

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 91, No. 5 February 2 — February 8, 2023 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

City of Bowie Partners With Bowie State to Open City Hall Art Exhibit

The exhibit features over 30 art pieces and will run from Jan. 23–May 20

By JONATHAN SAXON
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Bowie State University's fine and performing arts department and the City of Bowie are partnering to host an art exhibit that will be displayed at Bowie City Hall from Jan. 23–May 20.

The exhibit will feature over thirty pieces of art, which were chosen through a juried selection process by the City of Bowie Arts Committee, and Bowie State studio art professor Arthur Vidrine is excited to gather the community around the showcase.

"Art has the ability to connect people together," said Vidrine. It can bring

the community together towards a shared experience. Art has done this throughout its entire history."

This is the first time a university will be featured in the City Hall Gallery. The Arts Committee chair, Kathleen Parker, worked closely with the university to bring this partnership to fruition. "The concept behind the exhibition was to allow Bowie State University students, staff and faculty to showcase their artwork to the community", said Parker. The Arts Committee is very proud of the work of the university and the fine and performing arts department. "Our City Council awarded an Arts Grant to the university to invest in our artists and provide sup-

plies to assist students with matting, framing and wiring their artwork". "It was important to have students participate in a workshop to learn how to prepare their artwork to hang in a gallery," said Parker.

The gallery will feature a diverse set of art pieces, which includes paintings, photography, graphic design work, sculptures and video displays. Most of the pieces come from students out of Bowie State's fine and performing arts department, and the budding artists are eager to share their creative visions with the community.

"It's my first exhibit in a while," said junior fine arts major Amora General, who contributed an acrylic paint-

ing and a sculpture to the gallery. "I'm really happy and proud to be a part of something for my school. The one thing I do know how to do, I'm glad I get to share it with my school."

Navaeh Fakeye, a sophomore animation and motion graphics major, also submitted a painting and a sketch piece to the exhibit. Fakeye sees art as a vibrant medium that allows people to look inward and learn something about themselves.

"I hope people come away with the joy of art. It can really tell a story," said Fakeye. "It made me feel amazing that I get to share my art and expression with the world."

Beyond that, Vidrine is excited that

Bowie State's fine and performing arts students will have the public forum to share their talent and work with the greater Bowie community and beyond.

"We would love for people to come out and see what students are doing here," said Vidrine. "Come see the talent that's in our department."

The community may visit the exhibit at Bowie City Hall Monday–Thursday, from 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. More information about this exhibit may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/bsugallery. The community is invited to attend the catered reception at City Hall on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m., and join the artists to view their work.

Governor Moore Welcomes Frances Tiafoe to the State House



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 26, 2023)—[Last week], Governor Wes Moore welcomed Maryland native and tennis star, Frances Tiafoe and his family, to Annapolis. "It's an honor to meet Prince George's County's own Frances Tiafoe, and congratulate him on all his accomplishments on and off the court" said Governor Moore. "His hard work and dedication is an inspiration for all Marylanders. On behalf of our entire administration, we wish him luck as he continues to change the way the world sees the game of tennis, one match at a time." Also, Tiafoe was presented with a citation from the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates.

Maryland Lawmakers Make Gun Control a Session Priority

By JENNIFER GABLE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 27, 2023)—The General Assembly is making gun control a priority this year, after the U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down gun permit restrictions similar to Maryland's. The Gun Safety Act of 2023, is speeding through the legislative process with a second hearing scheduled for Feb. 7, and at least two other bills are pending.

The act, SB 0001, is expected to cause heated debate. Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, D-Montgomery, and then Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery, who recently was appointed Secretary of State, sponsored the bill.

The proposal would prohibit an individual from knowingly wearing, carrying or transporting a firearm onto another person's property without consent. It would also

prohibit anyone from wearing, carrying or transporting a firearm within 100 feet of certain places of public accommodation, specifically "sensitive" places, such as restaurants, lodging areas, stadiums or retailers, according to the filed bill.

Lawmakers said The Gun Safety Act will fill the void in gun control that formed following the Supreme Court's decision in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*. The court decided that law-abiding citizens do not need a "good and substantial" reason to be permitted to carry a concealed weapon and that this "proper cause to carry" requirement, used in several states, including Maryland, was unconstitutional according to the 14th Amendment.

