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PHOTO: MICHAEL CHARLES/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Wes Moore signs executive orders releasing abortion training and other funds in his first full day in office. Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and Secretary of State Susan Lee look on.

Gov. Wes Moore Releases Stalled Abortion Care Funds

By MICHELLE LARKIN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 19, 2023)—On his first full day in office, Gov. Wes Moore and Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller announced they're releasing \$3.5 million to expand abortion care training, part of \$69 million in funds withheld by his predecessor and released by Moore Thursday (Jan. 19).

"Maryland needs to be a state that is a safe haven for abortion rights," Moore said. "We must as neighbors be able to unite behind the basic principle that all women are entitled to safe health care services."

Overturning *Roe v. Wade*, a landmark decision that upheld the legality of abortion across the U.S. for nearly 50 years, influenced Moore's decision. *Roe* was overturned on June 24, 2022, by the U.S. Supreme Court, a decision Moore called "dangerous" and "unprecedented" for women.

Throughout his campaign for governor, Moore promised to enshrine the right to

abortion in Maryland's Constitution and release suitable funding to expand reproductive health care training on "day one."

"Our administration will continue to work with our legislative partners, our health care providers and other critical stakeholders to enact additional protections to preserve and expand access to reproductive rights," Moore said.

State funding for abortion provider training services was previously withheld by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan.

Hogan's decision not to grant the funds was largely due to his firm belief that "non-licensed physicians should not be performing these medical procedures," according to Hogan's spokesman at the time, Michael Ricci.

Moore's initiative is an important step to fully implement the Abortion Care Access Act passed in 2022, which Hogan vetoed but the Democrat-controlled legislature overrode the decision.

The Abortion Care Access Act specifies that "qualified providers," like licensed physicians and nurse practitioners, can

perform abortions during a post-Roe era. It also will allow abortion care training programs at community-based and hospital-based sites, but it will not officially start until July 1.

The Abortion Care Access Act, whose lead sponsor was Del. Ariana Kelly, D-Montgomery, also focuses on equity in access to abortion coverage in Maryland insurance plans. It would require most private insurance plans to cover abortion care without deductibles. Kelly could not be reached for comment Thursday.

According to Moore's website and a Guttmacher Institute study, around 70 percent of Maryland's counties have no abortion providers.

The timing of Moore's release of funds coincides with this year's March for Life, the annual anti-abortion rally around the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Friday's march will focus on the Capitol, according to the map and organizers, as the fight against the practice has moved into legislatures.

News from Prince George's County Public Schools

Kingsford and Whitehall Elementary Schools Honored for Excellence in Talented and Gifted Education

Kingsford Elementary School earns first-ever TAG designation.

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 19, 2023)—Kingsford and Whitehall elementary schools have earned the 2023 Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Schools designation, bringing the total to 21 in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

The EGATE Award recognizes public schools that offer superior and equitable gifted and talented education.

"Access to quality gifted and talented programs is key to ensuring advanced learners meet their full potential," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "These schools go above and beyond to serve as a model for rig-

orous academic standards for students."

The designation is a first for Kingsford and the second for Whitehall. The application process requires school teams to document how their school's gifted and talented education program aligns with state guidelines.

Both schools will be honored at a virtual statewide Gifted and Talented Award Ceremony on Tuesday, February 28. Additionally, more than 30 PGCPS educators, administrators, students and parents will be recognized as individual award winners for their work in gifted education.

Visit the PGCPS Newsroom for a list of award-winners.

Prince George's County Board of Education Names New Leadership

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 17, 2023)—The Prince George's County Board of Education has selected new leadership including Judy Mickens-Murray who will serve as Board of Education Chair and Lolita E. Walker, who will serve as Vice Chair.

Mickens-Murray was appointed to a 4-year service term in 2021 by County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks. She brings 30 years of service with the federal government as a civil servant for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration as well as prior service on the Board; she was appointed in 2002 by County Executive Wayne K. Curry and Governor Parris Glendening.

"I am committed to educational success for all students by engaging in an ongoing dialogue around education issues to ensure all community voices are heard," said Mickens-Murray. "I wish to build sustainment of our student learning progress by engaging all stakeholders, neighborhood by neighborhood. Together, we can assist every student to appreciate learning opportunities and to attain a quality education."

Walker, who was elected to represent District 9 as a board member in the November 2022 general election, brings experience as a corporate leader, full-time entrepreneur, certified life, leadership, and executive coach, author, podcaster, and community leader.

"I am excited to bring a renewed energy and focused action that will help to provide governance and oversight that equips our scholars with the best education possible," Walker said. "I will use the collection of my skills to help strengthen linkages that will further connect our students, parents, teachers, staff, administration, community, and board."

More information on Board of Education members, news, updates and meetings: www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

Maryland's Legal Cannabis Market to be Shaped by Many Hands

By GREG MORTON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 20, 2023)—With lawmakers facing a July 1 deadline to provide a framework for the legal use, possession, and sale of cannabis after voters approved full legalization in November, it's clear, just a week into the General Assembly session, that the task won't be straightforward.

While the public is generally enthusiastic about legalization, which passed with 67% support and received more votes than new governor Wes Moore, legislators have a lot of work to do to build a legal market that fulfills their commitments on issues like equity, public safety, and taxation and revenue.

"The people of this state have spoken and they have spoken loudly," said Moore at a press conference Thursday. "We cannot, we will not, repeat the mistakes that the state has made when medical cannabis was legalized... we have to get this right from day one."

While lawmakers are committed to

meeting the July 1 deadline, the state of the legal cannabis market nationwide remains an unwelcome specter hanging over the process. An oversupply crisis has depressed cannabis prices, decreasing margins for producers and making it far more difficult for small producers to compete with well-established companies that can produce and distribute at scale. The national spot price of legal cannabis reached an all time low of \$950 per pound in December 2022, according to Cannabis Benchmarks.

Without what they feel is a viable model to look to, lawmakers are instead trying to avoid other states' mistakes.

"We're starting from the ground floor," said Del. C.T. Wilson, D-Charles, chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee. "All we know is what they didn't do right."

Wilson and his committee colleagues will have an important role to play in the legalization process: regulating the supply of legal cannabis through licensing and taxation.

