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Maryland Democratic Lawmakers Renew Effort to Push Landmark Climate Change Legislation Through the General Assembly

By STEPHEN NEUKAM
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 9, 2022)—Maryland's Democratic lawmakers in the General Assembly are taking another run at major environmental legislation during this year's session, with plans to set the state on course for net zero carbon emissions by 2045, according to top legislators and aides in both chambers.

If passed, Democrats' goal to slice the state's greenhouse gas emissions by 60% would be one of the most aggressive measures in the country, according to data from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a global climate policy think tank.

Democratic lawmakers said they still need to remedy some of their differences over reduction targets, timetables and the details of how they plan to achieve the reductions, but they said there is broad agreement on certain aspects of their plans.

Their legislation would require state-owned buildings over 25,000 square feet to cut emissions to net zero by 2035 and privately-owned buildings of the

same size to achieve net zero by 2040.

The bills would mandate that all new buildings be ready for the installation of solar energy and electric vehicle charging stations by 2024.

The legislation would set a cap on emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas, from landfills. The 51,500 tons of methane emitted from Maryland landfills in 2017 was equivalent to the emissions of over 254,000 passenger vehicles driven for one year, according to data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The bills would also create additional mechanisms to more closely monitor and curb methane. In 2017, the state underestimated methane emissions from landfills by over 39,000 tons, according to state data.

The bills would transition the state's light-duty vehicle fleet, currently about 5,500 cars and small trucks, to zero emission electric or hybrid vehicles. The Senate version would require that 100% of passenger and light-duty vehicles being purchased by the state be zero emission or hybrids by 2033. In 2021, the fleet included

a mere 49 zero emission electric vehicles.

Senate and House leaders said the bill will address environmental justice by promoting job opportunities and investing in clean energy projects in neighborhoods that have historically been plagued by high pollution, such as certain areas in Baltimore.

Maryland voters appear receptive to climate change legislation.

A January poll commissioned by Chesapeake Climate Action Network Maryland, one of the state's leading environmental groups, found that 63% of Maryland voters think the state should prioritize cutting pollution by 60% by 2030.

The renewed push comes after the climate legislation from last year, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, failed when Democrats in the two chambers could not agree on an amended bill.

Now, Democratic lawmakers said they are coordinating closely to avoid the breakdown in talks that tanked their efforts last session.

Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, and Del. Kumar Barve, D-Montgomery, are chairs of

committees that will oversee most of the legislation.

The Senate will introduce one large bill, while Barve and House legislators will deliver several smaller bills, each designed to address a segment of climate change challenges, lawmakers said in interviews.

The result is a complicated legislative process, and Democratic lawmakers are still not in agreement over the particulars in both chambers.

The Senate bill, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, was introduced quietly late last month and the first bill in the House, Comprehensive Climate Solutions, was proposed a few days later.

Pinsky and Barve are long-time leaders on environmental issues in the General Assembly. Pinsky has been a member of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee since 1994 and has introduced a version of the Climate Solutions Now Act for three years in a row. Barve has chaired the Environment and Transportation Committee since 2015 and was a member of the state's Commis-

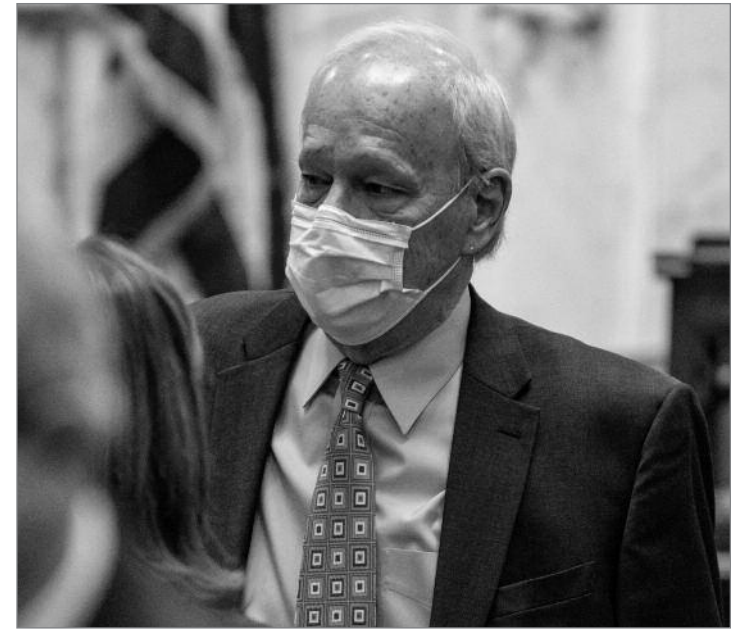


PHOTO CREDIT JOE RYAN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, has spearheaded the climate legislation this session and is working closely with environmentally-minded delegates in the House to bridge the gaps that doomed a similar push last year.

sion on Climate Change from 2007 to 2014.

Pinsky and Barve told Capital News Service they have been working closely together and held meetings before the start of the legislative session to iron out differences that could threaten the new legislation.

When the 2021 bill failed last session, one of the major sticking points was the rate at which the state would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This year, they will start out more closely aligned.

Last year, Democrats juggled cutting emissions by 50% or 60% and there was a 10 year difference in their timeline for when the reduction would be completed. This year, they are aligned on a 60% cut and the chambers are only two years apart on the implementation.

Pinsky said in an interview he hopes that an omnibus bill will prevent lawmakers from picking and choosing which en-

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Bowie Native Presents a Sailor a Certificate of Appreciation After A Reenlistment Ceremony



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST DIANA QUINLAN/RELEASED

220208-N-WF272-1076 GLEN BURNIE, Md. (Feb. 8, 2022) Ensign Bradley Peters, left, a native of Bowie, Md., presents Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 1st Class Darwin Reyes, from Fairfax, Va., assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group Philadelphia, and his family with a certificate of appreciation after a reenlistment ceremony held at Navy Recruiting Station Glen Burnie, Maryland. NTAG Philadelphia encompasses regions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia, providing recruiting services from more than 30 talent acquisition sites with the overall goal of attracting the highest quality candidates to ensure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

\$3.9 Million U.S. Department of Education Grant to Expand Arts For PGCPs Elementary Students

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 8, 2022)—A five-year, \$3.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will expand arts integrated programs for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) kindergarten through third-grade students. Led by Arts for Learning Maryland, the new Start with the Art program will be developed in collaboration with PGCPS, Wolf-Brown, and West Chester University.

Start with the Art will establish and sustain collaboration between PGCPS classroom teachers and Arts for Learning teaching artists to plan and deliver lessons that support student creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills, including re-engaging students in the classroom following educational disruption precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The PGCPS Department of Creative and Performing Arts has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with Arts for Learning Maryland for many years," said Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson. "This collaboration will support both our educators and youngest learners through arts integration experiences providing alternative, creative, and engaging instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners."

Start with the Art will incorporate four arts-integrated instructional strategies demonstrated to foster academic achievement and socioemo-

tional development: arts to foster student engagement; arts experiences to allow students to experience a wider range of emotional experience than is often possible in regular classroom activities; leveraging student experiences of setbacks and failure in artistic work to develop perseverance; and capitalizing on student collaborative work to foster positive peer relationships.

Start with the Art will begin in early 2022 with recruiting the initial cohort of schools, classroom teachers, teaching artists, and instructional coaches who will participate in the pilot. As part of the initiative, PGCPS teachers will participate in a Training Institute offered as an extension of the Prince George's Artist Teaching Institute, a long running, highly respected summer professional development experience.

"This grant is a testament to our artists, staff, and board, as well as the powerful work happening within our community. It recognizes the two strategies that have been at the heart of our Summer Arts for Learning Academy—collaborative lesson planning and co-teaching—and that has resulted in academic and personal growth for nearly 9,000 students at Title I schools," said Stacie Sanders Evans, president and CEO of Arts for Learning Maryland. "Start with the Art will build additional evidence of the transformational impact that our work has on children so that even more children will have access to this kind of learning in the future."

