilities Administration

By PRESS OFFICERS
The Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, Md. (December 10, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) announced new leadership for two of its regional offices. Beginning Dec. 11, Joy Martin directs the DDA's Central Maryland Regional Office located in Baltimore City. Nicholas Burton began directing the DDA's Southern Maryland Regional Office located in Laurel on Dec. 4.

"DDA regional directors provide frontline leadership for our local service delivery systems," said DDA Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons. "I'm confident that both Ms. Martin and Mr. Burton will excel in their new roles

by providing comprehensive stewardship for our regional networks and the health care practitioners, service participants and families whom they support."

Across the state, the DDA serves more than 24,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The DDA's service delivery system includes both home- and community-based services and supports that are driven by five focus areas: employment, self-determination, self-advocacy, supporting families and independent living.

To provide a more localized approach to service delivery, the DDA has four regional service areas, which also include the eastern shore and western Maryland. DDA's Central Maryland Regional Office serves 10,500 Marylanders across Baltimore City and Anne

Arundel, Baltimore, Hartford and Howard Counties, while the Southern Maryland Regional Office serves 7,500 Marylanders across Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties.

To her new role as the Central Maryland Regional Office director, Ms. Martin brings 19 years of experience, having previously served as a division director for a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization and as manager of a 41-home community living program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Martin earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Hampton University, master's degree in clinical counseling

COMMENTARY

National Urban League Warns Trump Administration: Don't Weaken Community Reinvestment Act to Allow Racial Discrimination in Lending and Access to Financial Services

By PRESS OFFICER
National Urban League

NEW YORK (December 12, 2019)—With Black homeownership at a 50-year low, and borrowers of color facing blatant racial discrimination, the Trump Administration's proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act could further limit access to the American Dream, National Urban League President Marc H. Morial said today.

"Any proposal to update the CRA must be con-

sistent with the law's original intent of providing financial services and access to credit to underserved communities that continue to bear the legacy of redlining and lending discrimination," Morial said. "Simply put—if a bank is willing to accept the deposits of the consumers in their surrounding communities, they should meet the lending needs of the residents of those communities."

Since 1977, the CRA has required U.S. banks that accept consumer deposits to better meet the lending needs of low-and-moderate income com-

munities around them. This crucial law was enacted in large part because communities of color continued to face barriers with access to credit despite the passage of federal fair lending laws.

According to recent investigative reporting, more than 60 urban areas in the U.S. continue to practice modern-day racial redlining. Further, Black mortgage applicants were turned away at significantly higher rates than whites in 48 U.S. cities.

In 2019, the homeownership rate for Black families is lower than it was in 1968. Equally troubling is the widening gap in the homeownership rate between Black and white households in America, with white households at 73.1% and Black households at 40.6%.

Three agencies are charged with enforcing the CRA—the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

and the Federal Reserve—but the Administration is moving forward on amending the CRA without the input of the Federal Reserve. Furthermore, changes to the CRA performance exams that could lead to reduced lending by banks to communities of color.

"As a civil rights organization devoted to promoting homeownership and fair lending laws, the National Urban League will continue to fight to maintain the full force of our federal civil rights laws—including the CRA," Morial said, urging Congress to hold hearings on the proposal. "Racial discrimination in lending and access to financial services is alive and well, and we will hold the federal government accountable to its duty to ensure all Americans have equal opportunity to the American Dream of homeownership and financial security."

Maryland Judiciary Hosts Young Winners of 14th Annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest

By PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS
Maryland Judiciary

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (December 6, 2019)—Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera congratulated the winners of the Maryland Judiciary's annual student art contest at a reception in Annapolis on Thursday, Dec. 5. For the 14th Annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest, students created bookmarks focused on preventing or resolving conflicts peacefully.

This year, the Judiciary received a record-setting 2,735 entries from students in 11 counties and Baltimore City, more than double last year's entries.

"It is heartening that many children participated this year and learned about resolving conflicts peacefully, as well as the respect for self and others that it requires," Chief Judge Barbera said. "This contest has grown significantly and is being embraced by many educators as a way to encourage students to think imaginatively about peacemaking. We want young people to be inspired by the theme and use this contest as a starting point to engage in meaningful peer-to-peer discussions and learn about settling disputes without violence."

Many of this year's participants created artwork expressing messages about respect for others, inclusion, and self-acceptance.

During the Dec. 5 celebration, Chief Judge Barbera met with students and congratulated them on their book-

Maryland Judiciary 2019 Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Contest
Number of entries:
Grades K-2: 481
Grades 3-5: 1,579
Grades 6-8: 675
Total entries: 2,735

Prince George's County winner:
Grades 6-8, 2nd Place
Cora Moore (7th)
Hyattsville Middle

Honorable Mention
Edwin Orellana
Hyattsville Middle
Hazel Hayashi
Hyattsville Middle

mark artwork. Eleven first-, second-, and third-place contest winners in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 received prizes and 15 students were recognized for earning honorable mentions for their artwork. Several of the students' bookmarks will be printed and distributed throughout Maryland to promote peaceful conflict resolution. The winners are listed on the Judiciary's website.

The Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest is sponsored by the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO).