"The Bruen decision gets rid of Maryland's 'good and substantial' requirements in order to own and possess a handgun," said Waldstreicher. "By eliminating that require-

ment, now anyone can get a gun and bring it anywhere. That is unacceptable and creates a tremendous danger in our state...

"It has forced our hand here in the legislature, and we need to act."

From 2018 to 2021, the Maryland State Police, on average, approved 13,000 to 14,000 handgun permit applications per year, according to Cpl. Josh Taylor, supervisor of the handgun permit group. From June 23, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2022, (post-Bruen), the number of permits approved boomed to over 80,000, once the proper cause requirement was overturned.

Moms Demand Action, a grassroots movement advocating for stronger gun laws, said that The Gun Safety Act will greatly benefit public safety in the aftermath of the Bruen decision.

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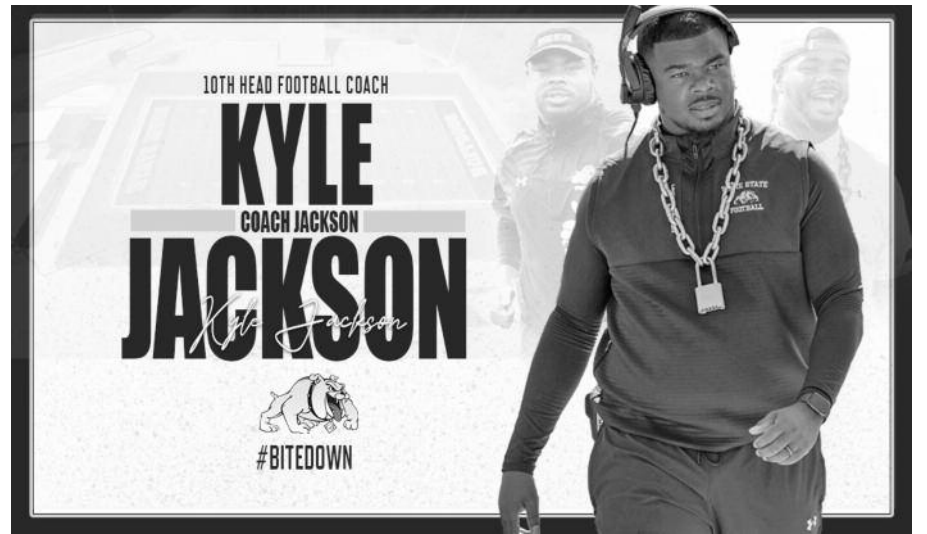


IMAGE COURTESY BOWIE STATE ATHLETICS

BSU head football coach Kyle Lamont Jackson

Bowie State University Removes Interim Tag, Kyle Jackson Named Head Football Coach

By DR. JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Bowie State University has removed the interim tag from Kyle Jackson's title, naming him the 10th head coach in program history of the Bulldogs since football was reinstated in 1972 as announced by the Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 23.

"It is with great Bulldog pride that we begin the next chapter in BSU football with the hiring of Kyle Lamont Jackson as our next head football coach," said Doughty, Jr. "During his year as interim, Kyle proved without a shadow of doubt that he is very capable of commanding the respect of his student-athletes, coaches and opponents while putting our football program in a position to be successful academically and athletically."

The decision follows Jackson serving in the role as interim in the 2021 season, where he led the team to a 6-4 record and eight players earned Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) All-Conference honors, with Joshua Pryor being named the 2021 CIAA Defensive Player of the Year and five First Team All-CIAA selections. Additionally, Pryor and Jordan Griffin were both selected First Team and Second Team All Super Region Two honorees. Jackson also had five Bulldogs selected to participate in second Annual Black College Football HBCU Legacy Bowl in New Orleans.

"It's a blessing just to be in the same category with some of the guys who had the opportunity to lead this program," said Jackson. "I'm a homegrown guy. Bowie State is everything to me. It gave me the opportunity to earn my degree and finish playing the sport that I love. It's a blessing being named the head coach here at Bowie State University."

Jackson described being the interim coach

as a learning experience as he navigated the new challenges that came with assuming head coaching responsibilities. But Jackson feels the experience has helped him grow and is grateful for what he went through before being promoted to full-time head coach.