CIAA Announces On-Air Talent for Coverage of Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments on ESPN+ and ESPNU

Minority women to be prominently featured in play-by-play and color analyst roles during early round games of tournament in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX

By PRESS OFFICER
CIAA

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Feb. 10, 2022)—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the nation's oldest historically black athletic conference, announces the on-air talent for

broadcast coverage of the 2022 CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament on ESPN Plus and ESPNU.

The tournament will take place February 22–26 at Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, MD. The men's tournament is celebrating its 76th year, while it will be the

47th edition of the women's tournament.

To help kick-off the conference's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, play-by-play, and color commentary for both men's and women's games on Tuesday and Wednesday will feature several minority women

including ESPN trio Tiffany Greene, Angel Gray, and Terrika Foster-Brasby as well as veteran color analyst Helen Williams.

This is the first year of a multi-year partnership between the CIAA and ESPN. For the first time in the conference's history, all 22 games for both the CIAA

Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments will be available on an ESPN platform with both Championship games being carried on ESPNU this year.

"We strive annually to provide access and opportunities for both women and men to be in positions of leadership and to grow their craft. It is intentional to support the development of the pipeline of women and Black and Brown professionals in our industry and who believe in our platform," said CIAA Commissioner Jacquie McWilliams. "The 50th anniversary of Title IX coupled with partnerships such as ESPN allow us to amplify many of the established goals that are highlighted in our strategic plan."

Greene, a 10-year veteran of the network, is a play-by-play commentator for ESPN, covering a variety of collegiate sports including basketball, football, softball, and volleyball. She is the first African American woman to serve as a play-by-play commentator

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Sandy Mickey, longtime Morningsider, dies at 77

Sandra Lee “Sandy” Mickey, 77, of Morningside, died Jan. 30 in North Carolina where she was recouping with the help of her daughter Kathy Swartz.

She was born in Washington on Dec. 7, 1944, to Arthur and Maye Chamberlain. In 1961 she married Danny Joe Mickey Sr. and lived on Morgan Road.

Sandy loved children, baby-sat many in Morningside and worked at Andrews as a day-care provider, mainly in the baby section. She was also a clerk at Fashion Bug in Clinton.

Sandy was preceded in death by her husband Danny, her parents, sisters Shirley Reed and Lois Gardner, and brothers Raymond, Arthur, Leroy and James Chamberlain. Survivors include her children, Kathy (Dale) Swartz, Danny Joe Mickey Jr. and Charles Edward Mickey; sister, Brenda Ball; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and her dear friend and godmother Cathy Miller. Services were at Kalas Funeral Home followed by a gathering of family and friends at the Morningside Town Hall.

From a friend, “She was the first to lend a helping hand.”

Mudd brothers die within 9 days of each other

Earlier this year I lost two very special 1st cousins, John Philip Mudd, 89, and Richard Joseph Aloysius Mudd, 75. They were born in Washington, sons of Thomas Paul and Frances Finotti Mudd. They grew up in Anacostia, graduated from Gonzaga High School and Law School (John at Georgetown and Richard at George Washington). They died about five weeks ago, John in Montgomery County and Richard in Virginia.

John had married Barbara, moved to Prince George's, had a law office in Upper Marlboro for a time before moving to Florida. His wife predeceased him. He is survived by his children, including CNN analyst Phil Mudd.

Richard married Pat, moved to Prince George's and later to Virginia. He worked with his father, T. Paul Mudd, at a law office on Pennsylvania Avenue in Anacostia, and took over the practice when Uncle Paul died. Survivors include his wife, children and grandchildren.

Richard and John were very special cousins. I'll miss so much!

Like me, they are great-grandchildren

of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd who was arrested and served time at Dry Tortugas for setting the leg of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln. He was later pardoned by President Andrew Johnson. The Mudd family continues the fight to clear his name.

Town of Morningside

Morningside has a full slate of activities over the next months. You'll wish you lived in Morningside.

- Easter Bunny Breakfast Bingo, April 16
- Town Election, May 2
- Spring Cleanup, May 14 & 15
- Mother's Day Madhatter's Tea, May 5
- July 4th Parade followed by family fun in the afternoon and fireworks at dusk.

You can contact the Town by calling the office at 301-736-2300. By Fax at 301-736-7440, or email Generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov.

Neighbors & other good people

Michael Trimboli, longtime Morningsider, has died. I'll tell you more about him in next week's column, but you will be interested to know that he graduated from Suitland High School in 1963.

Dr. Stephen T. Michaels is the new President of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. He is an orthopedic surgeon. Gloria Bowman Lucy, who taught at several high schools and colleges, including Crossland and Prince George's Community College, died Jan. 18. She was a member of Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton.

Blessed event

Giuliana Emilia Mateus, daughter of Nicole Wade and Leandro Mateus, was born Feb. 9 at 6:50 a.m., weighing in at 7lbs, 7oz.

Baby Giuliana is the first grandchild for Bradley & Amy Wade and Marco & Catarina Mateus. First great-grandchild of longtime Morningsiders John & Ruth Anthony. And first-time aunt or uncle for Samantha, Jasmine, Peyton, Rafael, Ricardo and Leonardo.

There'll never be a problem finding a babysitter.

Changing landscape

The Rock & Toss Crabhouse is open at 2928 Festival way, next to Panera Bread, in Waldorf. Dine In or Carryout. 301-638-8899.

Maryland's Fresh Seafood announces,

“Maryland crabs are here!” Located at Watkins Park Plaza, 62-A Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. 301-390-5800.

I've received a letter from M-NCPPC announcing assignment to a “new zone” with the approval of the Countywide Map Amendment of the County Council. I don't know what this means to our area. I'll try <https://bit.ly/PGCC-CRI-136-2021> (DR-2). But if you already know what is changing, let me know.

Jeff Bezos has asked the D.C. Public Library Foundation to consider naming a new auditorium at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library after the late Toni Morrison, the first Black woman to receive the Nobel Prize in literature.

A home at 6906 Pickett Dr., recently sold for \$325,000.

Morningside Memories: February 1982

Forty years ago, Dick Jurney, long-time member of the Morningside Sportsmen's Club, was moonlighting as D.J. at Skyline Restaurant. You could enjoy Dick's Oldies-but-Goodies every Saturday night, beginning at 9 p.m.

Mary's COVID-19 report: 10 more Marylanders have died

As of Wednesday, February 9, 5 p.m., There have been 966,817 cases reported in Maryland, including 751 new cases the day before. As for Covid deaths in Maryland, there have been 13,827. Of those there were 10 deaths the last day.

Richard McCracken, of Local #5 Plumbers

Richard Allan McCracken, 58, of Upper Marlboro, an EMT and Fireman for the Boulevard Heights VFD in the 1980s, and was on the Department's Baseball team, died Feb. 3. He was valedictorian for the D.C. apprentice school for Plumbers and was a Journeyman with Local #5 Plumbers and Pipefitters for 33 years, following in his father's footsteps.

Survivors include his wife Christine, two daughters, two stepdaughters, four siblings, and 10 grandchildren. Services were at Lee's.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Clifford Lantz, Feb. 19; Melissa Hames and Paul Bomman, Feb. 20; Ray Short Jr., Feb. 21; Larry Miller, Feb. 24; Kevin Gray, Feb. 25.

Send March birthdays to muddmm@aol.com.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

Local Students Named to Dean's List at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (Feb. 10, 2022)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named more than 300 students to its fall 2021 Dean's list. Dean's list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those named to the Dean's list were:

Greenbelt, Md.: **Destined-Treasure M. Kintum**, sophomore, business management

—*Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*

Local Students Named to Dean's List at Hood College

FREDERICK, Md. (Feb. 9, 2022)—The following students were named to the Dean's List at Hood College for the fall 2021 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes degree-seeking students who completed at least six semester hours of Hood work with at least a 3.5 semester GPA.