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen, Brown Announce Inclusion of Honorary Promotion for Bethesda Veteran Charles McGee in Defense Authorization Bill

WASHINGTON (December 10, 2019)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative Anthony Brown (both D-Md.) announced the inclusion of their

provision to authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel (Ret.) Charles E. McGee, United States Air Force to Brigadier General within the House and Senate negotiated National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Col. McGee, a resident of Bethesda, Md., served with the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, completing 136 combat missions. He completed an additional 100 combat missions in the Korean Conflict and 173 combat missions in the Vietnam War, amassing a record three-war total of combat missions—409—of any Air Force fighter pilot, with 100 missions or more in each. Col. McGee completed a distinguished 30-year career in the United States Air Force, serving in numerous leadership and command capacities and be-

coming the first African American to command a stateside Air Force Wing and Base in the integrated Air Force.

"Col. Charles McGee's service to our country is remarkable and fully merits this distinguished honor. I was proud to fight for the inclusion of this promotion to commemorate his work and his sacrifice. This progress comes just days after Col. McGee's 100th birthday, and I could not think of a more fitting recognition from a truly grateful nation," said Senator Van Hollen.

"The honorary promotion of Col. Charles McGee to Brigadier General in this year's National Defense Authorization Act was personal. The recognition of Col. McGee's heroism is both well deserved and long overdue. As a barrier breaking African American pilot and commander in the Air Force, Col. McGee's service has inspired generations of African American aviators who followed in

his footsteps," said former Army aviator Congressman Anthony Brown. "In combat and in his leadership and command capacities, Col. McGee always served the United States with patriotism and distinction. His legacy should make us all proud."

In July, Senator Van Hollen introduced legislation to authorize Col. McGee's promotion, which was then passed unanimously by the full Senate. Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Brown also pushed to include these provisions within the House and Senate NDAA. The negotiated House and Senate NDAA Conference Agreement will now go to the House and Senate floors for a final vote, before proceeding to the President's desk.

"No words of gratitude will convey the heartfelt thanks for your support and persistence. Dad has devoted his life to serving the United States. Through times when the nation expected to fail, to record setting three war en-

agements and retirement after numerous exemplary achievements, his dedication to the United States and the United States Air Force are deserving of this honor," said Col. McGee's son, Ron McGee.

Yvonne McGee, Col. McGee's youngest daughter said, "Our hearts are overflowing with joy that Dad's long overdue promotion is finally coming to fruition. For a man whose entire life has been in service to God and country, attaining this, from representatives of the same institution that 78 years ago wanted to limit his participation in the American dream, is the perfect way for a grateful nation to say 'thank you'. We are so proud of our Senator Van Hollen, whose support and tenacity was key in making this possible and the best present ever for Dad's 100th birthday!"

"We are delighted that the honorary promotion is moving forward. Our father's achievements are most worthy of this recognition. His life of service is an example and inspiration to all," said Charlene McGee-Smith PhD, biographer and Col. McGee's eldest daughter.

In March, the Secretary of the Air Force determined that Col. McGee is qualified for and merits an honorary promotion to Brigadier General. The next step is this legislation authorizing the President to issue the promotion.

Hoyer from A1

Maryland's campus newspaper, The Diamondback, reported that Kennedy "called for more students to enter politics." That appeal had an immediate impact on Hoyer.

He said he changed his major to government and politics the next week, and "decided I was going to go to law school and go into public service."

That decision spurred Hoyer's graduation from Maryland in 1963, and then from Georgetown Law School in 1966. In 1967, he began serving in the Maryland Senate, and became that body's youngest elected president at age 35.

Instead of seeking reelection there, Hoyer accepted a spot on then-Acting Governor Blair Lee III's gubernatorial ticket as his lieutenant governor in 1978. The ensuing loss jettisoned Hoyer from politics for a few years.

"You're 39, and you're out of office and people are saying: 'Well, there goes Steny Hoyer . . .'" he told the Washington Post about his loss in a 1985 story.

But when the late Rep. Gladys Spellman was left comatose by a heart attack in October 1980, her seat in the 5th District was declared vacant. Hoyer campaigned for it successfully the next year, and has held it ever since.

Over the next decades, Hoyer climbed into House leadership. He attributes his success in the 5th District in part because he grew up there.

"I went to Suitland High School. I went to the University of Maryland College Park. I've lived in this district since I was 15 years of age. I know this district," he said.

And while his younger challengers claim Hoyer has served too long and should let someone else represent the district, experts and key constituencies don't think Hoyer is coasting in his job—he's working.

Sharon Murphy, director of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home—a nursing home and assisted living center for veterans—called Hoyer "an advocate and champion for veterans throughout his career" and called him "instrumental" in bringing a community-based outpatient clinic to Charlotte Hall in the late '90s.

Murphy praised the congressman's responsiveness to her center's needs.

"I can pick up the phone and speak to his legislative aides," she said. She also noted Hoyer's support raising \$700 million for the State Home Grant Program, which supports the construction and maintenance of veterans care centers like Charlotte Hall.

And Cheryl DeAtley, former Judy Centers Partnerships Specialist

at the Maryland State Department of Education, said that Hoyer "reaches out to Judy Centers. He visits on a regular basis—not just the ones in his district."

Hoyer's wife, Judy Pickett Hoyer, was a school teacher in Prince George's County who established a comprehensive care center for low-income, pre-k children. Her death in 1997 prompted Hoyer to help establish more of these centers—now called "Judy Centers"—in honor of his late wife.

"The death of my wife Judy spurred me to focus on what she had accomplished in her own life, specifically the creation of Judy Centers, and build on it," Hoyer recalled. He wanted to "continue her legacy of early childhood education."

In this respect, DeAtley has found Hoyer a steadfast partner. She said that during her time working with Judy Centers, "I talked to (Hoyer's) staff at least every other week. I always communicated with them about what I wanted to do."