The number of licenses distributed and

the process of obtaining a license to produce and sell cannabis products in Maryland will largely dictate who can enter the legal market. Moreover, supply will play a large role in determining the price Marylanders pay for cannabis products, a crucial factor in convincing consumers to abandon the illicit market, according to the Marijuana Policy Project.

Given the less-than-successful history of the United States' war on drugs and its disproportionate impact on Black Americans, legislators seem committed to fostering equitable access to the legal market.

"I'm very worried about this issue... this is always how we've done things, where we allow rich people to capitalize and profit and then we put some minor appeasement in there to placate people that have been harmed (by marijuana) and don't have the equity, the money up front, to get involved," said Sen. Jill Carter, D-Baltimore City.

"I think equity has to be across-the-board considered for everything we do," said Del. Lily Qi, D-Montgomery, who



PHOTO BY E. A. BREEDEN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Maryland lawmakers must design a framework to turn an illegal marijuana producing and distributing industry into a legal one by July 1.

along with Wilson, is a member of both the Economic Matters Committee and the Cannabis Legalization Working group, which held hearings on several aspects of the legalization process while the General Assembly was out of session.

While neither Wilson nor Qi gave an explicit answer on what percentage of licenses should go to members of marginalized groups, Wilson hinted at a few policies his committee was considering to ensure an equitable system.

Foremost among them is keeping the license application fee reasonably low. In some states this cost can reach six figures, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, and serve as a significant barrier to entry for small business owners without a lot of startup capital.

"(The application fee) cannot be high, and it must be refundable," said Wilson, who added that six-figure application fees

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Winter's here and it's time to get back on the ice

My husband Jack grew up in Houston, Texas, where he was introduced to ice-skating by his high school teachers, who were Canadians. A wealthy Houstonian took pity and built them a rink. That's where Jack learned to skate; he went on to letter in hockey.

When our kids came along, Jack insisted that they learn to ice-skate as soon as they learned to walk. Well, we might have waited a year or two, but they all learned when they were young. When we moved here, in 1958, any frozen pond was fair-game. We also found rinks in Virginia, and a lot of our skating was on School House Pond in Upper Marlboro.

After some years, Prince George's Parks & Recreation opened rinks.

On January 5, 2017, a fire broke out in one of them, at the Tucker Road Ice Rink, leaving their Tucker Road Ducks without a place to compete and the public without a place to skate.

After more than four years, the rink reopened on August 28, 2021—bigger and much better. It has a standard National Hockey League-size ice surface, a warming room, locker room with showers, party/meeting-room rental, dance studio, WIFI Lounge waiting room, viewing bleachers.

The rink offers open and Free-Style Skating, private and group lessons, summer camps, youth and adult ice hockey pick-up. And it's open all year at 1770 Tucker Road in Fort Washington. Info: 301-265-1525.

Jack would have loved it!

Town of Morningside

Morningside will host Movie Night on Saturday, Feb. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. And it's free! "Matilda the Musical" is the featured film. (It was just released in 2022, so substitution is possible.) The movie will be shown at 6901 Ames Street, in Morningside. Concessions (popcorn, candy, hotdogs, nachos, drinks and more) will be sold. Cash only.

Seating is limited and on first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are required by Feb. 2. To reserve or for more information, email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov

or call 301-736-2301.

As far as I know, Morningside's Fire Department didn't have any big fires New Year's Day 2023. But New Year's Day ten years ago was another story:

The Morningside VFD started out 2013 with two fires: About 7:30 a.m., they were called to the First Wesleyan Church in Oxon Hill where they found two interior areas of the one-story building on fire, the blaze extending through the roof. About 6 p.m. they were sent to a house on fire in the 8200 block of Student Drive in Clinton. It took more than three hours to clear.

Thank you to the Morningside Volunteers for helping keep us safe!

Neighbors & other good people

Yveta Sears has been my Washington Post carrier for more than 30 years. The paper has always been early, and right under my front door. No matter the weather. But now, she has sent a note, with the announcement that she's retiring. She added, "I want to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity in letting me serve you over the past years. I've made many friends along the way and you all will be missed greatly." But not as much as I'll miss her!

Diane R. Addison Thompson, who died Dec. 24, was the first female to join Boulevard Heights Volunteer Fire Department and the first female President of the Progressive Fire Fighter Association of Washington. Her husband Samuel Thompson predeceased her. Survivors include children, Sean, Tia and Stephen, four grandchildren and four sisters. Services were at VFW 9619, Morningside, on Dec. 20.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, head of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, celebrated 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 22, at Saint Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs.

Joseph Barbaro, 83, founder and owner of Regina Pizzeria died Jan 6. I'll always remember his amazing pizza on Allentown Way in Camp Springs.

In last week's story about the sale of Iverson Mall, I mentioned some of my kids worked there years ago: Kathleen, Mike and Therese. Now I've been reminded I left out my youngest, Sheila, who worked at Roy Rogers in the Mall.

Also, I asked for your memories about Iverson Mall. Email me at mudmm@gmail.com.

Changing landscape

The Smithsonian "Castle" is closing Feb. 1 for its first major renovation in more than 50 years. The renovation is expected to last about five years. The Castle was designed by James Renwick Jr., and opened in 1855 as the first Smithsonian building. There'll be a lot of changes, but the red sandstone exterior will remain unchanged.

After more than 10 years of planning, construction for the 11th Street Bridge Park is scheduled for this year. The park, situated on the pillars of an old highway bridge, will connect Navy Yard and Capitol Hill with historic Anacostia and Fairlawn when it opens in 2025.

Two Suitland Road auto businesses (repairs, tires, etc.), near McKelden Drive, have been shut down. I understand it's because they were making repairs on the parking lot (not inside) and the exterior of the shops were unsightly.

A house at 5799 Suitland Road has sold for \$210,000. A house at Mildreds Lane, in District Heights, went for \$688,742!

Catholic Schools Week

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which this year is January 29–February 4. Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Mass, open house and activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

I have a special appreciation of Catholic schools because they have provided almost all my education: St. Agnes in Cincinnati, St. Andrews and St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw, Mich., Our Lady of the Lake High School in San Antonio, St. Mary's College Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and Catholic University in Washington.