Hood College is an independent, liberal arts college, offering more than 25 bachelor's degrees, four pre-professional programs, 19 master's degrees programs, two doctorates and 10 post-baccalaureate certificates. Located in historic Frederick, near Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 technology corridor, Hood gives students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

Andrews Air Force Base, MD: **Sofia Cunningham**, '25

Bowie, MD: **Ryan Leonardi**, '23

Fort Washington, MD: **Talia Wade**, '22

Hyattsville, MD: **Ashley Arevalo**, '22, **Axel Barahona Perez**, '24, **Rebecca Reyes**, '25

Laurel, MD: **Riley Johnston-Napora**, '25

—*Office of Marketing & Communications, Hood College*

Local Residents Named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 8, 2022)—The following local residents were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2021 semester:

Cheverly, MD: **Sami Popol**

Ft Washington, MD: **Del Manson**

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

—*Claudette Brooks, William & Mary*

Local Students Honored at Clarion University

CLARION, Pa. (Feb. 7, 2022)—**Chloe Downs**, District Heights, MD, graduated with a MSLS Information and Library Science in December 2021 from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Virginia Mooney of Laurel, MD, earned at least a 3.5 GPA to be named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

—*Tina M. Horner, Clarion University*

Bowie State Football Adds 17 on National Signing Day

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 5, 2022)—The Bowie State University football team announced its 2022 recruiting class with the addition of 17 high school seniors that signed national letters of intent Wednesday, Feb. 2 on National Signing Day.

“I believe my coaches did an outstanding job with this signing class bringing good quality student athletes into our program,” said head coach Damon Wilson. “We were able to meet our needs in recruiting by signing 10 offensive/defensive linemen and adding more size and speed at other positions.”

Despite the pandemic, the 17-person class is an average size for the three-time Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) championship program.

“This recruiting class average GPA is over a 3.0 and their high schools has a combined senior season record of 139-39. We understand that recruiting is the lifeline of our program. It's extremely important to us to recruit students that can matriculate at the university as we put a priority on recruiting leaders and winners. I'm looking forward to this class joining the student athletes that we have in the program.”

Bowie State is coming off an historic season in 2021 after winning its third-straight conference title, third consecutive CIAA Northern Division championship, a 7-0 record against CIAA opponents, the programs fourth consecutive NCAA appearance and advancing to the NCAA Quarterfinal round for the first time in program history under the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) National Coach of the Year for Division II in Damon Wilson.

The national letter-of-intent signing period for football began on Wednesday, Feb. 2 and runs through Friday, Apr. 1, 2022. The recruiting list for the 2022 class can be found below:

First	Last	School	Ht	Wt	Position
*Kevin	Ford	St. Mary's Ryken	6'0	180	DB
*Damein	Johnson	Northwest	6'0	235	DL
*Antonio	Cruz	Montgomery Blair	6'3	295	OL
*Christian	Piedrahit	Quince Orchard	6'1	255	OL
*Dalan	Johnson	Dundalk HS	6'1	300	DL
*Davion	White	Broadneck HS	6'0	195	RB
*Darrell	Jones	Forest Park HS	6'4	320	OL
*Savion	Moore	Maury HS	6'3	275	OL
*Mamadou	Diallo	Montgomery Blair	6'5	230	DL
*Chris	Miller	Dr. Henry A. Wise	6'4	290	OL
*Ayo	Meyers	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	6'2	255	DL
Amare	Wimbush	Dr. Henry A. Wise	6'7	190	WR
*Nehemai	Cross	Seneca Valley	6'2	185	WR
*Keyon	Torain	Gilman HS	5'9	190	RB
*Jaden	Eldridge	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech	6'1	190	LB
Conner	Washington	C.H. Flowers HS	6'6	330	OL
Shaun	Lee	Paint Branch HS	6'1	270	OL

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsbulldogs.com.

—*Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University Athletics*

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

2022 VIRTUAL ESOPHAGEAL CANCER WALK RUN

Join us Saturday, June 18 or Sunday, June 19 for our 2022 Virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk Run. Tickets: \$30 T-Shirt; \$20 Virtual Only. Sign up today: [SALGI.org/events](https://salgi.org/events). Supporting The Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. Event details Saturday, June 18, 2022, at 9 a.m. More information: <https://salgivirtualwalkrun2022.eventbrite.com/>

There are two ticket options: 1. T-Shirt Ticket: \$30 to participate in the virtual event and receive a t-shirt. Children sizes available, too. Must register by Sunday, May 8, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Open to continental US only. 2. Virtual Ticket Only: \$20 to participate in the virtual event only, no t-shirt. Must register by Friday, June 17, 2022, at 5 p.m. EST. If you have ever wanted to take part in one of our Esophageal Cancer events, now is your chance.

The 2022 Virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk/Run event can take place in your neighborhood, on a trail, bike path, track, by the ocean, river or wherever you would like to walk or run. It is important to remember that by participating in the virtual event you must still take in accordance all social distancing guidelines.

Participants can also bicycle, rollerblade, skateboard, swim, the possibilities are endless. Since the virtual event is not timed, you are able to participate at your own pace, any distance and at any time either Saturday or Sunday. You may sign up as an individual or as a virtual team.

Donations are welcome whether you register or are unable to participate but would still like to make a difference, you can donate to the event. Also, everyone can create an online custom fundraising page to help make an even bigger impact: Visit <https://fundrazr.com/salgivirtualwalkrun2022>.

COLORISM IN BLACK AMERICA

Colorism in Black America: Assessing your internalized oppression. The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services at Bowie State University hosted on February 8 an intentional conversation on Colorism in Black America with Howard University Social Justice Fellow Dr. Anjerrika Bean. Colorism is a practice of discrimination by which those with lighter skin are treated more favorably than those with darker skin. Colorism often happens within the same race. Colorism can be most pronounced among people of color when internalized oppression undercuts solidarity.

Colorism is a product of racism and white supremacy in the United States. At the end of the session participants were able to describe and define colorism, identify scientific tools to assess colorism bias, and analyze strategies to implement to deconstruct colorism microaggressions. Location was via Zoom. Contact Dr.

Keadrick Peters, email: kpeters@bowiestate.edu. Phone: 301-860-3916. Categories Black History Month-Featured Student Life.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nottingham Myers Church invite you to the William Joseph Seymour Foundation Celebration show casting scriptures followed by lively discussion Friday, February 18, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. (Before the Missionaries): The continuing Witness of African Christianity and Friday, February 25, 2022 (Testimonies of Faith): Black Christian Leadership through the 21st Century. Please join our two sessions for these extraordinary events featuring Dr. Estrelida Y. Alexander, president of the foundation and renowned scholar of African Religion. Zoom Meeting ID: 816 8407 8261, by phone 301 715 8592, Passcode: 815561, Meeting ID: 816 8407 8261.

TOWER ROAD DOCUMENTARY

Thursday, February 3, 2022, a documentary called “The Tower Road Bus” premiered on Howard University TV (WHUT) on FIOS Channel 532 and Comcast Channel 802. It is the story of forced segregation in Prince George's County in the 1970s. This documentary has won several awards. Tower Road is in Brandywine, Maryland, Southern Prince George's County.

While tension gripes the Washington D.C. area over school integration in the early 1970s an African American School principal guides his students and teacher through the storm of forced school bus and the aftermath of a shocking murder. There was a panel discussion with Delegate Susie Proctor.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY 50TH YEAR CLASS

Happy Anniversary Class of 1972, Bowie State University's Fifty (50) Year Class. The Office of Alumni Engagement is celebrating the GOLDEN CLASS until graduation day in May. All members of the Class of 1972 were invited to a Zoom Meet-Up on Friday, February 4 at 4 p.m.