"Last December, I got a nice note from him saying he had visited a Judy Center in Baltimore City where he thanked me for all the work we'd done together," DeAtley said. "I still carry the card in my purse with me."

Hoyer still enjoys widespread support throughout his district, according to St. Mary's College of Maryland political scientist Todd Eberly.

"Hoyer will not be the next Joe Crowley,"—the longtime Democratic congressman from New York unseated by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York)—Eberly told Capital News Service in an email.

Despite the district's ever-increasing diversity, "there have been precious few indications of dissatisfaction with Hoyer except from the progressive wing of his party," Eberly said.

Hoyer won the district with 70 percent of the vote in 2018.

Eberly attributed Wilkes's and Urbina's entries into this race both to Ocasio-Cortez's success and Democratic activists' push for the party to move left.

But despite those factors, Wilkes and Urbina "appeal to that same wing and will likely divide any votes against Hoyer," Eberly said.

With the prospects of his reelection looking comfortable, Hoyer has also turned his attention to what has become a political hydra for House Democrats this Congress: impeaching President Donald Trump.

"I am appalled by the incumbent president," Hoyer said matter-of-factly. "Getting rid of Donald Trump is a major priority for our country. He is dangerous to our national security."

Two articles of impeachment were drafted by the Democratic majority on the House Judiciary Committee [last] Tuesday: one for abusing

the powers of the presidency, and another for obstructing the congressional investigation into Trump's conduct.

The judiciary panel began debating the articles [last] Wednesday night.

Despite Hoyer's personal feelings toward the president and the impeachment investigation, he said each member of the House Democratic caucus must vote independently.

"I can't tell them what they ought to do. They're elected, like me, from 750,000-plus people. They're independent," he explained.

And while impeachment marks a major objective for Democrats this Congress, Hoyer insists they have many more issues to tackle: improving the Affordable Care Act, sentencing reform, and ending what he called the unleashing of dark money into American politics.

"There's just a lot of things I still want to do that I think still need to be done," Hoyer said.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
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Contents © 2019, The Prince George's Post

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Retired Public Servant Surprised by “WEP”

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

Dear Rusty:

I turned 62 in October 2018. A few months prior to my birth month, I went on the Social Security website which said my estimated benefits would be between \$900–\$1000 at full retirement age and between \$600–\$700 at age 62. I receive a pension from a city government where I was a firefighter for almost 20 years where I did not pay Social Security tax on my income, but I have over 20 years invested in Social Security from other jobs. I expected the cut in benefits for retiring early (62), but I was totally caught off guard by my benefits being cut in half again because of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). My city pension is about \$1700 monthly, and it's my understanding that WEP is not supposed to reduce my Social Security by more than half of my government pension. My current Social Security benefit is \$348 a month which is considerably less than half of my \$1700 pension. Am I missing something? Shouldn't I be getting \$600–\$700 in Social Security benefits?
Signed: Retired Firefighter

Dear Retired Firefighter: WEP rules are complicated and you certainly aren't alone in your dismay over how WEP affects Social Security benefits for public servants in certain states which didn't participate in Social Security. I'll try to shed some light on what happened to your benefit amount.

The first thing you should know is that the estimates you received from Social Security before you claimed were just that—estimates. If you were working in SS-covered employment prior to getting the estimate, the amounts given assumed you would continue to work at your recent SS-covered earnings until your full retirement age. If you didn't, your full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount would be less than the amount quoted. The estimate given at that time didn't take WEP into account either. The WEP reduction takes place before the reduction for claiming early at age 62. WEP affects your “primary insurance amount” (PIA), which is the amount you're normally entitled to at your full retirement age from SS-covered work.

When you applied for Social Security your PIA was recomputed using a special WEP formula. Your PIA is based on your “average indexed monthly earnings” or “AIME”, which is the monthly average of the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime in which you contributed to Social Security. Your PIA is determined by breaking your AIME into 3 parts (called “bend points”), multiplying those parts by a certain percentage for each part, and totaling up those three computations. When WEP applies, the first part of your AIME is multiplied by 40%, rather than the normal 90%, of the first \$895 of your AIME (this is the amount for your “eligibility year” 2018). So, the first part of your WEP AIME would contribute \$358 (instead of the normal \$805) to your PIA and, thus, to your FRA benefit amount—a reduction of \$447. (If you have more than 20 years of substantial earnings in SS-covered employment, the impact of WEP is lessened by about 5% for each year over). There is a maximum WEP reduction (\$447 for 2018) and there is also a rule which says your WEP reduction cannot be more than half of your non-covered pension amount. But since half of your city pension is more than \$447, that rule does not change the WEP reduction.

So, using your general numbers, if your FRA benefit (before WEP) was “\$900–\$1000”, let's say that your normal PIA was about \$950. After the WEP reduction your WEP PIA would be about \$503, which is what you would get if you waited until your full retirement age to claim Social Security. By claiming at age 62, your benefit was reduced by about 27%, which would make your benefit about \$367/month. This isn't far from what you are now getting, considering that we're using only estimated numbers in these calculations. Remember, the SS rule doesn't say that your WEP reduced benefit amount can't be less than half of your non-covered pension amount. Instead it says that the WEP reduction to your PIA can't be more than that.

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.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Hotel at the University of Maryland College Park

This year's theme, “An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky,” will take guests to the Italian countryside filled with gardens, groves and vineyards. The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing. The gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The nonprofit is celebrating its 40th year of serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as grief support in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact
Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or
mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org.