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Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ANNUAL (PRE-BIG GAME SPAGHETTI SUNDAY)

Join us Sunday, February 5, 2023, for our Annual (Pre-Big Game Spaghetti Sunday, immediately (10:45 a.m.) following our Worship Service. Dinner cost will be \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children (5–10-years old.) Dinner will include Spaghetti, French bread, and water.

Pre-orders with prepayments only. Points of contact are Shirley Ann, or Doretha Ann or Vivian. Call to pre-order at 301-888-1536. Checks to: St. Philip's Church, Cash App: \$stphilipsbaden. Benefit St. Philip's Church Baden Parish.

WHO CHOOSES THE THEME FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

The Black History Month themes are chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the organization founded by Carter G. Woodson. In 1926, the noted scholar helped establish Negro History Week; it would later expand to the month of February.

CONGRATULATIONS MAKAYLA EUGENE

Thank you loved ones and community sponsors for your continued support of Makayla. Our now first semester Chancellor's list sophomore has a 4.0 cumulative for summer and fall semester. She has begun her college community impact in the E. Gwynn Dance Co. Coll of Ag. Aggie MANRRS (Event & Social Engag. Comm), Collegiate Women, Caribbean Club and inducted into the Council of Negro Women. #PGCPS#PGCPS Proud, Friends of Frederick Douglass HS) #ibscholar. #TacoBellLiveMasScholar #ncatdowdyscholar, #PGCPS Excellence in Education Scholar. Information received from Makayla's mother Stephanie Eugene.

Makayla is attending North Carolina A&T, and is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene, who resides in Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

THE ART OF FACILITATING PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

Meeting Management: The art of facilitating productive meetings January 31, 2023, from 10–11 a.m. The meeting is free and virtual, MD. Categories: Human Resources. Contact Mary Ogan Email: mogan@bowiestate.edu, phone: 301-860-3455.

Sitting through a long meeting where participants get side-tracked, and issues do not get resolved isn't a good use of anyone's time. In this session, you'll learn how to get results from a meeting. Topics covered include: the basics for effective meetings; keys to productivity; the functions of a meeting leader; how to develop and practice techniques for handling

counterproductive behaviors. Speaker: Mary Ogan/Manager of Training & Development/Office of Human Resources.

FOODUARY

Harbor to table, yours, or ours. Restaurant week at National Harbor February 6–February 12, 2023. They are kicking off the New Year with a celebration of food and entertainment. Enjoy prix fixe menus, cooking demonstrations from chefs, and bartenders at National Harbor and of course the Capital Wheel. Enjoy it all during February. Dinner Prix Fixe Menus, Brunch & Lunch Prix Fixe Menus. Learn from the Masters.

MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Join us and learn from local mental health professionals and participate in activities February 11, 2023 at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. The Prince George's County Section of the National Council of Negro Women is hosting a mental health symposium that is free and open to the public. The goal of this event is to promote awareness, share tools to cope, and help decrease the stigma associated with experiencing and seeking help with mental health conditions.

THEME: How Do You Really Feel? The symposium will feature: Dynamic speaker panel of local mental health professionals, interactive audience activities, Mental Health First Aid. Presentations on health topics, good health WINs initiative presentation, exhibits from local organizations, FREE swag bag and refreshments for attendees (while supplies last). Please register in advance to reserve your seat. Facemasks are politely requested at venue. Mental Health Symposium Tickets, Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 11 a.m./Eventbrite.

Media Consent and Release: If you attend this event, you are entering an area where photography, audio and video recording may occur. Your entry and presence on the event premises constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in perpetuity in connection with the National Council of Negro women and its initiatives, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, news and advertising.

By entering the event premises, you waive and release any claims you may have related to the use of recorded media of you at the event, including, without limitation, any right to inspect or approve the photo, video or audio recording of you, any claims for invasion of privacy, violation of the right of publicity, defamation, and copyright infringement or for any fees for use of such record media.

Maryland State Police Seeks to Educate Public About Warning Signs of Human Trafficking

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Jan. 19, 2023)—With January being Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Maryland State Police are urging the public to recognize potential warning signs to reduce the chances of others becoming victims in the future.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a child is trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation every two minutes in the United States. There are also an estimated 24 million people trapped in human trafficking worldwide, according to the Center for Prevention of Abuse.

Victims of human trafficking become entrapped in a variety of ways. While many cases involve kidnappings, human traffickers often groom, manipulate, defraud and/or threaten victims to exploit them for commercial sex and/or labor. Three major airports, inexpensive bus transportation, train service along the East Coast, large sporting events and disposable income makes Maryland an attractive destination for traffickers.

Survivors can be anyone—men, women, adults, minors, U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or foreign nationals. However, human traffickers often target members of marginalized communities and other vulnerable individuals. Labor trafficking can happen in legal and illegal industries—in homes, common retail establishments, dance clubs, childcare, elder care, construction, factories, landscaping, health and beauty services, hotels, farms, forestry, or restaurants.

In 2019, the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 22,326 trafficking victims and survivors, 11,504 situations of human trafficking, 4,384 traffickers, and 1,912 suspicious businesses.

There are several basic steps the public can take to bring attention to the issue of human trafficking and reduce the chances of others becoming victims in the future.

- This includes:
 - Talking with children about the dangers of human trafficking.
 - Monitoring your child's online activity.
 - Know community resources available to victims of human trafficking.
 - Recognize potential red flags of potential human trafficking victims, such as:
 - Showing a lack of interest in previous activities
 - Becoming isolated from regular friends
 - Unexplained access to cash, expensive items, clothing, etc...