BLACK HISTORY-BLACK HERITAGE

Black History Month is celebrated in February because it coincides with the birthdates of Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, and Abraham Lincoln. Each is credited significantly impacting the lives of African Americans.

Explore, connect, and grow with great reading, weekly story times, historical lectures, films and more from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. All events are free and open to the public. For more information and the full calendar, visit <https://www.pgcmli.info/black-heritage>. Information received from Prince George's County Maryland Government.

COMMUNITY

Wilson Named Co-Head Coach For Inaugural HBCU Legacy Bowl, Five Bulldogs to Participate

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 9, 2022)—The Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) announced on Jan. 12, that Bowie State University's head football coach Damon Wilson would

State, the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAC) will have head coach Gabe Giardina of Albany State and the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) will have head coach Willie Simmons of Florida A&M.

Wilson and Pough will team to-

ers (Fort Washington, MD), defensive lineman Tavon Joseph (Baltimore, MD), defensive back Tevin Singleton (District Heights, MD), running back Calil Wilkins (Temple Hills, MD) and defensive back Myles Wolfolk (Largo, MD).

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State Athletics and its 13 varsity sport teams, please visit www.bsbulldogs.com.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

The HBCU Legacy Bowl, presented by the Black College Football Hall of Fame, is a postseason all-star game highlighting the best NFL draft-eligible football players from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It will be broadcast live on NFL Network. More than a football game, the weeklong celebration of Black culture and history will provide invaluable exposure for HBCU students.

The Black College Football Hall of Fame was established in October 2009 to honor the greatest football players and coaches from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Its trustees are football legends Mel Blount, James Harris, Willie Lanier, Art Shell and Doug Williams. The Black College Football Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Shack Harris & Doug Williams Foundation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. The Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) has a permanent home at the Pro Football Hall of Fame to tell the story of HBCUs.

be one of four co-head coaches for the inaugural HBCU Legacy Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 19 on the campus of Tulane University.

Kickoff is slated for 4 p.m. (ET) from Yulman Stadium in New Orleans, La.

Wilson will represent the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Conference while the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) will have head coach Buddy Pough of South Carolina

together to lead players from the CIAA and the MEAC for TEAM GAITHER, named after legendary Florida A&M University football coach Jake Gaither while Giardina and Simmons will anchor players from the SIAC and MEAC for TEAM ROBINSON, named after legendary Grambling State University football coach Eddie Robinson.

Additionally, Bowie State football will have five players participate in the game in linebacker Wesley Bow-

Lawmakers Grill Metro Over Its Handling of Defective Rail Cars

By EMILY HAHN, ASHKAN MOTAMEDI AND CHRIS BARYLICK
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Feb. 9, 2022)—Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin on Wednesday questioned why Metro officials concealed for four years mechanical issues with new-model subway cars, warning that the transit system was risking the public's faith in its safety.

"Safety is obviously a central issue for ridership," Raskin said at a hearing of the House Oversight and Reform Committee's government operations subcommittee. "People want it to be beautiful, people want it to be on time, but people are not going to ride it if it's not safe."

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Inspector General Geoffrey Cherrington said that safety issues with the Kawasaki 7000 series cars were treated by Metro as a warranty issue.

Raskin, D-Kensington, challenged Metro's focus on the manufacturer rather than on its riders.

"That's like if I've got an oven that's not working and is a fire danger for the house and I just report it to the oven manufacturer," Raskin said. "I start writing them and I don't tell anybody in the house that the oven is a danger to life and limb, right?"

Safety concerns for the Kawasaki 7000-series rail cars went back to 2017, according to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators and Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) CEO David Mayer.

Wheel failures on 7000-series rail cars led to the October 2021 Blue Line derailment, Cherrington said. The wheels had moved two inches and one of the car's

wheels came off the rail during the incident.

Inspectors found that the wheels were farther apart than they should have been and could have led to a "catastrophic incident," according to a preliminary report by the NTSB.

All 7000-series trains were pulled out of service after the accident and then sidelined again in December after some cars failed to meet inspection requirements.

Cherrington said his office had found "no evidence, so far, that WMATA intentionally withheld information from WMSC regarding the loose wheel conditions affecting 7000-series rail cars."

After more than six years on the job, Metro General Manager and CEO Paul Wiedefeld is retiring in June.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, said that once WMATA selects a new general manager, that person will need to work in cooperation with the safety commission to "restore the public's faith in Metro."

The Washington region's public transit network saw an infusion of \$2.4 billion in emergency aid during the coronavirus pandemic, a sum that "allowed the system to close its operating deficit for three consecutive years," Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Virginia, said.

But Metro is projecting a deficit of \$519 million in fiscal 2024.

David Ditch, a policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based con-

See METRO Page A4

Countywide Curbside Organics Composting Collection is Here!

Residents who receive County provided services AND opt-in the program will be able to mix their food scraps with their yard trim for the weekly Monday yard trim curbside collection. Food scraps must be placed inside the Organics cart.

Only residents who opted-in and received the appropriate program materials may put food scraps curbside for collection. Plastic bags are not accepted.



If you received a letter from DoE, Opt-In postcards are on the way!

Detailed opt-in instructions are on the postcard.

- Use only one option listed to opt-in:
 1. Scan the QR code on the postcard using a smart phone; **OR**
 2. Call the telephone number and provide the requested information.
 3. Complete the opt-in form online at www.toter.com/princegeorgescounty

Your program materials will be delivered during the Month of April, in celebration of Earth Month.

Households will receive collection materials, including a 32-gallon wheeled cart, a 2-gallon kitchen mini bin, a How-To Guide, a refrigerator magnet, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

For additional information about food scraps composting email us at pgccomposts@co.pg.md.us or visit mypgc.us/compost.



COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Coach Flores' Lawsuit Presents NFL With "Opportunity to Engage in Substantive Change"

"More than half the players in the NFL are Black, and most coaches have played the game at some level. That would seem to be the perfect recipe for Black coaches to find success. But most NFL owners have been white men, and they have seldom been willing to let African Americans or Latinos call plays—either on the field or from the sidelines. This is no different from when franchises presumed that Black players weren't smart enough to play quarterback and lacked leadership skills to command men. The league's paltry record of hiring minority head coaches comes from the same mind-set. And its primary effort to address the problem has been a failure, because a policy can't compensate for ignorance."

—Jemele Hill

Three days before Brian Flores was scheduled

to interview for the position of head coach with the New York Giants, he received a text from New England Patriots general manager Bill Belichick congratulating him on getting the job.

Except Belichick thought he was texting Brian Daboll. The Giants not only had decided to hire Daboll before even interviewing Flores, but already was sharing the information with others.

Belichick's flub illuminated what has long been an open secret in the NFL: too often, complying with the "Rooney Rule," which requires league teams to interview candidates of color for head coaching and senior football operation jobs, is an empty gesture—a fig leaf to conceal the owners' indifference to achieving racial parity among top coaching and executive positions.

As head coach of the Miami Dolphins, Flores led the team out of a 20-year slump to consecutive

winning seasons between 2020 and 2021. Rather than celebrate his success, Dolphin's owner Stephen M. Ross fired him. And rather than leap at the chance to hire Flores—or at least seriously consider him—the Giants used his sham interview to create the false impression that a Black candidate had a legitimate chance at obtaining the job.

Flores' lawsuit against the NFL, the Giants, the Dolphins, and the Denver Broncos—whom he accuses of conducting a similar sham interview in 2019—has brought to a head the League's shameful history of racial discrimination and persistent indifference to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Civil rights leaders, including myself, met Monday (Feb. 7) with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, challenging the league to establish specific recruiting and hiring procedures for executive and coaching positions, with meaningful consequences for teams that do not abide by the rules. We agreed to continue collaborating and advising the league to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of the NFL and its member teams.