SBA Modifies Annual Small Businesses Revenues Calculations

By JACK SPIRAKES
SBA

WASHINGTON (December 10, 2019)—The U.S. Small Business Administration published, in the Federal Register, a final rule to modify its method for calculating annual revenues used to prescribe size standards for small businesses. The SBA changed its regulations from a three-year averaging period to a five-year averaging period, with the exception of the SBA's Business Loan and Disaster Loan Programs. This long-awaited change will have far-reaching impacts for government contractors. The final rule is effective January 6, 2020 and may result in firms re-gaining or retaining their small business status.

The SBA's table of small business size standards helps small businesses assess

their business size to determine if they qualify as a small business for government contracting purposes and compete for contracts reserved or set aside for small businesses. To assist small businesses with the change, the SBA will provide a two-year transition period during which firms may choose a three-year or a five-year averaging period. After January 6, 2022, all companies must use the five-year measurement under a receipts-based calculation.

“This shift from using a three-year to a five-year period calculation will affect all of SBA's receipts-based size standards, though the change in calculation does not apply to the SBA Business Loan and Disaster Loan Programs,” said SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator (acting) Steve Bulger who oversees agency operations in Pennsylvania, DC, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia.

This final rule implements the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018, Public Law No.115-324, which changed the requirements for proposed size standards prescribed by an agency without separate statutory authority to issue size standards. The intent of the law was to allow small business government contractors more time to prepare for the transition to the full and open market after they exceed the size standard. While the law changed the averaging period for calculating annual revenues of businesses in services industries from three years to five years, the law did not address the averaging period for calculating the size of other businesses. To promote consistency, the SBA is adopting a five-year averaging period for all SBA and other agency revenue-based size standards, regardless of industry.

The SBA will seek comment, through a separate rulemaking, on the appropriate averaging period for the SBA Business Loan and Disaster Loan Programs. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov/size>.

Trade School Stigma! New Survey Reveals Negative Perception, Lack of Awareness of Trade Schools and Careers

Young People Would Rather Work as a Barista Than a Welder

By PRESS OFFICERS
Metal Supermarkets

(December 10, 2019)—Young Americans would rather work in a coffee shop than in a high-paying trade, according to a new national survey that reveals an alarming stigma around trade schools and careers. The survey, commissioned by Metal Supermarkets, also highlights a common belief that attending traditional college is the best path to a successful career, and many young people do not give serious consideration to enrolling in trade school as a path to landing a stable, well-paying job.

The national poll of more than 500 men and women, ages 18–24, reveals:

- More than half (56%) say they're not—or never were—interested in going to trade school. Why no interest?—

Two out of every three (66%) said they did not know enough about trade schools.

- More than half (62%) said they didn't learn about trade school options in high school, and more than two thirds (68%) said trade schools were never discussed by their guidance counselor.
- More than half (58%) admitted they do not know about the trade schools in their community.
- What would they choose if it comes down to making macchiatos or metal? Shockingly, half said they'd rather work in a coffee shop as a barista than as a welder—even though top-paying welder jobs can pay well more than \$100,000 a year.

“Despite skyrocketing stu-

dent loan debt and the growing global demand for skilled trade positions with great job security, most young people still believe attending traditional college is the only route to a successful future,” says Stephen Schober, President and CEO of Metal Supermarkets, the world's largest supplier of small -quantity metals. “What they don't seem to know is that attending a trade school is a great option for students who want to learn a craft, enter the workforce earlier than others and carry less student debt. It is also a path to a great career and a potentially high-paying career. Metal Supermarkets stores nationwide work with skilled tradespeople each day and know the value that comes from those careers.”

Unfortunately, that value is not well known amongst America's youth, contributing to the

growing lack of skilled trade workers entering the workforce.

Trade School Stigma & Stereotypes

- Nearly 3 out of 4 polled (73%) said traditional college gives you a better future than trade school.
 - A quarter of those surveyed (25%) felt students who attended trade schools were not as smart as those who went to traditional college and believe people attending trade schools were not as motivated as four-year college grads.
 - More than half of the respondents (55%) believe people with office jobs earn more respect than those who work with their hands.
- The lack of knowledge about trade schools and careers run counter to the current employment climate.
- According to an AfterCollege student report, only 28% of college seniors had a job lined up in the spring

See **TRADE SCHOOL** Page A7

Purple Line from A1

County Executive Marc Elrich. “The economic vitality we expect from our investment in this extraordinary transit system will only be fully realized by ensuring that the County retains the contributions of the current residents and businesses along this Corridor.”

The Plan's recommendations, some of which are already being implemented, cover three key areas: (1) policy and programs; (2) coordination between county governments and community partners; and (3) collaboration between PLCC members and local community organizations.

Key policy recommendations include:

- Seeking additional state funding and public/private investment
- Exploring innovative zoning programs and strategic development of surplus land
- Establishing tax and loan programs and incentives geared toward affordable housing development, renovation and preservation
- Developing tenant protections and pathways to ownership
- Increasing funding for local housing trust funds

“This set of recommendations is the result of a truly collaborative effort to utilize every resource available to preserve affordability along the Purple Line Corridor,” said Enterprise Community Partners vice president and mid-Atlantic market leader David Bowers. “The next crucial step is implementation. Enterprise looks forward

to working with our partners to realize the Coalition's vision for safe, affordable housing along the Corridor so families of all income levels can take advantage of the opportunities the Purple Line will bring.”