If you see someone in danger, contact 911 immediately. There are also several hotlines you can call for assistance and other outreach, including:

- BeFreeTextline – Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)
- National Human Trafficking Hotline – 1-888-373-7888
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

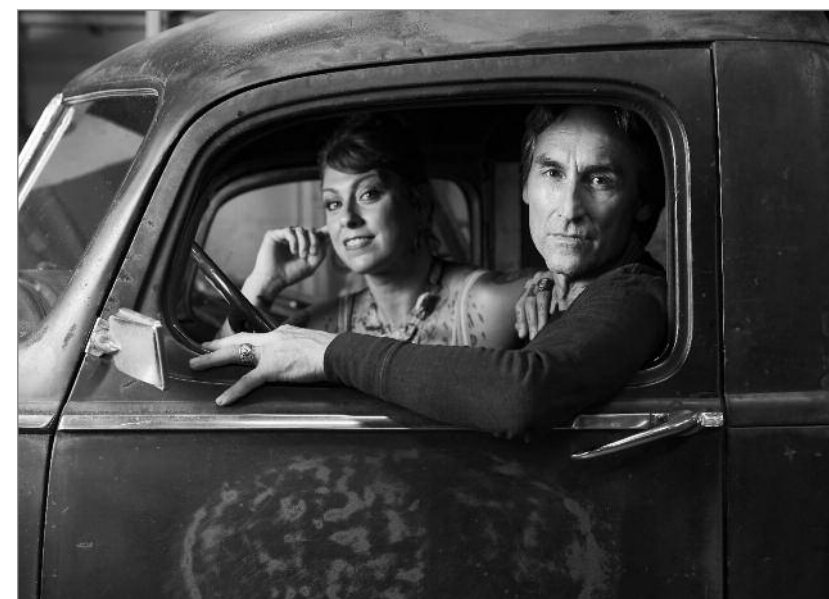


PHOTO COURTESY CINEFLIX PRODUCTIONS

Danielle and Mike from the documentary series American Pickers.

AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
CineflixUSA

The American Pickers are excited to return to Maryland! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout your area in March 2023.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

We at American Pickers continue to take the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming outlined by the state and CDC. Nevertheless, we are excited to continue reaching the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking and are eager to hear their memorable stories!

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to:

americanpickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184
facebook: @GotAPick

AMERICAN PICKERS is produced by Cineflix Productions for The History Channel. New episodes air Mondays at 9 p.m. EST on History.

COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Bruce McBarnette after setting a new USA record in the high jump for men over 65 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, MD.

DC Area High Jumper Sets USA Record for Men Over 65

By MARGARET POPE

LANDOVER, Md. (Jan. 15, 2023)—Bruce McBarnette from Loudoun, VA, set a new USA record in the high jump for men over 65 at the Sportsplex Track Showcase meet at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, MD. He jumped 5 feet 4.4 inches (1.64 meters).

McBarnette, who is a realtor with Keller Williams - Dulles, business owner, and lawyer, has won 14 world championships and 41 USA national championships for his age group. He is a member of the Potomac Valley Track Club and competed for Princeton University in college.

For more information and pictures of and articles about McBarnette visit <http://www.mcbarnette.com/track>

Save-the-Date: Get Revved Up for the 13th Annual Fashion for a Cause

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Jan. 20, 2023)—Last year's Fashion for a Cause was a phenomenal success—new models, new looks, new food in a new, bright, and airy venue. This year, Annapolis's hottest red-carpet fashion event returns to the new custom service center at Porsche Annapolis on Hudson Street, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Get a look at what you'll be seeing this summer in the city, on the beach and at parties. More than a dozen community models will take to the runway for this high energy show with sleek and racy Porsche automobiles as their backdrop. They will be wearing designer fashions from shops along Main Street and in the Annapolis Town Center.

The party begins and ends with signature cocktails and delicious savory and sweet bites from popular food trucks and area restaurants. Proceeds from the event will benefit Chesapeake Kids, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake designed to support children who are living with illness, dealing with the illness of a family member or who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For details, contact Lauren Thurston at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

For pictures from last year's event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.439889598143331&type=3>.

Save-the-Date: Popular Calvert County Culinary Event Returns for its 10th Year

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. (Jan. 20, 2023)—Calvert Hospice, an affiliate of Hospice of the Chesapeake, is pleased to announce that its 10th annual Culinary Event will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, 2023, at Running Hare Vineyard in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour, followed by delicious dishes created by Maryland Country Caterers paired with the vineyard's finest wines, all designed to delight your palate in an extraordinary setting. The band Nightlife will provide music for entertainment and dancing throughout the evening. There also will be a live auction with pieces from local artisans, exciting travel packages, and more.

In June 2022, Calvert Hospice

proudly became an affiliate of the Hospice of the Chesapeake brand family through acquisition. Though the nonprofit is now caring for families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties, the organization is fully committed to having local dollars supporting local programs. All proceeds from this event will be used to grow and strengthen programs in Calvert County and providing direct support to local patients and families living with illness and loss.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact the events team at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org. For additional event details and to purchase tickets please visit

<https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/2023-culinary-event/>

Maryland Makes History With Moore's Inauguration

By MICHAEL CHARLES
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 18, 2023)—In a star-studded inauguration ceremony Wednesday, newly sworn-in Maryland Gov. Wes Moore captivated the crowd with the same energy and vision that launched his political ascension last year. Emphasizing themes of unity and forward progress, Moore promised to lift people out of poverty, become a leader in clean energy technology and create a path of service for the state's youth.

"No, yes, Aruna's and my portraits are going to look a little different from the ones we've always seen in the capitol. But that's not the point. This journey has never been about 'making history'. It is about marching forward," Moore said. "Today is not an indictment of the past; it's a celebration of our future. And today is our opportunity to begin a future so bright, it is blinding. But only if we are intentional, inclusive, and disciplined in confronting challenges, making hard choices, and seizing the opportunity in front of us."

In a ceremony emceed by Anne Arundel Executive Stewart Pittman, Moore became the 63rd governor of Maryland, and the first Black governor in state history. He is the fifth Black governor in U.S. history and only the third elected Black governor.

His ascension in politics has brought him national renown and attracted celebrity guests to the inaugural, including media mogul Oprah Winfrey; former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, the first Black man elected statewide; President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea Clinton, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, among others.

"I always walk away from a conversation with Wes Moore with a new perspective, with new ideas, with a new way of seeing things. A new burst of positive energy. That's what you do for people," said Winfrey, who introduced him to the audience arrayed in front of the portico steps of the Maryland State House. "This might be his first day as an elected official but Wes Moore has been a public service servant his entire adult life. There's so much more to come. He's just getting started."

Moore took the oath of office at noon on a Bible that once belonged to author and orator Frederick Douglass, who was born enslaved in Maryland and later became known for his fight for the abolition of slavery.

Moore acknowledged Maryland's history of enslaving people, as well as its great civil rights leaders.