Prior to being named as the defensive coordinator, Jackson served as linebackers and recruiting coordinator during his second stint with the Bulldogs in 2017. Jackson played an integral role in the Bulldogs advancing to the NCAA Division II playoffs in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. He helped lead defensive units that ranked in the top 10 nationally in several categories in 2019 and 2021, with strong defensive showings in 2017 and 2018.

A Baltimore native, Jackson was a four-year starter at linebacker for former head coach Damon Wilson and the Bulldogs from 2007–2010 while also serving as a team captain for the 2009 and 2010 seasons. After graduating from Bowie State with a degree in sports management, Jackson worked as a defensive graduate assistant at Emporia State and as assistant to the director of football operations at Georgia State. During his first stint with Bowie State football, Jackson served as the linebackers and tight ends coach from 2011–2013.

"Coach Jackson is a BSU alum and tutored under Coach Damon Wilson when he began his career on the sideline. That tutelage has provided him with the necessary foundation to be successful," said Doughty, Jr. "I look forward to working with Coach Jackson as he continues to develop as a head coach by recruiting academically minded student-athletes who are focused on success."

Jackson becomes just the third Bowie State alum to lead the program behind Dr. Henry Frazier, III ('93) and Damon Wilson ('00). Jackson will lead his alma mater that has continuously garnered a national reputation.

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Governor Moore Highlights Legislative Agenda to Support Veterans, National Guard Members, and Their Families

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To Be Equal: Gov. DeSantis Has Charted a Course to the White House That Cuts Straight Through the Swap of White Supremacy

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis wants to shove the legacy of Rustin and others like him back into the shadows, perpetuating a warped history of the nation.

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National Harbor Hosts its Annual Fooduary Event From February 6–12

Governor Moore Announces Additional Members of Executive Staff

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Mayor Cann promises something special every month, like Movie Night, Feb. 11

Mayor Benn Cann, in his January "Dear Morningsiders" letter says there's a lot planned for this year. In fact, something special every month.

On Saturday, February 11, for example, there's free Movie Night, beginning at 6 p.m. "Matilda the Musical" will be shown at the town hall, 6901 Ames Street. Concessions (popcorn, candy, hotdogs, nachos, drinks and more) will be sold. Cash only. Reservations are required by Feb. 2. Call 301-736-2300.

Also ahead: Spring and Fall Yard Sales, Bingo Bunny Breakfast & Egg Hunt on April 8, 4th of July all-day festivities, National Night Out, special events for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and sometimes just "plain ole bingo."

Mayor Cann is setting up "Roundtable With The Mayor," a chance to discuss the Town in a less-formal setting. He plans to break the participants into four groups: youth 14-18, seniors, businesses, and general public.

The annual Town election May 1 will have two Town Council Members on the slate. Special election judges will be needed for the occasion; Morningsiders can apply.

In closing, the Mayor says, "Please continue to check in on each other, especially our seniors, to ensure that we are all ok."

Former Morningside Councilwoman is 1st time Grandma

Maria and Tyler Walsh, of Frederick, have a new baby daughter, Diana Grace, born on January 17 at Shady Grove Hospital, weighing in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Baby Diana is the first grandchild for former Morningside Council Member Carol (Kline) and her husband, Dr. Thomas De-Graba, of Rockville.

Diana is also the great-granddaughter of the late Martha and Gerald Kline who lived for years on Marianne Drive in Morningside. Martha who, in her late years, lived with the DeGrabas, died in December 2015. I know how much Martha would have loved to cradle little Diana.

More from the Town of Morningside

Each month the Town holds two meetings: Work Session the 2nd Tuesday and Town Hall Meeting the 3rd Tuesday. In February, the meetings will be the 14th and the 21st.

The Town meeting room is now available for rental. It has hosted everything from baby showers to repasts and even a wedding. Dates for the months January through March are now open. Dates for April through June will open March 15.

For all things Morningside, you can refer to www.morningsidemd.gov. or call 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X Council, in Forestville, announce Knight of the Month for September, Karle Crawford, and October, John Wood. Family of the Month for September, The Vines Family, and October, The Jacobs Family. By the way, Bingo Chairman George Hoehl invites you to Bingo on Wednesday nights, 6 to 10 p.m. Bingo also needs helpers, call George at 301-599-0307.