“The release of this plan marks a critical milestone in our efforts to allow residents of all income levels to benefit from opportunities the Purple Line will provide across the corridor,” said MHP President Robert Goldman. “The time to act is now. We already are seeing signs that rents in the corridor are rising faster than elsewhere in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.”

“For over 30 years, HIP has worked with at-risk families to ensure they have housing they can afford that meets their needs over the long term. This Housing Action Plan has built consensus across both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to implement policies and programs sooner rather than later so that long-time residents can benefit from access to the Purple Line without fear of displacement,” said HIP Executive Director Maryann Dillon.

“Housing is a critical element of any successful transit investment, but specifically in this region, it's vital to the economic and social value of the corridor,” said Gerrit Knaap, director of the National Center for Smart Growth, which houses the Purple Line Corridor Coalition. “This plan serves as an outstanding model for the future work of the PLCC.”

The recommendations in the Housing Action Plan were developed through a series of lis-

tening sessions and focus groups with residents, small businesses and other stakeholders; a region-wide housing survey; research into existing work conducted by both counties in updating regulations and policy; and examination of other transit-oriented development case studies across the country.

The PLCC's Housing Action Goal Team is co-chaired by Enterprise Community Partners, MHP and Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP). Other members include representatives from CASA & Fair Development Coalition, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Community Preservation and Development Corporation, Kaiser Permanente, Montgomery County Planning Department, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth, Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development, Prince George's County Planning Department and Purple Line NOW.

The Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC), formed in 2013, is a multi-sector collaborative led and administered by the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) in partnership with a coalition of community organizations, state and local governments, nonprofits, philanthropies, and businesses. PLCC led the creation of the Community Development Agreement for the Purple Line Corridor which articulates a collective vision for vibrant economic and community development along the 16-mile corridor.

Enterprise Community Partners is a proven and powerful nonprofit that improves communities and people's lives by making well-designed homes affordable and connected to opportunity. As a social enterprise, we bring together the nationwide know-how, policy leadership, partners, donors and investors to multiply the impact of local affordable housing development. Over more than 35 years, Enterprise has created 585,000 homes, invested more than \$43 billion and touched millions of lives.

Since 1989, MHP's mission has been to preserve and expand access to quality, affordable housing. MHP serves more than 2,100 families in Montgomery County and the region. The organization is committed to housing people, empowering families, and strengthening neighborhoods.

Housing Initiative Partnership is an innovative, green nonprofit housing developer and counseling agency, based in Prince George's County, and dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods. During the past 30 years, HIP has served more than 25,000 Marylanders in need of safe, affordable and secure housing. HIP focuses on building affordable apartments and homes, and providing a full range of housing and financial counseling services to renters, first-time buyers, and homeowners to help them realize their housing goals.

Located at the University of Maryland, College Park, the National Center for Smart Growth is a non-partisan center for research and leadership training on smart growth and related land use issues in Maryland, in metropolitan regions around the nation, and in Asia and Europe.

OUT on the TOWN



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC

The National Philharmonic celebrates the holiday season with “Hallelujah! Handel’s Messiah” Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore. The epic oratorio will be performed by the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale and conducted by Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson, who will be joined by internationally acclaimed soprano Esther Heideman, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór, tenor Matthew Smith, and baritone Hunter Enoch in this moving holiday favorite.

National Philharmonic Celebrates the Season With Handel’s Iconic Messiah

Dec. 21–22 at Strathmore • Largest Messiah in DC Area—Local H.S. Choral Scholars Join Production • New 25% Military Discount

By PRESS OFFICER
National Philharmonic

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (December 3, 2019)—The National Philharmonic celebrates the holiday season with the largest presentation of “Handel’s Messiah” in the Washington area on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Ln, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

First premiered in 1741, George Frideric Handel’s Messiah is one of the most iconic holiday classical selections of all time. The epic oratorio will be

performed by the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale and conducted by Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson, who will be joined by internationally acclaimed soprano Esther Heideman, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór, tenor Matthew Smith, and baritone Hunter Enoch in this moving holiday favorite. The concert will feature such timeless highlights as “And the Glory of the Lord” and the “Hallelujah Chorus,” as well as “Bass Aria—The Trumpet Shall Sound,” performed by National Philharmonic Orchestra principal trumpeter Chris Gekker.

“This year we are joined by

high school choral scholars from across Montgomery County, who are singing this work for the first time. It is wonderful to see these generations performing side by side as we build our choral legacy, passing the experience of Messiah on to future generations in Montgomery County.” Said Stan Engebretson, National Philharmonic Chorale Artistic Director.

National Philharmonic recently announced its “Thank You for Serving Program” offering 25% discount on tickets for all active duty military, reservists, and veterans and their families. This, along with the Kids 7–17

FREE program underscore National Philharmonic’s commitment to bringing music to the region.

To purchase tickets (\$29–\$69) for the performances and for information about the Philharmonic’s upcoming season, please visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore Ticket Office at 301.581.5100.

Military personnel may buy tickets for any National Philharmonic performance for themselves and their family and receive 25% off using promo code THX25. Tickets must be picked up at the box office with Military ID. Other restrictions apply.

Spotlight on Holiday Fun for Everyone

Holiday Tours

Date and Time: Daily, except for Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: See Montpelier dressed up for the holidays on these self-guided tours. Local community groups deck the halls and rooms.

Cost: \$5/adults; \$4/seniors 60 and better; \$2/children 5–18; Free/children 4 and under.