The lawsuit cites some appalling statistics. While 70% of NFL players are Black, not one of its 32 team owners is Black. The only team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, employs a Black head coach. Only four teams employ a Black offensive coordinator—a position generally regarded as a steppingstone to head coach. Only 11 teams employ a Black defensive coordinator.

As Flores lawsuit alleges, this is not by chance. A 2016 study of the NFL found that white assistant coaches were 114% more likely to get promoted to the coordinator position than coaches of color with the same experience, education, and track record. The study found that it takes nine years

before a white coach has a greater than 50 percent chance of becoming a coordinator, compared with 14 years for a nonwhite coach. The authors estimated that over a 20-year career, a white coach is likely to earn over \$20 million more than his non-white counterpart.

These challenges are not insurmountable. Consider the success of a memorandum of understanding that telecom giant Comcast signed with the National Urban League and other civil rights organizations in 2010. Among other provisions, the memorandum committed Comcast to establish specific, measurable goals for diversity and inclusion in corporate governance, workforce retention and recruitment, procurement, programming, along with philanthropy and community investments. According to Comcast's most recent report, people of color make up 44.3% of its workforce, 18.8% of whom are Black. As part of its effort to increase diversity among top executives, the company established a boot camp for mid-level vice president candidates, including no less than 80% diverse candidates. More than 22% of positions of vice president and above now are filled by people of color, and the company has committed to a goal of 33% people of color at every level of its workforce.

There's no reason the NFL can't replicate this success. It simply requires a sincere commitment on the part of the owners and league executives.

As Flores' legal team has said, his lawsuit presents the NFL with an "opportunity to engage in substantive change." The National Urban League and our sister civil rights groups will do everything in our power to make sure that opportunity is not squandered.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Young Leaders Making a Difference

When President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to Atlanta recently to address the urgent need for voting rights legislation, they chose to speak on the storied grounds of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, the home of historically Black institutions Clark University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and my alma mater Spelman College. President Biden and Vice President Harris were introduced onstage by current Spelman senior Jillian Jackson, who is serving as the 80th President of Spelman's Student Government Association. I am so proud of Jillian and grateful for the current generation of young servant leaders like her who are busy making their schools, communities, and world a better place. During Black History Month it is especially fitting to celebrate today's and

tomorrow's young Black leaders.

Jillian, who is from Memphis, is a political science major and Spanish minor in Spelman's Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program. Besides serving in student government she has been part of the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, URGE (Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Fair Fight U, joining other students supporting Stacey Abrams's Fair Fight organization as they fight for free and fair elections, encourage voter participation, and educate voters about elections and their voting rights. This is critical work for young people. As Jillian introduced President Biden and Vice President Harris she reminded her fellow students it was their "duty as campus leaders and change agents to combat voter

discrimination on behalf of their peers and [their] community."

Jillian described registering to vote at a NAACP voter drive right after she turned 18 during her first semester at Spelman and shared how excited she was to participate in her first election. But she also saw how many challenges hopeful voters face, including strict absentee requirements, limited polling place access, long lines, and rejections over technicalities like misspelled names or incorrect addresses. As Jillian said, these barriers "inhibit many citizens and their right to vote, especially within the Black community," and some of the same barriers that make voting harder for many people of color also make it harder for young people.

July 2021 was the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 26th amendment lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. In a White House proclamation celebrating that anniversary President Biden said: "Young Americans have been on the front lines in the fight to defend the right to vote and expand access to the ballot box for all eligible voters. Their civic engagement extends beyond voting—with young Americans leading the calls for racial justice, climate action, gun violence prevention, and immigration reform among many other issues." But fifty years after younger Americans were included as voters, we are at a very dangerous moment for voter suppression in our nation, and the same proclamation noted that "laws aimed at suppressing voter turnout in Black

and Brown communities also impact young voters."

New attempts at installing residency and ID requirements can make it harder to vote for young people who do not have drivers' licenses or items like utility bills in their own names. College students who attend school outside their home states may find it even harder to register and vote near their campuses, while efforts to limit absentee ballots and mail-in voting may make it more difficult for the same group of students to mail ballots home. But measures like automatic and same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and extending early access to in-person voting or making Election Day a holiday would improve access for young voters and everyone. Standing up for the right to vote is just one valuable way young people like Jillian are making a difference.

As Jillian gave her introduction, her high school English teacher Karen Garrison told a local reporter "the superlatives for this remarkable scholar, Jillian Jackson, are too numerous to narrow down": "[She] embodies the attributes of a developing leader supported by solid family values and a personal work ethic. Her social and political advocacy for meaningful change makes her an authentic influencer... Get ready, world; this is only a rehearsal." Our nation and world are indeed more than ready for Jillian and many more young servant leaders like her. As Vice President Harris told her: "I can't wait to see what you do next!"

Statement – Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II Responds to Maryland Court of Appeals Ruling on Redistricting Case

By KAREN D. CAMPBELL
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 12, 2022)—The Maryland Court of Appeals has accepted the Prince George's County Council appeal of a Circuit Court deci-

sion regarding Council authority to adopt the 2021 Redistricting Plan for Prince George's County by Council Resolution. The State's highest court has agreed to hear oral arguments on March 4, 2022. The Council voted to adopt its 2021 Redistricting Plan by Resolution under the

authority granted by voters in 2012 with approval of Ballot Question A, and the County Charter, which states the Plan shall be adopted by Council Resolution. Additionally, the Maryland Court of Appeals has extended the candidacy filing deadline to March 22, 2022.

Council Hosts Black History Month Program

In observance of Black History Month 2022, the Prince George's County Council will host a virtual Black History Program, "Black America Speak Up," on **Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 10 a.m.**, and you're invited! The program will feature musical selections by the Prince George's County Choral Society. Poetry and spoken word performances will also be offered by Creative Suitland artists, C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas; Billye Keene Okera, Brenardo Taylor, and Sainey Ceesay, representing Creative Suitland. The Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church will provide the Invocation.

CIAA from A1

for college football on ESPN.

Gray currently serves as play-by-play for both the WNBA and college basketball with ESPN and the ACC Network. She's worked as an analyst and play-by-play for NCAA women's basketball and the WNBA for various sports networks including NBATV, Bally Sports South and CBS throughout her 11-year career.

A former CIAA student-athlete at Saint Augustine's University, Foster-Brasby has covered the NBA, NFL, MLB, and NCAA Men's Basketball for outlets such as espnW, ESPN's The Undeclared, the New York Times, FanSided, and Slam Magazine. She is most notably known as one of the two voices on

ESPN's Around the Rim women's basketball podcast.

Williams is a former assistant coach and head coach at the collegiate level. She has served as a color analyst for the ACC Network, American East Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, and the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Also joining the talent lineup for early round games will be Sean Robertson. An alumnus of CIAA member Virginia State University, Robertson is an award-winning sports anchor and reporter for WTVR CBS 6 (Richmond) that has experience as a play-by-play analyst, pre-game host, and sideline reporter for both the Richmond Spiders and the VCU Rams.

Games for Thursday through Saturday, including both championship games on ESPNU,

will feature CIAA veteran tandem Stan Lewter (color) and Scott Pryzwansky (play-by-play) on call.

Lewter has covered the CIAA for more than two decades and also serves as an analyst on ESPN for college basketball and football. Pryzwansky has served as a reporter and host for live telecasts of the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament, ACC Football, SEC Football and, in addition to the CIAA, has handled play-by-play duties for the Greensboro Swarm and others.

For more information about the CIAA, visit CIAA.com. You can also like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and on Twitch. To get the latest updates on the CIAA Tournament or to sign up for the CIAA Newsletter, visit CIAATournament.org.

Metro from A3

servative think tank, decried what he called a "culture of mediocrity" at WMATA.