"As I stand here today, looking out over Lawyers' Mall, at the memorial to Justice Thurgood Marshall, it's impossible not to think about our past and our path. We are blocks away from the Annapolis docks, where so many enslaved people arrived in this country against their will. And we are standing in front of a capitol building built by their hands," Moore said. Those people's history was lost or stolen, he said, but progress has been made and he promised to continue it.

"And it is a shared history—our history—made by people who, over the last two centuries, regardless of their origin story to Maryland, fought to build a state, and a country, that works for everybody," Moore said.

In the Democratic primary, Moore received 33.8% of the vote, enough to beat out competitors Tom Perez (28.3%) and Peter Franchot (21.5%). Moore then went on to defeat Republican Dan Cox overwhelmingly in the General Election, capturing 64.5% of the vote.

Aruna Miller, also sworn in Wednesday as Maryland's 10th lieutenant governor, is another historic first, becoming the first woman of color to be Maryland lieutenant governor and the first South Asian lieutenant governor in U.S. history.

Miller was born in Hyderabad, India, and moved with her family to the U.S. at age 7. She is a civil engineer who worked with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for 25 years and served in the General Assembly from 2010 until she was tapped to be Moore's running mate.

"We will address the inequities of the past and build a Maryland where everyone will thrive. Our fortunes are tied together in ensuring that we create a state where we grow equitably. It will take all of us together to achieve this vision," Miller said. "Together, with you, we will write the next chapter of Maryland's history, a chapter that will be filled with real-time heroes like you."

During his inaugural address, Moore also reflected on his life's journey to Annapolis. Specifically, he highlighted how his time in the military shaped his leadership style and will inform his legislation.

"My years of service transformed me. My character was strengthened, my vistas were widened, my leadership was tested. I want every young Marylander, of every background, in every community, to have the opportunity to serve our state," Moore said. "That is why we will offer a service year option for all high school graduates. A year of service will prepare young people for their careers—and provide our state with future leaders: public servants we desperately need."

Moore, who graduated from Valley Forge Military College, served as a captain and paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne, including leading troops into combat in Afghanistan. Two members of his Cabinet, Secretary of Housing & Community Development Jake Day and Secretary of

Veterans Affairs Anthony Woods, also are combat veterans. Moore said service can be a catalyst for young people in Maryland, as it was for him.

The governor challenged the state to reject the norms that have failed many and enter this period of change with optimism and unity.

"Maryland is home to spectacular natural beauty, dynamic industries, and people as talented as they are determined. But...the truth is: Maryland is asset-rich and strategy-poor and for too long, we have left too many people behind," Moore said. "We've been asked to accept that some of us must be left behind. That in order for some to win, others must lose. And not only that: We have come to expect that the people who have always lost... will keep losing. Well, we must refuse to accept that."

While Moore has made it clear that tomorrow is a working day, today provides an opportunity for Marylanders to envision a brighter future.



PHOTO CREDIT CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Delta Sigma Theta members Elora Cyrus of Silver Spring and Deborah Wilder of Largo arrive clad in their sorority colors to support new Maryland governor Wes Moore.

Moore's Inauguration Showcases Maryland's Diversity

By GREG MORTON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 18, 2023)—With the historic inauguration Wednesday of the state's first Black governor and Asian lieutenant governor, a diverse group of Marylanders arrived at the State House inspired by Wes Moore's message of a more equitable state.

Moore, freshly inaugurated, took office saying, "This journey has never been about 'making history.' It is about marching forward. Today is not an indictment of the past; it's a celebration of our future. And today is our opportunity to begin a future so bright, it is blinding."

He extolled the virtues of his state, saying, "Maryland is home to spectacular natural beauty, dynamic industries, and people as talented as they are determined." But he cautioned that "for too long, we have left too many people behind."

It's that promise that caused throngs to flock to his inaugural, many of them Black Americans, who see in Moore a new beginning.

"Once again, when he'd say 'leave nobody behind', I think that encompasses so much that he's gonna make sure to tackle to make sure that you count. I count. We all count in the state of Maryland," said Jerome Stephens, a Black man from Baltimore County.

Before the crowd began streaming in, soldier rows of about 2,600 white chairs in front of the Maryland State Capitol building portended the excitement around Moore's inauguration.

Even hours before the event was set to begin, the air around the capitol was already pregnant with the anticipation of Democratic lawmakers excited to have an ally in the governor's office after eight years of Republican leadership, law enforcement and city officials scrambling to make sure everything was set up, and Marylanders from around the state, some with their children or their students in tow, ready to see themselves reflected in the highest office of state government.

"My district is about 75 percent Black. So the kids in my district get to look up and see Wes Moore as governor, a Black man who lives in Baltimore City," said Del. Caylin Young, D-Baltimore City.

Lawmakers seemed keenly aware of

the gravity of the moment as they gathered in a joint session in a tightly packed House chamber at 9:30 a.m. to certify election results to cheers and loud applause. Some seemed ready, even before the inauguration began, to get to work alongside their new governor.

"Now's the time, now that we have the leadership in place, now we have to move the dial forward and make significant change to ensure opportunities for each and every resident," said Sen. Ron Watson, D-Prince George's County.

As legislators began to make their way outside after the joint session, the lines of white chairs were beginning to give way to smiles, anticipatory conversation, the sounds of a diverse array of music from hula to bachata, and the bright colors of historically Black "Divine Nine" fraternities and sororities, whose members arrived in numbers to support the governor-elect, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Swain Riley, sporting a shiny black jacket shot with gold lettering saying "Manly Deeds" on the back, came to the inauguration saying his support for Moore was "threefold." He and Moore are both members of the Alpha Phi Alpha, retired Army veterans (Riley was an Army master sergeant) and Black men. Black and gold and "Manly Deeds" are the colors and credo of the Black fraternity.

Riley said he just moved to Maryland after his retirement and he attended Moore's swearing in because, "I want great things for the place I moved to." After he attended Bowie State, he said, "Maryland is the place for me."

Others arrived feeling hopeful about Wes Moore's policy agenda. Deborah Wilder, a former public administrator from Prince George's County and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, who arrived clad in her all-red Delta jacket, was hopeful about Moore's promise to fill many of the vacant jobs in state government.

"I don't think people who work for government agencies, especially local and state, get enough praise," she said. Adding "if it weren't for those who work in governmental areas, a lot of what goes on in the state wouldn't happen."