Mary Forrestia Curtis Barnes, 105, was buried at Lincoln Memorial Park, in Suitland, following Mass of Christian Burial at St. Luke's, on East Capitol St., January 26. She's survived by 53 grandchildren and numerous great- and great-great- and great-great-great-grandchildren.

Mary Anne Walkup, a health and physical education teacher for 36 years in Prince George's County—mostly at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School—died Jan. 1, four days short of her 76th birthday. She received "Teacher of the Year" awards three times and a Congressional commendation.

Johnnie Mae Williams Arrington, 83, who years ago taught English at Suitland High School, died Dec. 10 in Fayetteville, Ga. Survivors include a son, Joseph Arrington III, grand- and great-grandchildren. Private services were held in Washington.

Changing landscape

On January 25, two of Jill Biden's dresses, which she wore on Inauguration Day 2021, were installed in the first-ladies exhibition at the National Museum of American History. One dress is in shim-

mering ocean-blue, the other in ethereal ivory with a matching coat. They both include matching masks. I always enjoy visiting the first-ladies exhibit.

The Town Square at Suitland Federal Center will encompass more than a million square feet and include 895 apartment units and single-family homes, 98,000 sq. ft. of retail, and a 50,000 Performing Arts Center. The project recently won an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for Master Planning and Landscaping. (Though, some of us will miss the old Suitland.)

A home at 5102 Barto Ave. in Auth Village just sold for \$440,000.

Remembering ice-skating days

Therese Gallegos emailed that the place she most associates with ice-skating with Dad is the duckpond at Cedar Hill Cemetery. "My feet get cold just thinking about it." She also recalls skating on what we all called Ammann's Pond (near the Ammann home); "I wonder if we had permission."

Sue Mason wrote about skating at the old U-Line Arena, the same place where the professional wrestlers used to perform. "One evening, about 5, I was riding with my sister and her family in their convertible down that way when we saw several of the 'blonde' wrestlers standing on the corner, dressed up in suits, waiting to cross. All friendly and buddies, right before their match to pulverize each other." She went on to say that her father loved wrestling "and never missed a match on TV channel 5."

Did he see his shadow?

Groundhog Day on February 2 is when we ask if we are in for six more weeks of Winter? Only a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil knows for sure.

Each year on Groundhog Day, people flock to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to await the forecast of the local rodent celebrity.

Originating with German settlers, who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s, legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on Feb-

See MORNINGSIDE Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Greetings Church Family and Friends. Praise God, Praise God, your response to the 2022 Advent Food Challenge was awesome. You donated 1,300 pounds of food items to the CSS Food Pantry. Your kindness and generosity are a blessing to those in our community who are struggling. May God continue to bless each one of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Gratefully, Dorothy C. Magruder, Chair, Health & Welfare Ministry, Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, Pastor, Rev. Shemaiah Strickland.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to President Breaux, for being recognized by the CIAA as a Title IX Trailblazer! President Breaux and five women leaders of CIAA institutions will be honored during next month's 2023 CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament.

STAY UP TO DATE

Planning to change your email or mailing address? Please let Bowie State University know. By keeping your information current, you will continue to receive Bowie State University news and updates. For questions and support, send an email to the Advancement Services Office at advancementservices@bowiestate.edu or call 301-860-4301.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Bowie State University Community congratulates Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller as they prepare to lead the great state of Maryland. Their inauguration marks a historical moment as we are seeing change in the making.

CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the Bowie State University Chorale was held January 14, 2023, at the Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex in Brandywine, Maryland. Under the direction of Professor Brandon J. Felder and Dr. Marymal Holmes, the Bowie State University Chorale performed anthems, spirituals, music that captures the essence of King's life, mission, and message.

ALL-COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS

Washington County Public Schools presented All-County Middle and High School Orchestras Saturday January 14, 2023. Giselle Johnson, daughter of Lakeya Johnson and the late Ernest Johnson, III, granddaughter of Ernest Johnson, Jr. and the late Brenda Turner Johnson, great granddaughter of the late James Gamell & Ruth Turner, great granddaughter of the late Rev. Ernest Johnson, Sr. & Elizabeth Johnson played Violin I, in the All-County Middle and High School Orchestras in North Hagerstown High School, Auditorium on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Giselle is a Senior at South Hagerstown High School and plans to attend College in the fall to major in music. Congratulations Giselle

for your accomplishments.