He said that "there is no guarantee that ridership will ever again reach 2019 levels, let alone 2010 levels," and accused the agency of "endlessly throwing good money after bad."

"When you're in a hole, stop digging," Ditch said.

Rep. Katie Porter, D-California, pressed

Wiedefeld to discuss what actions have been taken to hold Kawasaki accountable for the problems with the 7000-series cars.

The Metro CEO said he could not comment because the issue is part of the current investigation by the NTSB and the inspectors general of Metro and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Porter also asked Wiedefeld whether the 7000-series rail cars are indeed defective.

"At this time we, again, we have to wait

until this investigation is completed and we will determine..." Wiedefeld began.

Porter interrupted: "Mr. Wiedefeld, I want to be clear, you don't have to wait until the investigations clear. You may be choosing to do that."

"I would certainly hope you would be developing a plan," she said. "But there's no requirement that you wait, you can begin negotiations with Kawasaki in the meantime."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Nursing and Allied Health Professions Virtual Job Fair

Prince George's County residents are invited to attend the inaugural Nursing and Allied Health Professions Virtual Job Fair on Thursday, Feb. 24, 4-6:30 p.m. Employers scheduled to attend include Holy Cross Health, Luminis Health, MedStar Health, University of Maryland Medical System, and many more.

Jobseekers Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3qV3ruw>

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Do Medicare Part A and B Backup My Medicare Advantage Plan?

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

Dear Rusty: I was told that I can use Medicare Parts A and B as secondary coverage to my Medicare Advantage plan. Is that true?
Signed: Puzzled

Dear Puzzled: Many do not understand how the various parts of Medicare work, and especially how or if “original Medicare” (Medicare Part A and Part B) interacts with a Medicare Advantage plan. If you now have a Medicare Advantage plan, it is the private insurer who provides your plan that administers all of your healthcare needs, instead of the federal government agency which runs Medicare (that federal agency is called the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or “CMS”).

Although you must pay Medicare Part A and Part B premiums to the federal government to obtain a Medicare Advantage plan, all your healthcare services are handled by the private Medicare Advantage plan provider and not by the government's CMS agency. When you have an Advantage plan, Medicare Parts A and Part B do not act as secondary coverage for your Advantage plan. You don't get healthcare services from both, because when you choose a Medicare Advantage plan you are deselecting CMS as the administrator of your healthcare needs.

Deciding whether to use “original Medicare” to administer your healthcare services or to use a Medicare Advantage plan is always a very personal choice. Medicare Advantage plans cover almost all the medically necessary services that original Medicare covers, although you must generally use “in-network” providers to obtain full coverage. But if you incur healthcare expenses which are not covered by your Medicare Advantage plan, you must pay them yourself—federal Medicare Parts A and Part B are not backup coverage for those uncovered healthcare expenses. So, what you were told is incorrect—Medicare Part A and Part B do not act as secondary coverage to your Medicare Advantage plan.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' 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 www.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.

Washington Adventist University Partners With Laurel College Center to Expand Educational Pathways

New partnership creates opportunities for Prince George's Community College and Howard Community College Students to earn a four-year general studies degree

By PRESS OFFICERS
PGCC and HCC

LAUREL, Md. (Feb. 10, 2022)—Howard Community College (HCC) and Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced a partnership with Washington Adventist University to expand access to associate to bachelor's degree programs at Laurel College Center. Founded by HCC and PGCC, Laurel College Center is a Maryland regional higher education center that serves students seeking associate and bachelor's degrees.

“On behalf of Washington Adventist University, we are thrilled to partner with Prince George's Community College and Howard Community College to expand opportunities for career advancement and professional development through personalized, timely degree completion as uniquely offered to students and constituents of the Laurel College Center,” said Cheryl Kisunzu, Ph.D., provost of Washington Adventist University. “At Washington Adventist University, we commit to creating opportunities through which individual competencies and credentials of the adult learner are refined for service in a manner which is both credible and compelling. We are confident that through this partnership each student will be personally empowered to enrich our community, our nation, and our global society in new and awesome ways.”

In a Memorandum of Agreement between Laurel College Center and Washington Adventist University (WAU), located in Takoma Park, Maryland, students who earn their associate degrees at HCC

or PGCC will be able to transfer their credits and gain admission to WAU classes at the center. Washington Adventist University at Laurel College Center will offer a Bachelor of Science in general studies with a concentration in communication or a concentration in health care administration. Courses are taught one night a week in eight-week sessions, allowing students to complete their bachelor's degree from WAU in 18-24 months.

Laurel College Center's partnership with WAU guarantees admission for all Howard Community College and Prince George's Community College students who meet eligibility requirements, maximizing opportunities and accelerating pathways to a four-year degree for students throughout the state.

“Student success is a priority at Prince George's Community College, and we strive to make education as accessible and convenient as possible,” said Clayton A. Railey, Ph.D., executive vice president and provost of Teaching, Learning, and Student Success. “That's why we are so pleased to welcome Washington Adventist University as a partner. We know this agreement will help ease the transition from an associate to bachelor's program, and that it will go far to help students achieve their higher education goals.”

“The Laurel College Center is a supportive community of colleges and universities that are committed to providing students with an education to get ahead in work and in life,” said Dr. Jean Svacina, vice president of academic affairs at Howard Community College. “Howard Community College is proud to partner

with Washington Adventist University in opening new pathways for students to earn their baccalaureate degree.”

Since 1970, Howard Community College (HCC) has been the preferred college choice for students and families in Howard County, Maryland. A public community college, HCC offers associate degree and certificate programs, as well as workforce development training and continuing education classes, to more than 26,000 credit and noncredit students each year. HCC is the recipient of the 2019 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's only presidential-level honor for performance excellence in organizations.

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015-2020), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 40,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George's County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit www.pgcc.edu.

AAA: Potholes Can Be a Big Hit (On Your Wallet)

AAA Offers Advice for Avoiding Expensive Repair Bills

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (Feb. 7, 2022)—Winter weather has already been a mixed bag this year and we still have several weeks to go. The last few weeks have brought snow, ice and freezing cold temperatures. Last week brought milder temperatures and heavy rain. All of these conditions combined are the perfect recipe for potholes—perhaps even sooner than in past years, another expense for drivers during a winter that has already been costly for many of them.

Last month, AAA Mid-Atlantic saw the number of emergency roadside calls for battery service jump more than 20% in the District of Columbia, more than 40% in Maryland, and more than 35% in Virginia, compared to January of 2020, prior to the pandemic lockdown.

In just the first few weeks of the year, the auto club has also seen tire-related calls that amount to more than 25% of the total volume for all of last winter—and with pothole season upon us, calls for tire-related

issues are only expected to increase.

Typically, potholes form when moisture collects in small holes and cracks in the road surface. As temperatures rise and fall, the moisture expands and contracts due to freezing and thawing. This breaks up the pavement and, combined with the weight of passing cars, eventually results in the formation of potholes.

“Driving over potholes formed by weather extremes and heavy traffic can damage a tire's internal steel belts and force it ‘to go out of round.’ This negatively impacts your ability to drive comfortably and safely,” says Chris Storms, AAA Car Care District Director. “Running into a pothole can lead to irregular tire wear and tear, vehicle vibration and imbalance, wobbling and loss of control.”

Damage from potholes is not just an inconvenience. It can be a significant expense. In some cases, the impact of poor road conditions on vehicles can leave a car owner with repair bills ranging from under \$250 to more than \$1000 depending on the extent of the damage, the make of the vehicle and

the make of the tires.

“Hitting a pothole can damage much more than just your tires,” says Storms. “In addition to the cost of extensive repairs, many vehicles these days don't have a spare tire, so those without AAA have the added expense of a tow, as well.”