Dr. Ralph Johnson, a former mentor of

See DIVERSITY Page A6

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

On the 50th Anniversary of Landmark Abortion Decision, Legality Alone Is Not Enough

Overturning Roe and outlawing abortions will never make them go away. It only makes them more dangerous, especially for the poor and marginalized. People will die because of this decision. And we will never stop until abortion rights are restored in the United States of America.

—Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Fifty years ago, women across the country celebrated the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that

recognized the constitutional right for people to have an abortion. Now, after decades of scheming, right-wing politicians finally have forced their unpopular agenda on the rest of America. They have decided that the government—not pregnant people and their doctors—should make a private health care decision and deny women the right to control their own bodies and futures.

Since the Supreme Court made its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

last June, nearly half the states in the country have either outlawed abortion services or placed heavy restrictions around abortion access. This decision put important health care decisions out of the reach of millions of women and violated their right to decide what happens to their own bodies. Access to safe abortion services have proven over time to discourage women from exploring unsafe methods to end their pregnancies, a reality that has mostly impacted Black women and women in underserved communities.

Black women are four times more likely to die as a result of childbirth than white women, according to American Medical Association. Meanwhile, due to racialized income and wealth disparities, inequitable access to medical care, and the other insidious ways manifestations of structural racism, people of color are more likely to require abortion care and but are less likely to be able to afford out-of-state travel to obtain care if it is outlawed in their state.

Forcing women to carry pregnancies against their will can have devastating and lasting consequences for them and their family and push women and families deeper into poverty. Our health care

system already fails Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and barriers to abortion care make that worse.

As we continue to navigate this crisis, we must not settle for legality. Legality alone will not ensure everyone can get the abortion care they need. We must aim for abortion justice and fight for that justice in our communities, city halls, state legislatures, in Congress, and the White House. We need bold solutions like the Women's Health Protection Act to codify the right to an abortion into federal law and ensure all pregnant persons can make personal health decisions without government interference.

So, this weekend, the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision, we stand with all women in solidarity in the fight to protect women's rights. The devastating decision to overturn *Roe* will reverberate for future generations of women and girls who would need access to such an essential service. Abortion access is an economic and racial justice issue, and I am proud to say that the National Urban League will continue to fight for the reproductive rights of women and the civil rights of all of us.

—January 19, 2023

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Inspiring News on a New Leader

Harvard University recently announced exciting news: Dr. Claudine Gay, who is currently the dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, was introduced as the University's 30th president-elect. Dr. Gay earned an undergraduate degree in economics from Stanford University, where she was awarded the prize for best undergraduate thesis, and a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard, where she won the prize for the best dissertation in political science. She then served as a tenured faculty member at Stanford before returning to Harvard and becoming dean of Social Sciences and then of the full Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Now Dr. Gay, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, will be the first African

American and first person of color to be Harvard University's president.

Dr. Gay joins an ever-growing list of illustrious Black women at the top of American colleges and universities. Some of the early trailblazers include the incomparable Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who founded and led Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls and later merged her school into what is now Bethune-Cookman University, and pioneering scholar, writer, and activist Dr. Anna Julia Cooper, who served as president of Frelinghuysen University. Decades later historian and legal scholar Dr. Mary Frances Berry became the first Black

woman to head a major research university as chancellor of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Gay's current peers include Dr. Ruth Simmons, outgoing president of Prairie View A&M University, who also served as president of Smith College before becoming the first Black president of an Ivy League institution at Brown University. My own alma mater, Spelman College, has had five Black women leaders in a row since 1987, beginning with Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole and extending through Dr. Helene D. Gayle, a pediatrician and public health physician who became president of Spelman last year after serving as president and CEO of the Chicago Community Trust and the international humanitarian organization CARE and spending 20 years with the Centers for Disease Control and leading the Gates Foundation's programs on HIV/AIDS and other global health issues.

Dr. Gay will also have new peers in Dr. Nemat "Minouche" Shafiq, who has just been named as the first woman president-elect of Columbia University, and Dr. Sian Leah Beilock, the first woman president-elect of Dartmouth College, when all three begin their administrations later this year, joining women presidents already serving at Brown University, Cornell University, and the University of Pennsylvania within the Ivy League. Each of these leaders sets an

important example for the students at her own school and beyond.

When Dr. Gay spoke after being introduced as Harvard's next president, she paid tribute to the example set for her by her parents: "They came to the U.S. with very little and put themselves through college while raising our family. My mom became a registered nurse and my dad a civil engineer, and it was the City College of New York that made those careers possible. ... My parents believed that education opens every door." Now she is committed to opening those doors for others. Dr. Gay will take over at a time when Harvard and other peer universities are grappling with their responsibilities for their institutions' histories, including the ways in which they profited from the slave trade and enslaved people's labor, and with the path forward for continuing to welcome diverse student bodies and scholarship as academia moves into the increasingly diverse future with affirmative action and certain modes of critical thinking under attack. It is a pivotal moment in higher education, and I join many others who will be cheering her on. You can't be what you can't see—and I know many young people will now see themselves in President Gay and be inspired to set new goals of their own.

—January 20, 2023

Maryland Latinos Unidos Applauds the Appointments of Dr. Laura Herrera Scott for Secretary of Health and Rafael Lopez for Secretary of Human Services

There is Much Work to Do To Improve Health Equity For Hispanic Marylanders.

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU)

BALTIMORE (Jan. 17, 2023)—Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) an association of over 300 Latino community leaders, business owners, and Latino-led nonprofits wholeheartedly commends the Moore-Miller administration's decision to appoint Dr. Laura Herrera Scott to lead Maryland's Department of Health and Rafael López to lead the Department of Human Services.

"Hispanics in Maryland have long been demanding representation in Cabinet-level and other critical decision-making positions across the state," stated MLU's co-Founder and Chair, Veronica Cool. "Representation matters to ensure improved outcomes in policies that strongly impact the Hispanic community. We are very pleased that our voices have been heard and that these two excellent candidates have been selected by the incoming Moore-Miller Administration to provide service to our community and to the State of Maryland. This marks tremendous

progress for Maryland, and we look forward to collaborating with the Administration to ensure additional highly qualified and talented Latinos are appointed throughout all levels of State government."