The importance of music education is academic achievement, brain development, fills gaps, inherent benefits, 21st century skills. Source: www.broademinded.com.

CIAA TOURNAMENT BALTIMORE 2023

Countdown to the CIAA Tourney begins, ciaatournament.org. The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA, the nation's oldest Black athletic conference), invites you to the 2023 tournament in Baltimore, Maryland. The highly anticipated week-long event will be the 78th annual celebration of HBCU championship basketball, sports and culture. Bowie State University to be the host institution once again for the CIAA Tournament Baltimore 2023, February 20-26, 2023, so Bulldog fans are encouraged to show their BSU Pride throughout the tournament week in Baltimore, Maryland. bowiestate.edu/ciaa.

BSU/UMD 2023 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

BSU/UMD Social Justice Alliance spring symposium will be held April 14-April 30, 2023, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at Bowie State University. Take a Knee: Pursuing Racial and Social Justice in Sports. The 2023 symposium will explore the intersections of social justice and athletics. A panel discussion will address racial injustice and inequity.

SPRING CONVOCATION

Bowie State University Spring Convocation which officially kicks off the spring semester and the campus-wide celebration of the Black History Month will be February 15, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Categories: Academics, Black History Month, Featured. Telephone: 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-Bowie.

TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF MARVIN GAYE

A concert to the tribute of Marvin Gaye will be Saturday, February 25, 2023, 8 p.m. Marvin Gaye was a major force in 20th-century music, a singer of rare sensitivity, a versatile pianist, expert drummer, writer of startling originality, and a producer capable of seamlessly integrating a multiter of melodic strands. Do not miss this sensational tribute. The Brencore Allstars Band will perform some of Marvin's greatest hits such as "What's Going On," "Distant Lover," "Got to Give it Up," "Sexual Healing," and more. Hurry and purchase your seats before this event sells out. All ages, tickets \$30 adults, \$25 seniors and students. The concert will be held at Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone number is 301-203-6040.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University received \$2.1 Million Grant from the National Science Foundation. Only HBCU to receive Cybercorps Scholarships for Service Program Funding.

Around the County

Maryland Department of Agriculture Offers Spay/Neuter Grant for Feral Cats in Capitol Heights

Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center to provide spay/neuter and rabies vaccination services

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 23, 2023)—The Prince George's County Animal Services Division (ASD) has received a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to spay/neuter and vaccinate for rabies 240 feral cats in the Capitol Heights area (20743-zip code). This grant will assist in ASD efforts to help humanely reduce feral cats' overall numbers.

Because this is a TNR project (Trap-Neuter-Return), the cats will be returned to the area where they were trapped after surgery. ASD is working in partnership with PG Cats (the TNR group that serves the Capitol Heights area), who will coordinate and trap feral cats.

Anyone wishing to assist with TNR trapping efforts can e-mail nsstine@msn.com for more information. The goal is to alter as many cats as possible in the next few months before the weather warms up and the cats start reproducing.

In addition to the grant for the Capitol Heights area, humane traps are available for anyone to borrow at no cost for up to 14 days from the cat trap bank at the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center. To borrow a trap, please contact ASD rescue coordinator LeAnn Parker at 301-780-7200 or e-mail LKParker@co.pg.md.us.

—Judith Hall, PGC Department of the Environment

The Closure of the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex Competition Pool

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 25, 2023)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County will be closing the Sports and Learning Complex Competition Pool starting Thursday, January 26, 2023, until further notice for continued maintenance assessment. Following a recent Capital Improvement Plan evaluation, and as a result of recent findings, the Department is taking immediate action to continue its commitment to providing safe aquatic recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. The Leisure Pool and other Sports and Learning Complex amenities will remain open. The community is encouraged to visit one of our other aquatic facilities throughout Prince George's County during this closure. Please visit pgparks.com for additional information. You can also register for PGParks Alerts to receive updates.