Blown tires, dented rims, damaged wheels, dislodged wheel weights, displaced struts, dislocated shock absorbers, and damaged exhaust systems are all are costly common automotive issues caused by pothole run-ins. Other telltale signs include misaligned steering systems, and ruptured ball joints.

According to a AAA study on pothole damage:

- Americans spend \$3 billion per year on average to repair pothole-related damages to their vehicles.
- American drivers paid an average of \$300 each to repair pothole-related damages to their vehicles in 2017, AAA estimated.

See POTHOLE Page A7

Check It to Protect It: Tax Time Is for Conservation

Donations made to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund through Maryland's income tax check-off program support education, community stewardship, and Bay restoration efforts

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Bay Trust

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 8, 2021)—Tax season is here, and Marylanders can help protect one of our state's greatest natural treasures, the Chesapeake Bay and its wildlife, by making a tax-deductible contribution to line 35, the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund, on the Maryland tax form.

The Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund was created to support Bay restoration and education programs and to protect Maryland's rare, threatened, and endangered species. The fund is split evenly between the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a highly rated nonprofit organization, and the Wildlife and Heritage Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Line 35 on the state income tax form allows Marylanders to quickly and easily donate to help the Bay and conserve Maryland's native wildlife and endangered species. Over \$1 million was contributed through the 2021 tax

check-off, which funded Bay restoration initiatives, community stewardship projects, and environmental education programs throughout the state.

Now more than ever, it is important to protect—and visit—our natural resources. Many outdoor spaces, such as state parks, have seen a significant increase in visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Science shows us that people who spend time outdoors are healthier, physically and mentally,” said Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “All residents in our communities need access to clean, healthy, green, outdoor spaces and it is imperative that we work to solve any disparities in that access. Your 100% tax deductible contribution to this fund can directly help that need.”

Launched in 1990, the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund is one of the most successful voluntary tax check-off programs in the nation. Last year, more than 30,000 Maryland state income tax statements were returned with

contributions to the fund. To make your contribution, simply complete line 35 on your Maryland state income tax form or ask your certified public accountant or tax preparer. Donations of any dollar amount can be made and all are tax deductible. For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust, visit www.cbtrust.org/taxdonation, or for details on the Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife and Heritage Division, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife.

Additionally, Certified Public Accountants and tax preparers have joined in on restoration efforts to improve the health of the Bay and conserve our at-risk species through the CPAs for a Healthy Bay program led by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. If you would like to work with a Bay-friendly CPA this tax season, or if you are a CPA who would like to participate in this program, visit www.cbtrust.org/cpas to learn more.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-



making organization established by the Maryland General Assembly dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's grantees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Chesapeake Bay license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the

Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for sixteen years. On average, 90 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

About the Wildlife and Heritage Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources: The Wildlife and Heritage Service regularly reviews its database to determine areas it considers priorities for acquisition to maintain the quality of the unusual ecosystems, natural communities, or habitats for rare species. These recommendations are used by Maryland Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other conservation organizations interested in purchasing ecologically significant properties. The Department of Natural Resources receives dedicated funding, through a very small percentage of the real estate transfer tax, called the Heritage Conservation Fund to be used specifically for the purchase of important natural areas harboring habitats for rare species or unique natural communities.

ENVIRONMENT

Earth TALK™ EV Batteries & The E-Waste Apocalypse

Dear EarthTalk:

As millions and millions of electric car batteries start to reach the end of their useful lives, how can we avoid an e-waste apocalypse?

—W. Alexander, San Francisco, CA

Record-breaking electric car sales confirm that the future of electric transport is here. Globally, 10 million lithium-ion battery-powered vehicles are now on the road. The International Energy Agency predicts that number will increase to 300 million by 2030, accounting for over 60 percent of new car sales. But a huge problem looms on the horizon: in less than a decade, nearly two million tons of lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles will be retired each year, and the current recycling infrastructure isn't ready for them. Most lithium-ion batteries are tossed in landfills, with only five percent recycled worldwide.

Researchers at Newcastle University in the UK warn that this growing stream of spent batteries poses "an enormous threat" to the natural environment and human health. "Degradation of the battery content in some cases may lead to the emergence of chemicals structurally similar to chemical warfare agents."

Given the risks, upping our capacity for recycling these batteries is imperative not only to avoid possibly catastrophic landfill disposal, but also to reduce the need for

harmful mining. More than 70 percent of the world's cobalt, the most expensive element in a lithium-ion battery, is produced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). One would assume this to be an economic miracle for miners in the DRC, however unrelenting poverty forces even the children to work in the mines instead of attending school.

In addition to pitiful wages, DRC miners face serious health threats and local environmental annihilation. Researchers at the University of Lubumbashi found that residents near the mines, especially children, had higher urinary levels of cobalt, cadmium and uranium. The urinary cobalt concentrations found in this population are the highest ever reported for a general population. Fish in the DRC are also heavily contaminated with high levels of metals, while soil samples are so contaminated that the mining regions of the DRC are considered among the 10 most polluted areas in the world.

Lithium mining has also spurred a backlash across the globe, including in Serbia, Tibet and Chile. And in the U.S., residents near Thacker Pass in Nevada formed a grassroots group to sound off on multiple concerns should a proposed lithium mine begin production there. Concerns include a possible dramatic decrease in air quality due to the tens of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel that will be burned daily at the

proposed mine, releasing the same carbon dioxide emissions as a small city. The mine would also extract more than a billion gallons of water annually from an already over-allocated aquifer in the Quinn River Valley, possibly leaching dangerous substances into groundwater in the process. Further distressing are the adverse impacts to the area's unique sagebrush steppe terrain, a habitat for over 350 species, including greater sage-grouse, golden eagles, pronghorn antelope, burrowing owls, pygmy rabbits and more.

Dramatically increasing recycling capacity for lithium-ion batteries and creating new ways to store electricity safely are crucial to staving off the worst impacts of our newfound reliance on this technology.

CONTACTS: Environmental impacts, pollution sources and pathways of spent lithium-ion batteries, pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2021/xx/d1ee00691f; Protect Thacker Pass, protectthackerpass.org; High human exposure to cobalt and other metals in Katanga, a mining area of the Democratic Republic of Congo, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19486963/; Human exposure to metals due to consumption of fish from an artificial lake basin close to an active mining area in Katanga, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26953137/.

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Climate from A1

Environmental legislation to vote for, which he said can help make clear to voters where their representatives stand on climate issues in an election year.

Senate Minority Leader Bryan Simonaire, R-Anne Arundel, said Republican members were willing to work with Democrats on climate issues.

"The Republican Senate Caucus stands ready to work in a bipartisan manner to craft balanced legislation that supports a healthy environment and deals with the impacts of a changing climate," Simonaire said in a statement. "When legislation is advanced without collaboration, it tends to be more extreme and not in the best interest of Maryland."

Last year's legislation faced opposition from labor organizations and the commercial real estate industry, including the Mid-Atlantic Pipes Trade Association, multiple branches of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Maryland Realtors and the Maryland Multi-Housing Association.

Representatives for energy industry labor leaders, such as Tom Clark of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26, said in testimony last year that they are in favor of a transition to cleaner energy sources, but paused at a swift move away from traditional forms of energy like natural gas and coal.

Clark has said union leaders and their members are concerned the transition would mean a loss in jobs for blue-collar workers as their old jobs are phased out without a sufficient increase in jobs in the climate-friendly sector.

For example, renewable energy only accounted for 11% of Maryland's electricity production in 2020, compared to 79% for natural gas and nuclear energy, according to state data.

"The IBEW and its members are ready and trained for the green economy," Clark wrote in testimony to the House and Senate last year. "However, until you can store solar energy, Maryland is not ready. I suggest you wait until science and invention catch up to your green goals."

The 2022 Senate bill instructs the state to make sure the plans to reduce greenhouse gasses "Directly cause no loss of existing jobs in the manufacturing sector" and produce "a net increase in jobs in the State."