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion Historic Site, 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

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

Holiday Trains & Planes

Date and Time: Friday, December 20, 2019–Sunday, December 22, 2019, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Description: Enjoy the holiday season at College Park Aviation Museum. Gaze at the planes and trains while learning at the same time! The National Capital Trackers return with their constantly moving display of model trains.

Cost: Free with museum admission

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: 301-684-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

A Holiday Sing-Along

Date and Time: Friday, December 20, 2019, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Get your tickets online, or call 301-277-1710.

Description: Warm up your vocal cords and sing with a live band! Join The BRENCORE ALLSTARS Band as they lead a sing-along style program featuring popular holiday tunes.

Cost: \$10/person. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

Holiday Ornament Workshop

Date and Time: Saturday, December 21, 2019, 2–4 p.m.

Description: The holidays are about being together, and there’s no better way to do it than creating together! Bring the family and build memorable, elegant ornaments with special paper. All materials and instructions are provided, so you can “deck the halls” as soon as you get home!

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Holiday Pajama Movie: Home Alone

Date and Time: Monday, December 23, 2019, 6–8 p.m.

Description: Wear your pajamas and bring snacks, as we watch an eight-year-old troublemaker protect his house from a pair of burglars when he is accidentally left home alone by his family during Christmas vacation.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Largo-Kettering Branch Library, 9601 Capital Lane, Largo, MD 20774

Contact: 301-336-4044

33rd Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 25, 2019, 5–9:30 p.m.

Description: FREE APPRECIATION NIGHT on December 25. ‘Tis the season for giving! Help us to help our community, and consider bringing canned goods to donate to local food banks. Bring a little twinkle to your holidays! Don’t miss this spectacular holiday drive-through event of more than 2.5 million twinkling lights! And you won’t want to miss our giant 54-foot LED musical tree! Get your free festival spectacles while supplies last! A surprise for your eyes!! Watch as the lenses magically transform every point of light in our holiday displays into magical floating holo-

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

The Brentwood Arts Exchange serves as an anchor for the arts-based community development of the Prince George’s County Gateway Arts District. We support artist and community development by welcoming diverse audiences to experience high-quality visual art exhibitions, concerts, affordable arts classes for all ages, and a local artisans craft store. Explore your creative spirit today, at Brentwood Arts Exchange! Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Brentwood Arts Exchange is closed on Sunday.

Brentwood Arts Exchange: 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722 • 301-277-2863
• <http://arts.pgpc.com/1782/Brentwood-Arts-Exchange>

graphs! Visit <http://www.pgpc.com/742/Festival-of-Lights> for more detailed information!

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY: 301-699-2544

ERIC D. SNIDER’S IN THE DARK Movie Review

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse

Grade: A-

Rated R, some F-words, some nudity and vulgarity, some strong violence
1 hr., 49 min.

You’d be forgiven for thinking “The Lighthouse” is a comedy when the first two things that happen are Robert Pattinson bumping his head and swearing and Willem Dafoe farting. But while those and a handful of other humorous moments and outlandish events do make this a nutty affair, the sophomore effort from “The Witch” writer-director Robert Eggers is deadly serious in its basic intentions: to rattle us with slow-burning madness.

This fabulous, unnerving sea chantey is set in the 1890s or thereabouts, with Pattinson and Dafoe confined to the title character and the small, remote New England island on which it sits. Their isolation is so absolute that they don’t even bother to learn each other’s names at first, but Thomas Wake (Dafoe) is the senior lighthouse keeper who’s been here seemingly forever and

Ephraim Winslow (Pattinson) is his new assistant, a lumberman looking for a new line of work (wonder why?) who was sent for a month-long gig as a replacement for Thomas’ last partner, who went crazy.

Thomas is demanding of his new underling and won’t let him actually keep the light or write in the logbook (which he has under lock and key). Ephraim does the menial chores during the day while Thomas sleeps, having been up all night at the lamp. And sure enough, with all the odd sights and sounds on the island, not to mention the solitude and boredom and celibacy, Ephraim starts to go a little stir-crazy, nearing the level of nuttiness that Thomas has already achieved. (Do not underestimate the maddening power of forced celibacy.)

I believe Thomas is what you’d call an “old salt,” speaking in a pirate dialect (“What brung ye to this dam-ned rock?”) in a voice remarkably similar to that of the Sea Captain on “The Simpsons.” Like all good seamen, he’s inflexibly

superstitious, with haunted eyes that suggest he has seen (or at least thought he saw) some dreadful things. That he doesn’t come across as a parody is a testament to Dafoe’s talent for finding the reality in even the weirdest of characters. Ephraim is less overtly daft but still puzzling, and Pattinson, bless his soul, commits fully to his enigmatic and eventually shocking behavior. A lesser actor would be completely lost working one-on-one

with Willem Dafoe, but Pattinson holds his own.

Eggers, who co-wrote the screenplay with his brother Max, shot the film in a square aspect ratio that reinforces the claustrophobic situation. That’s what the head bonk and the farts were all about: to establish that these are cramped quarters in which no one fits comfortably (and, yes, to signal that there will be things to laugh at as well as recoil in horror from). It’s in black-and-

white, too, and Eggers’ carefully composed shots are full of marvelous German Expressionist shadows that underscore the eeriness. It’s a terrific-looking movie, and a counter to those who think black-and-white is always flat and drab. I’d estimate the film would have been 25% less effective in color.