—M-NCPPC

Rabid Cat Alert in Prince George's County

Health Department seeks the public's help in identifying others who may have been exposed

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 23, 2023)—The Prince George's County Health Department is alerting community members that a rabid cat was recently surrendered for testing from the 2400 block of Fairhill Dr, Suitland, MD. On or around January 8, 2023, a stray black domestic short hair cat displaying abnormal behavior bit one individual, and a citizen subsequently transported the cat to Animal Management. The cat was surrendered, euthanized, and sent for rabies testing. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) confirmed that the cat tested positive for rabies on January 11, 2023. Per the resident, another stray black, white and orange (multicolored) short haired kitten that was found playing with the rabid cat and this kitten has not been seen since January 14, 2023.

Due to the risk of rabies exposure, the Health Department seeks the public's help in finding any persons who may have had contact with the cats in the identified area. If you know of any persons or animals that may have had contact with the above cat or kitten between December 28, 2022, and January 8, 2023, please contact the Health Department immediately at 301-583-3751.

Rabies is often a life-threatening disease; however, it is highly preventable by beginning post-exposure treatment immediately following exposure. Treatment is determined by the type of animal contact and patient assessment; Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal and is easily transmissible through a bite of an infected animal. The best method to eliminate the risk of rabies exposure is to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals. We encourage community members to report any unusual or erratic animal behavior they notice and to avoid handling and feeding any unknown animals in their community."

When a person is bitten or exposed to the saliva of a rabid animal, the disease is prevented by administering four doses of the rabies vaccine over a 14-day period, and a dose of rabies immunoglobulin given at the beginning of treatment. Each year, approximately 900 Marylanders receive preventive treatment after exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal.

To prevent your exposure to rabies:

- Do not approach, handle or feed stray dogs and cats, and enforce leash laws.
- Teach your children not to approach any unfamiliar animals.
- Have your dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated against rabies and keep the vaccinations up to date.
- Do not leave pets outside unattended or allow them to roam free.
- Cover garbage cans tightly and do not leave pet food outside; this may attract wild and stray animals.
- Teach children to stay away from wild animals or animals they do not know.
- Prevent bats from entering your home by using window screens and chimney caps and by closing any openings greater than ¼ inch by ½ inch. Bats found in the home should be safely collected, if possible, and tested for rabies.
- Wear gloves when handling an animal if it has been in a fight with another animal. Keep it away from people and other animals and call your veterinarian or local health department to report the animal exposure.

If you are bitten by or exposed to an animal that may be rabid, you

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COMMUNITY

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should take the following steps:

- If it is a wild animal, try to trap it if you can do so safely. If the animal must be killed, try not to damage the head.
- If it is an owned animal, get the animal owner's name, address, and telephone number.
- Immediately wash the wound well with soap and water; if available, use a disinfectant to flush the wound.
- Get prompt medical attention.
- Immediately report the exposure to your local animal control agency, health department, or police.
- Consider treatment if a bat was present and exposure cannot be reasonably ruled out (e.g., a sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the room, or an adult sees a bat in the room with a previously unattended child or mentally disabled or intoxicated person).

To learn more about rabies in Maryland, including rabies surveillance statistics and efforts to prevent and control the disease, please visit the MDH website <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>

—Dellia Hawthorne Williams, Prince George's County Health Department

Black History Month 2023 Exhibition: Black Resistance!

Stories from Prince George's County

February 4–March 26, 2023

Public Reception: Sunday, February 5, 2023, 2–5 p.m.

The African American experience has been inundated with various forms of oppression rooted in anti-blackness. But this oppression has not been met with acquiescence, but resistance. This year's exhibition highlights some of these stories of black resistance in Prince George's County from the era of enslavement to the Black Lives Matter movement of the present.

This exhibition is curated by the M-NCPPC Black History Program. Group tours are available for school and community groups. To schedule a group tour, call 240-264-3415 or email blackhistory@pgparks.com.

All ages, FREE

—Montpelier Arts Center, M-NCPPC

Local Students Honored

Mercer University Announces President's, Dean's Lists

MACON, Ga. (Jan. 24, 2023)—Mercer University recently announced the President's List and Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester. Inclusion on these lists requires students to meet rigorous GPA standards specific to the college or school within the University.