It also would establish a working group to study the number of jobs that would be created by the state's climate change efforts in the energy, building and transportation sectors.

Additionally, Democrats said, the legislation would offer programs for young people to be trained for careers in the climate-friendly industries.

Barve said in an interview he is confident the transition to clean energy will cre-



PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF ANNAPOLIS

The bills would require a shift to renewable energy sources, like the Annapolis Solar Park, to sharply curb greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. The park is the largest solar energy project on a closed landfill in North America, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



The Annapolis Solar Field covers approximately 80 acres with more than 52,000 solar panels that generate approximately 24,000,000 kilowatt hours of clean electricity each year, the equivalent of removing more than 15,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the environment, according to EDF Renewables, which built it.

ate jobs, saying the solar and wind energy sector should produce thousands of opportunities.

Expanding solar energy projects could produce as many as 22,000 jobs in the state by 2028, according to a 2018 report commissioned by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Aaron Greenfield is the director of government affairs for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, a trade association of managers and owners of rental property.

Greenfield and other representatives for real estate leaders said they are concerned that requirements for construction and renovations needed to comply with new environmental standards could significantly increase costs for developers and renters.

Greenfield said his organization has had productive conversations with the Senate President's office about the issues.

William Castelli is the senior vice president for government affairs at Maryland

Realtors, a non-profit organization that represents real estate agents and brokers. Castelli said he hopes any new legislation will provide homeowners with flexibility on retrofitting homes to meet increased energy standards.

The Senate bill says the building regulations should "provide maximum flexibility to the owners of covered buildings to comply with building emissions standards."

Victoria Venable, director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network Maryland, said she has seen the General Assembly prioritize other important issues instead of climate in recent years, but the time to act on environmental legislation is now.

"We know from the speaker (of the House of Delegates) and the Senate president that this is a priority for both of them," said Venable in an interview with Capital News Service.

"We can negotiate with each other but we can't negotiate with the physics."

Spotlight

Natural Areas Management Services Webinar Series: A Case Study

Grow your business by providing natural area management services to small acreage clients

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Extension

Green industry professionals looking to expand their services to include working in woodlands and meadows can benefit from a series of webinars on natural area management offered by the University of Maryland Extension.

The Natural Area Management Services Series: A Case Study is designed for land managers and interested landowners. These webinars will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on three consecutive Thursdays: March 10, 17, and 24, 2022, and interested participants must register online at <https://go.umd.edu/NAM22>.

The three-part series based on the Woodland Health Practices Manual and Checklist, created by the Woods in Your Backyard partnership, will provide in-depth instruction on managing a small-acreage property. Using a case-study approach, instructors will demonstrate how to utilize the checklist to assess a property, develop a land care plan, and implement various land management practices. The webinar series will cover how to improve tree health through management of existing tree canopies, control invasive plants, convert unused lawn area into woods and meadows, creating a haven for wildlife, and assess and mitigate deer impact on vegetation.

The aim is to inform and equip green industry professionals with resources, knowledge and skills to provide additional services to clientele while improving ecosystem health. A certificate of attendance will be provided to participants who attend the live sessions only. These certificates can be used to obtain professional development credits for International Society of Arboriculture, Society of American Foresters (pending approval) and Maryland Licensed Tree Experts (pending approval).

The Woods in Your Backyard Partnership includes the University of Maryland Extension, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Forests for the Bay, Penn State Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Registrations will be accepted through March 9. Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinar. Registrants also will receive access to webinar recordings. Cost of the program is \$35, which includes the Woodland Health Practices Handbook and the Woodland Health Assessment Checklist and Management Actions Guide. The webinar is \$15 without the Handbook and Guide Register and find more information at <https://go.umd.edu/NAM22>.

For more information on program content, contact Agnes Kedmenecz, extension educator, at 410-827-8056 or akedmen@umd.edu.

Agenda:

Webinar 1: Thursday, March 10, 2022, 2–4 p.m.

Developing a Woods In Your Backyard Land Care Plan for Clientele: A Case Study Approach

This session will provide a brief overview of the Woods in Your Backyard educational program and resources available. It will describe the potential benefits to offering these services to small acreage landowners. In addition, it will explain what their motivations and interests are for natural area services and how to communicate your message to clientele. This will be done by focusing on a case-study property to demonstrate how to utilize the Woodland Health Assessment: Checklist & Management Actions Tool for the initial walk through. Session will wrap-up by developing a land care plan for the case study property.

Webinar 2: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 2–4 p.m.

Improving Tree Health and Managing Deer Problems: A Case Study Approach

This webinar covers two additional high priority practices: how to convert unused lawn area into a haven for wildlife by converting it to woods and meadows. Planting trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses is only the first step, practices such as controlling competing and invasive vegetation and maintaining tree protection will help ensure success. Next, this session will discuss how to identify and mitigate the negative impacts of deer overabundance. Methods to assess deer impact as well as small and large-scale methods to reduce the impact of deer on vegetation will be addressed.

Webinar 3: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 2–4 p.m.

Converting Lawn to Natural Area and Controlling Invasive Plants: A Case Study Approach

This webinar will cover two high priority management practices: how to improve tree health and habitat by thinning overcrowded trees and releasing chosen or "crop" trees and invasive plant problems and how best to control them. Herbicide selection and application methods will be examined in detail.

Time: Thursdays: March 10, 17 and 24, 2022 Registration Information: <https://go.umd.edu/NAM22>

Registration Materials & Cost: \$35.00. Includes Woodland Health Practices Handbook and the Woodland Health Assessment Checklist and Management Actions Guide. \$15 without the Handbook and Guide

Note: For an additional \$20 participants can also receive a copy of the original Woods in Your Backyard book 2nd edition.

The Woods in Your Backyard Partnership includes the University of Maryland Extension, Penn State Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia Dept. of Forestry

This project is funded by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology.

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Potholes from A5

"It is critical for motorists to be proactive and have their vehicle inspected whenever they suspect damage," Storms notes. "Ignoring the problem could be a costly mistake."

To aid motorists in protecting their vehicles from pothole damage, AAA recommends the following:

Inspect Tires — The tire is the most important cushion between a car and a pothole. Make sure tires have enough tread and are properly inflated. To check the tread depth, insert a quarter into the tread groove with Washington's head upside down. The tread should cover part of Washington's head. If it doesn't, then it's time to start shopping for new tires. When checking tire pressures, ensure they are inflated to the manufacturer's recommended levels, which can be found in the owner's manual or on a sticker on the driver's door jamb. Do not use the pressure levels stamped on the sidewall of the tire.

Look Ahead—Make a point of checking the road ahead for potholes. An alert driver may have time to avoid potholes, so it's important to stay focused on the road and not any distractions inside or outside the vehicle. Before swerving to avoid a pothole, check surrounding traffic to ensure this will not cause a collision or endanger nearby pedestrians or cyclists.

Slow Down—If a pothole cannot be avoided, reduce speed safely before sure to check the rearview mirror before any abrupt braking. Hitting a pothole at higher speeds greatly increases the chance of damage to tires, wheels and suspension components.

Beware of Puddles—A puddle of water can disguise a deep pothole. Use care when driving through puddles and treat them as though they may be hiding potholes.

Check Alignment—Hitting a pothole can knock a car's wheels out of alignment and affect the steering. If a vehicle pulls to the left of right, have the wheel alignment checked by a qualified technician.

Recognize Noises/Vibrations—A hard pothole impact can dislodge wheel weights, damage a tire or wheel, and bend or even break suspension components. Any new or unusual noises or vibrations that appear after hitting a pothole should be inspected immediately by a certified technician.

AAA Mid-Atlantic has developed a convenient pothole reporting page that can be found at AAA.com/ReportAPothole to help drivers find the appropriate county or state highway contact information to report potholes in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington DC, Virginia and New Jersey.

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