Things come to a boil when Ephraim’s replacement doesn’t arrive and Ephraim and Thomas start spending all their time drink-

ing, talking, and yelling. Confessions are made—or in Thomas’ parlance, beans are spilled—backstories are revealed, and our two “wickies” become a bickering, drunken old married couple. “The Lighthouse” is as creeping and methodical as “The Witch” was, and its climax prompts similar thoughts of “this is bonkers,” but the oddness is more bemusing than terrifying—enjoyably weird rather than soul-shakingly bizarre.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

From Robert Eggers, the visionary filmmaker behind modern horror masterpiece *The Witch*, comes this hypnotic and hallucinatory tale of two lighthouse keepers on a remote and mysterious New England island in the 1890s.

Calendar of Events

December 20, 2019–January 3, 2020

Gymnastics Workshops

Date and Time: Friday, December 20, 2019, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
 Description: Looking for a fun activity for your children? Need them to burn some energy? Bring them to the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex for our gymnastics workshops. The workshops are open play time for your children to explore gymnastics in a safe and fun environment. Space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents are required to be on the floor with the children. (Maximum 3 children to 1 adult)
 Cost: \$7/per participant
 Ages: Walking to 12 years
 Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20616
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

The Farmer's Table: Let's Talk Food

Date and Time: Saturday, December 21, 2019, 10–11 a.m.
 Description: Come and join us to talk about everything food, from growing and cooking it, to eating it! Let's discuss our love of food and what it means to our health. Together we'll learn about food systems and how they impact us as consumers.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710
 Contact: 929-274-0380; TTY 301-699-2544

Dinosaur Park Open House

Date and Time: Saturday, December 21, 2019, and Saturday, January 4, 2020, 12–4 p.m.
 Description: This event is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month! Digging and personal fossil hunting prohibited. Discover an ancient world right in Prince George's County! Paleontologists and educators will display fossils, casts, and models of *Astrodon johnstoni*, Maryland's state dinosaur, along with other 112 million-year-old creatures found at Dinosaur Park. Weather permitting, visitors help search for new fossils and make discoveries that will be preserved with their names for all time!
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Dinosaur Park, 13100 Mid-Atlantic Blvd, Laurel, MD 20708
 Contact: 301-627-1286; TTY 301-699-2544

Scrabble Saturday

Date and Time: Saturday, December 21, 2019, 1 p.m.
 Description: Have fun and enjoy camaraderie while sharpening your vocabulary. Personal racks and tiles are welcome. Register at the Reference Desk or by phone. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bowie Library.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Bowie Branch Library, 15210 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD 20715
 Contact: 301-262-7000

Christmas Eve Services

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 24, 2019, 6 and 8 p.m.
 Description: A free will offering is taken for the Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services. Our 6 p.m. candlelight service is designed for families and includes the retelling of the Christmas story, featuring carols, and Holy Communion. Our 8 p.m. candlelight service features special choral music in addition to the Christmas story, Christmas carols and Holy Communion.
 Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 7607 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707
 Contact: 301-727-1666, communications@htcl Laurel.org

Christmas Eve Service

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 24, 2019, 6–8 p.m.
 Rev. Paula H. Collins, Lead Pastor
 Location: Accokeek First Church of God, 15821 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
 Contact: 301-283-2116, www.accokeekchog.org

Cub Corner

Date and Time: Thursday, December 26, 2019, and Thursday, January 9, 2020, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
 Description: Come to the Cub Corner story time for preschool fun! Ideal for little learners up to five years old to enjoy a flight-themed story and hands-on craft activity. Please call ahead for groups of 10 or more!
 Cost: Free with Museum Admission
 Ages: Preschool age children
 Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740
 Contact: 301-684-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Riversdale by Candlelight

Date and Time: Saturday, December 28, 2019, 6–9 p.m.
 Description: Enjoy some historic festivity! Residents from Riversdale's past welcome guests to the candlelit museum for tours, refreshments, music, and children's activities.
 Cost: \$5 Adult; free for children 12 & younger w/paid adult
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Road, MD 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

New Years' Service

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 31, 2019, Noon
 Rev. Paula H. Collins, Lead Pastor
 Location: Accokeek First Church of God, 15821 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
 Contact: 301-283-2116, www.accokeekchog.org

Xtreme Teens: Youth/Teen Safety

Date and Time: Friday, January 3, 2020, 7–8:30 p.m.
 Description: Be prepared for any situation. Whether you are staying home alone or babysitting others, it is best to be prepared. From CPR to internet safety you can find the right class for you! Dress comfortably.
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Berwyn Heights School Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
 Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

Museum Kid's Club—Winter Family Day at PGAAMCC

Join us December 21 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. for PGAAMCC Winter Family Day! Free! Featuring:

- Kwanzaa Kids Family Ancestral Drum Workshop with PGAAMCC Scholar-In-Residence Khadijah Ali-Coleman (2 p.m.)
- Gingerbread Person Decorating Craft
- Kids Quilting Tours
- Storybook Reading
- Selfies with Santa
- Hot Cocoa Station

RSVP via Eventbrite.



Trade School from A5

of 2018. Conversely, there is a critical need for skilled workers, with much of the nation's aging infrastructure requiring skilled workers to rebuild bridges, highways and buildings. Despite this demand, the American Welding Society predicts a shortage of more than 450,000 skilled welding professionals by 2022.