The following area students earned a place on the lists:

Bowie, Maryland: **Mary Allen**, junior, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean's List —Jennifer Falk, Mercer University

Local Students Named to Susquehanna University Dean's List

SELINGROVE, Pa. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Susquehanna University congratulates its students named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

The dean's list recognizes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or higher out of a possible 4.0 for the semester. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Cheverly, MD: **Deborah Momodu**

Temple Hills, MD: **Nala Washington**

—Amanda K. O'Rourke, Susquehanna University

Local Student(s) Named to Bucknell University Dean's List

LEWISBURG, Pa. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2022–23 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Bowie, MD: **Joyce Chen**, 2024, International Relations; **Damien Mahanama**, 2024, Biomedical Engineering; **Raquel Rowell**, 2023, Neuroscience

Fort Washington, MD: **Derrick Anderson**, 2026, Undeclared

Temple Hills, MD: **Endia Scales**, 2024, Education

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Caleb Wooten**, 2023, Education

—Mike Ferlazzo, Bucknell University

Area Residents Earn Academic Honors at Benedictine College

ATCHISON, Kan. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Benedictine College has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically during the last semester, which ended December 12, 2022.

Any full-time student carrying a minimum of 12 hours and a perfect 4.0 grade point average through the spring term is named to the President's list. Full time students with 12 hours and a grade point average of 3.5 are named to the Dean's List. Of the 2,135 students on campus for 2022–2023 academic year, 171 made the President's List and 794 made the Dean's List.

Those area residents who have earned these honors are:

Bowie, MD: **Annalucia Duggan**, Dean's List

Glenn Dale, MD: **Luke Lombardi**, Dean's List

—Steve Johnson, Benedictine College

Goshen College Announces Dean's List for Fall Semester 2022

GOSHEN, Ind. (Jan. 20, 2023)—Goshen College recently recognized 163 undergraduate students for excellence in academics on the fall 2022 Dean's List.

Elijah Stoltzfus, a Junior Environmental & Marine Science major from Mount Rainier, was recognized for academic excellence on the fall semester Dean's List at Goshen College. Stoltzfus is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

The Dean's List includes students earning at least a 3.75 GPA, while completing at least 12 hours of coursework for a letter grade. Only grades from the designated semester are included in the Dean's List selection process.

Initiated in the fall of 1999, the Dean's List celebrates the achievement of Goshen College students who have met high academic standards and can motivate students preparing for graduate studies.

—Hannah Scott-Carter, Goshen College

The Sky Bridge at Town Center Celebrates the Harlem Nights Era With Jazz Music & Glamour

Residents came together for a night of jazz music and fun

By PRESS OFFICER

Watermark Retirement Communities

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 25, 2023)—Residents of the Sky Bridge at Town Center's The Parc celebrated the holidays and the new year a few days early with a Harlem Nights-era party featuring jazz music, flashy flapper fringe, sequin dresses, classy pinstripe suits, and more on Dec. 27. The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark retirement community that includes two distinct neighborhoods, The Parc and The Arch, decorated The Parc to reflect the Harlem Nights era and brought in a roaring jazz band called Earth, Wind, and Fire Tribute Band. The event featured delectable cocktails and appetizers, games like poker, blackjack, and roulette, and raffled prizes to bring residents back in time by a century.

Associates of the community planned the event and mingled with residents for



IMAGE COURTESY WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

The Sky Bridge at Town Center's Executive Director Joy Hart (Left) and Director of Sales Rochelle Clark (Right), announcing prizes that residents could win throughout the night through a raffle, on Dec. 27.

a night filled with fun and merriment. joy on everyone's faces, Harlem Nights From the dance moves to the games, and was a night to remember.

Governor Moore Highlights Legislative Agenda to Support Veterans, National Guard Members, and Their Families

By BRITTANY MARSHALL

Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 26, 2023)—[Last week], Governor Wes Moore hosted nearly 100 veterans at the State House to reaffirm his legislative agenda to improve the lives of Maryland veterans, National Guard members, and their families—which includes \$30 million to support his proposed Keep Our Heroes Home Act, and \$5 million to provide healthcare services for National Guard members through his proposed Healthcare for Heroes Act. Governor Moore was joined at the veteran's roundtable by Acting Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs Tony Woods and members of the general assembly.