Dr. Herrera-Scott has a demonstrated record and in-depth understanding of population health and the issues most affecting Hispanic health equity, including barriers in data collection and analytics infrastructure – the efficiency and accuracy of reporting – that drive improvements in clinical care for patients across the state. Her record as a clinician, as well as in both the public and private sectors make her an incredible public health leader. Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH, was the executive vice president of population health at Summit Health, where she was responsible for executing on Summit Health's value-based care strategy. Prior to this, she held several leadership positions at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. On the government side, she has served as Deputy Secretary of Public Health at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Veterans Health Administration, where her work fo-

cused on population health, payment reform and delivery system transformation to improve health status and outcomes in underserved communities.

Rafael López's record protecting children and family is lengthy and proven. He has been at the forefront of important policy decisions related to children and families, especially in his role as Commissioner of the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during the Obama Administration. Earlier in his career López served as the president and CEO of The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc., where he was a member of the Baltimore City Mayor's Cabinet; as executive director of the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families; as deputy director of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Children, Youth & Their Families; and as senior deputy for Health and Human Services for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. He has worked closely with community based organizations as a volunteer, manager, executive, board member and

founder and was sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to serve as a fellow at Stanford University's Center for Social Innovation at the Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. López was awarded a 2007-2008 Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family National Fellowship.

"We are thrilled at the selection of these two impressive leaders who are so deeply embedded in the health and well-being of our communities and look forward to working with the incoming Moore-Miller Administration to help strengthen health equity in Maryland," stated MLU Executive Director, Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus.

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) is a program of MD Nonprofits. Its mission is to unify efforts across the state to advocate and organize to benefit Maryland's Latino community. Our vision is that the Latino community in Maryland thrives, achieves excellence, innovates, and continually makes progress economically, socially, and environmentally.

Cannabis from A1

were "not the goal."

Also of concern is keeping taxes low, which lawmakers said they hope will have the dual effect of allowing more producers to enter the market and keeping legal cannabis prices reasonable, an important factor in allowing new market entrants to chip away at the illicit market.

For some advocacy groups, guarantees on equity in employment and working conditions in the industry are just as important as equity in ownership or licensing.

"As a union, we bring a lot of concern around employment practices and how employees are treated, how well they're compensated, and are they able to share in the success of their industry," said Jonathan Williams, spokesperson for UFCW Local 400, which represents cannabis workers in Maryland.

Economic Matters will be just one of several committees to work on a chunk of the cannabis framework. The House Judiciary Committee, and perhaps others, will look at undoing another one of the lasting legacies of the war on drugs: thousands of convictions for cannabis-related offenses, which can often serve as barriers to the job market for those convicted.

Judiciary Committee member Christopher Bouchat, R-Carroll, who was convicted of a crime and charged as an adult at age 16, recalled firsthand the impact of such a criminal conviction.

"For the rest of my life I have that assault conviction on my record. And I just think that having felt that, I understand the impact that cannabis convictions have on adults trying to get employment."

For the new governor, expungement is a crucial part of the legalization process, and righting the wrongs of the last 40 years have been central to his message on this issue.

"As we have said, we cannot talk about the benefits of legalization if we're also not willing to wrestle with the consequences of criminalization," said Moore at the press conference.

While Moore supports expunging records of all those convicted solely of marijuana possession, other lawmakers worry that his plan does not go far enough to protect those convicted on other charges or of a cannabis-related felony.

"We know that felony convictions are what harms people from being able to get jobs, housing, and other opportunities. The stigma of felony is the problem. Misdemeanor possession is hurting very few people," said

Carter, a member of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. She added that institutions, including many police departments around the state, now allow officers with prior misdemeanor possession convictions on the force. Carter has introduced legislation to give judges more flexibility in expunging records.

Lawmakers are also tasked with figuring out a plan for the tax revenue cannabis legalization will generate. In a meeting with the House Cannabis Referendum and Legalization Workgroup during the interim, consultants from the Marijuana Policy Project suggested that cannabis legalization could generate over \$1 billion in revenue for the state.

Responsibility for that tax plan will fall to the House Ways and Means Committee, whose membership includes Prince George's County Delegate and Cannabis Working Group member Darryl Barnes.

"This is an exciting time in the history of the state of Maryland," said Barnes, adding "we have an opportunity to put forward legislation that impacts a billion-dollar-plus industry that's coming, but, more important, to frame the conversation around equity and inclusion. And that is the most important thing to me, as well as looking at how we are going to tax this where it's fair and equitable for those that are participating."

The Prince George's Post

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing -
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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

What Counts for Social Security's Earnings Limit?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,
the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I retired on February 1st of this year (2022). I collect a pension from my employer plus a union pension, as well as Social Security, all of which started in February 2022. I am married and I'm 65 years old. I only worked 4 weeks in 2022 before retiring, but my income ended up being far more than expected. I got 5 weeks' vacation pay and a retroactive check from an overdue labor contract. I also got hazard pay and a small check for a class action lawsuit my union filed years ago. All of that brings my 2022 income to about \$35,000 which means I have exceeded what I can make as far as Social Security goes. My question is, should I contribute some money to my IRA to offset my earned income? And is it even possible for me to do that? **Signed: Retired but Concerned**

Dear Retired: Generally, income earned before starting your Social Security benefits (such as accumulated vacation pay) doesn't count toward Social Security's earnings limit for those who have not yet reached their full retirement age (FRA), nor do your earnings from working in the 4 weeks of 2022 before your SS benefits started. Similarly, the check for retroactive labor contract benefits, hazard pay for past work, and income from the class action suit do not count toward Social Security's earnings limit. The only thing that counts towards the limit is earnings from working after your Social Security benefits started, which you apparently did not do. Thus, from what you've shared, you should not be subject to any impact to your monthly SS benefits as a result of your total 2022 income. Note, you may still get an inquiry from Social Security next year about your 2022 earnings, but only earnings from actually working after your Social Security benefits started (which you did not) would count toward Social Security's earnings limit.

You may, however, wish to consult with a qualified tax advisor because some of your Social Security benefits received in 2022 will be subject to income tax on your 2022 tax return. Assuming you file your tax return as "married/jointly," if your combined income from all sources exceeded \$32,000 then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will become part of your overall taxable income; and if your 2022 combined income from all sources (including your wife's income) exceeded \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits received in 2022 will become taxable income. A tax advisor can give you more information on that, and also help you decide if it would be wise to contribute to an IRA. But, in any case, contributing to an IRA will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit.