- Student Loan Hero reports 69% of students from the Class of 2018 took out student loans, graduating with an average debt balance of \$29,800. Nearly two thirds (65%) of the recent survey respondents believed that student debt was the price you pay for a college education. However, trade school graduates face far less student debt and enter the workforce sooner after completing their degree within two years. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, the average trade school degree costs \$33,000, compared to a \$127,000 bachelor's degree.

The U.S. Department of Education reports people with trade and technical educations are actually slightly more likely to be employed than their counterparts with academic credentials and they're significantly more likely to be working in their fields of study.

Though the majority of those surveyed wouldn't consider trade school, they are starting to recognize the need for skilled workers and the opportunity.

- Nearly 8 out of 10 respondents (80%) said you can get a high-paying job if you went to trade school.
- Two out of every three people (66%) said you don't need to go to traditional college to get a high-paying job.

"We need to build awareness about the amazing opportunities that exist in the trades. We need to fill the growing shortage of skilled workers in the U.S. and let students know that they do not have to drown in student loan debt by attending a traditional college. We hope to see more students con-

sidering trade schools and the rewarding careers that come with it," said Schober.

*Editor's Note:
 *This online survey of (253) men and (252) women was conducted by a third party and commissioned by Metal Supermarkets.
 *Survey participants have no affiliation with Metal Supermarkets.

Metal Supermarkets, known worldwide as *The Convenience Stores for Metal*, is the world's largest small-quantity metal supplier with more than 90 brick-and-mortar stores across the US, Canada and United Kingdom. It sells a wide variety of metals including aluminum, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel, stainless steel, alloy steel, galvanized steel, tool steel, brass, bronze and copper. Metal Supermarkets offer value-added services such as production cutting, shearing, punching and more. Its staff are highly specialized and help customers find the metal they need. They are metal experts and have been providing quality customer service and products since 1985.

Earth TALK™ Is Climate Gentrification Killing Our Communities?

Dear EarthTalk:
 What is climate gentrification and where is it happening?
 —Jamie B., Boston, MA

Climate gentrification is a relatively new term describing what happens when neighborhoods traditionally overlooked by wealthy people become more attractive—and expensive—given their siting in geographic areas that happen to be more resilient to climate-related threats such as stronger, more frequent hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, etc.

The already-classic case is in Florida's Miami-Dade County, where climate-related flooding and sea level rises are driving wealthy homeowners away from once pricey beach-front property and into the higher elevations surrounding areas like Little Haiti, Liberty City and Allapattah that have traditionally been home to struggling minority families. The result is greater density and higher home prices and rents in these recently poor neighborhoods. Meanwhile the locals move out, complaining that the transition is forcing them out of their beloved homes while sapping once vibrant cultural identities.

A recently released Harvard study of real estate values by elevation in the Miami area over the last five decades found that while home prices were rising in most parts of the 2,400-square-mile county, areas at higher elevations were experiencing larger increases. Properties located 2–4 meters above sea level rose 11.5x in value on average over the 1971–2017 study period, while those located at or within one meter of sea level rose 8x on average. Current climate projections of Florida's coastline in a warming world show that areas less than a foot above sea level will be underwater within another 50 years.

The Harvard study put the concept of climate gentrification in the public eye for the first time, but we can see examples of it just about everywhere. "In California, wild-



IMAGE CREDIT: KNIGHT FOUNDATION, FLICKRCC

Will the culture of communities like Little Haiti on the slightly elevated outskirts of Miami change for the worse as a result of "climate gentrification"?

fires are becoming more common and forcing people to move, in some cases because their homes were destroyed, and in others because the threat of fire makes it difficult to get insurance or a mortgage," reports Aparna Nathan of Harvard's Science in The News blog. "Los Angeles, in particular, may see an influx of people from the coast (as sea levels rise) and further inland (as fires rage) into its traditionally working-class Eastside neighborhoods."

Another area where climate gentrification has become a problem is Arizona, where people are moving from the overheated Phoenix area to the cooler, higher elevation areas of northern Arizona. According to Nathan, this trend is disrupting communities and the real estate market, and widening socioeconomic gaps in the process. Jesse Keenan, lead author on the Harvard study, concurs, telling Bloomberg News that the situation in Miami "evokes matters of equity and justice that have very limited historical precedent."

Now that the issue is coming to the fore, environmental justice advocates hope that municipal planners and government officials start taking climate gentrification into ac-

count when developing master plans and drafting new zoning ordinances to make sure that even poor people have safe places to live in the face of increasing environmental torment. But as Nathan points out, housing is just one example of an overarching theme: "as the climate changes, it will be easier for those with more resources to adapt."

CONTACTS: "Climate gentrification: from theory to empiricism in Miami-Dade County, Florida," iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aabb32/pdf; "Climate is the Newest Gentrifying Force, and its Effects are Already Re-Shaping Cities," sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2019/climate-newest-gentrifying-force-effects-already-re-shaping-cities/; "Private Climate Firms Say They're Helping. Scientists Worry They're Not," bit.ly/worry-they-r-not.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

TUESDAY TIP

SNOW & YOUR CAR

With winter comes cold and the possibility of snow. Save money with simple vehicle maintenance as we prepare to stay warm and safe on the roads.

- Stay off roadways during snow and inclement weather. If you have to drive, reduce driving speed and increase your distance from cars in front of you
- Be sure to remove all the snow from the roof of your car as it can become a hazard for others when it comes off mid-drive.
- Inflating your tires will help improve gas mileage and traction, helping you drive safer in difficult weather.
- Watch out for black ice, especially near areas where it freezes more quickly, such as bridges and overpasses.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