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.

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Applications Open for University of Maryland Extension Summer Internship

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Extension

This Spring, the University of Maryland Extension will hire the second Cohort for 'Creating Leadership and Professional Development Through Extension Internships,' Summer 2023.

The University of Maryland Extension received a grant on April 15, 2021. The grant was endowed by the United States Department of Agriculture and sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to create a summer internship program that will provide meaningful and technical skills to students at underserved institutions, community colleges, or non-Land Grant institutions to train a future agricultural workforce.

University of Maryland Extension (UME) created a summer internship program with seven interns annually paired with competent mentors; interns will gain hands-on experience and participate in leadership and professional development training. The project will address the eight core competencies in career readiness.

Along with professional development and one-on-one pairing with a faculty mentor, interns will have networking opportunities with private industry professionals. The experience will be a ten-week program in which interns work full-time.

The objectives of the project are to 1. Provide experiential learning opportunities in Extension and agricultural research to undergraduate students, including those at community colleges and underserved institutions in Maryland, through creating a summer internship; 2. Develop internal hiring and mentorship skills in UME Faculty; 3) Increase student interns' career-readiness and leadership skills; and 4. Increase the number of students from these institutions continuing their education and entering the agricultural workforce.

The Application for Summer Internship 2023 is open. The deadline for applications is March 17. For more information and to apply, visit

<https://go.umd.edu/extensioninternships>
Program Contacts:

Shannon Dill, Extension Educator - AgFS

410-822-1244 | sdill@umd.edu
Andrea Franchini, Program Coordinator
410-856-1850 x126 |
andreal@umd.edu

Ms. Shannon Dill, PI, is the Project Director and oversees the entire project. Co-PI's include Dr. Nicole Fiorellino, Dr. Sarah Potts, and Dr. Alan Leslie. The project runs from April 15, 2021, to April 14, 2026.

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Competitive Grant Workforce Development, project MD-UME-09312.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

Los programas, actividades e instalaciones de la universidad están disponibles para todos sin distinción de raza, color, sexo, identidad o expresión de género, orientación sexual, estado civil, edad, origen nacional, afiliación política, discapacidad física o mental, religión, estado de veterano protegido, información genética, apariencia personal o cualquier otra clase legalmente protegida.

REALTORS® Donate to Senior Facility in Honor of MLK Day

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Association of Realtors®, Inc.

LANDOVER, Md. (Jan. 20, 2023)—The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®, the county's leading advocate for real estate and private property rights, held their MLK Day of Caring for Seniors and donated all proceeds to the Villa Rosa Nursing and Rehabilitation facility.

Proceeds from the drive were used to create senior care packages for the residents of the Villa Rose Nursing and Rehabilitation facility. The Association of REALTORS® donated various items such as socks, blankets, slippers, coloring books and many more items worth over \$1700 for the senior residents.

"To be able to assist and give back to our community and brighten the faces of the locals makes us extremely grateful and happy," said Shameeka Price, PGCAR's Community Service Committee Chair.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area. PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Associ-

ation of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

The Association of REALTORS® donated various items such as socks, blankets, slippers, coloring books and many more items worth over \$1700 for the senior residents.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Earth TALK™

EVs for Everyone? Best Bang-for-the-Buck Models Ease Transition From Gas Guzzlers

Dear EarthTalk:

Which of the EV models now available in the U.S. provide the most bang for the buck? Is now a good time to finally make the upgrade from my internal combustion car?

—P. Bronson, Tampa, FL

With some 43 new battery-powered electric vehicles (EVs) debuting in the U.S. this 2023 model year, not to mention the continued production and sales of 32 previous EV models, there has never been a better time to make the switch from your internal combustion gas guzzler to something greener. The increased competition among carmakers for your EV dollars means lower prices all around; indeed 14 different EVs sport sticker prices of \$40,000 or below.

Cheapest of them all is still the Nissan Leaf, with a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$27,400. While this is the only EV for sale in the U.S. with a sticker price under \$30k, the trade-off is less range; the Leaf will only get you about 149 miles

per full charge, making it perfect for short commutes or jaunts around town but not so good for road trips. (Nissan also offers a Leaf "Plus" model with a bigger battery array that sells for \$5,000 more but gets you 226 miles between charges.)

The next cheapest EV is Chevrolet's Bolt, with a sticker price of \$31,500 and a range of 259 miles; given this longer range, this little hatchback by one of America's great carmakers might just be the best bang-for-buck option out there. Chevy is also offering a Bolt EUV model which gives customers a roomier interior for \$2,000 more than the base Bolt, but with slight range trade-off (247 miles between charges).

Other good options for cost-conscious EV buyers include Hyundai's Kona Electric (\$34,000; 258-mile range), Subaru's Solterra SUV (\$37,000; 285-mile range), Kia's Niro EV (\$39,990; 239-mile range). Also under \$40k but with less range include Hyundai's Ioniq Electric sedan (\$33,245; 170-mile range), Mazda's

MX30 crossover (\$33,470; 100-mile range), and Mini Cooper's EV (\$33,900; 114 mile range).

Of course, these MSRPs don't factor in tax rebates and other financial incentives. In the U.S., EV buyers still qualify for up to \$7,500 in tax credits. The amount varies depending on your tax bracket and other factors including where the vehicle in question was built. Some state governments and municipalities offer their own incentives for EV buyers. Get the full run down for your location via the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE), a free and comprehensive resource on federal, state and regional incentives supporting renewables and energy efficiency across the U.S.

Going electric is definitely a step in the right direction for the environment given how much less pollution is caused by charging your car up with electricity as opposed to filling 'er up with gas. But if you think you're doing Mother Nature a favor by turning in or selling a perfectly good gas car so you

can upgrade, you might want to think twice. The overall environmental impact of producing your brand-new EV far outweighs that of continuing to drive a gas car around. But if it's really time to upgrade or you just need a car

now, buying an EV is the smart and responsible way to go.

CONTACTS: DSIRE,
<https://www.dsireusa.org>.

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CREDIT: DCBEL, PEXELS.COM.

This Chevrolet Bolt is one of the best bang-for-the-buck EVs given its low sticker price (\$31,500) and extended range (259 miles).