"These investments show our administration's commitment to supporting the

lives of those who have made countless sacrifices to protect our nation," said Governor Moore. "It was my honor to hear our veteran's perspectives on their needs and how we can help them. I am proud to lead the charge in providing legislation and funding that will ensure my fellow veterans and National Guard members are taken care of, here at home."

Keep Our Heroes Home Act: This legislation expands the military retirement tax exemption to \$25,000 for all recipients in Tax Year 2023 and to \$40,000 in Tax Year 2024 and each year thereafter. Current law allows any individual receiving military retirement (including surviving spouses) to deduct the first \$5,000 from their taxable income if they are under the age of 55 and \$15,000 from their state taxable income if they are 55 years of age or

older. This bill eliminates the age distinction and expands the tax exemption for any veteran or surviving spouse receiving this retirement income.

Healthcare for Heroes Act: This legislation will allow members of the Maryland National Guard and their families, who are eligible for Tri-Care Reserve Select, to receive health and dental care free of cost. The bill establishes the Tri-Care Premium Reimbursement Program within the Maryland Military Department (DMIL). Guard members will submit their own and their families' premium payments to the program in order to be reimbursed for the full cost. The National Guard's four employment statuses of members include Active Guard Reserve (AGR), Dual Status Technicians (DST), Federal Civilian Employees, and Traditional Guard Service Members (M-Day).

Maryland Delegate Looks to Expand Civil Immunity for Teachers

By KARA THOMPSON

Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 24, 2023)—School staff would receive protection from lawsuits stemming from disciplining students under a proposed bill from Del. Robin Grammer, R-Baltimore, that is set to be heard in the General Assembly on Wednesday.

"We have significant problems with public education," Grammer told Capital News Service on Thursday. "The discipline issues are real, very real, despite the politicking around it." Teachers are afraid to intervene in bullying and other disciplinary problems for fear of lawsuits, and he said, that's meant fewer teachers or teachers leaving the profession early.

Melissa Dirks, president of the Frederick County Teachers Association, agrees.

"Even though educators still are showing up every day doing the best they can with the resources—the very short resources—that we are given, the same respect is not being shown in all segments of the community," she told Capital News Service on Friday.

The proposed bill, HB0137, aims to protect teachers who intervene in fights or other cases of student misconduct from any civil liability they may face regarding property damage or personal injury, provided they acted in good faith and without negligence.

Current law states that the county board of education is held financially responsible in the event that an educator is sued and damages are awarded against them. The Code of Maryland Regulations also ensures that as of now, the county board must provide legal counsel to school staff if the action was performed "without malice" and if they were "acting within authorized official capacity."

Dirks noted that the proposed bill would not alter current law too drastically, but would lay out specifically what a school staff member would and would not be liable for, and in what situations.

"Any time we can bring clarity and make sure that educators are allowed to intercede to protect students without fear is a good thing," she said.

That was Grammer's goal in introducing the bill during this session, even though a nearly identical one failed in the 2020 session.

"You look for simple ways that you could positively change policy to better the environment, regardless of what policy scope you're looking at," said Grammer. "I thought this was a really positive bill. It's not revolutionary or groundbreaking, but it's something you could do. It's a little tweak that you can make to just tell teachers, if you're stepping in to prevent someone from getting hurt, we have your back."

He hopes the bill will give teachers more ability to control their classroom's environment in a way that best serves their students.

"Making sure our students are safe is always paramount, and we've seen it time and time again where educators put their bodies on the line for their students," said Dirks. "That happens with or without this piece of legislation, but it is good for educators to know that they are supported by lawmakers and the law in this situation."

The act was first introduced during the 2020 Regular Session by former Delegate and Republican gubernatorial candidate Dan Cox. In addition to Cox and Grammer, 32 other delegates, including six Democrats still in the House, sponsored the bill, then called HB802.

"You know, Delegate Cox tended to be a controversial person, and I suspect towards the end there, that's probably why it failed," Grammer said. "So I figured we bring it back, ... give it a shot and see if we can get it done."

In his testimony on the bill in 2020, Cox told lawmakers that teachers face challenges they didn't expect.

"A teacher should not need to worry about personal liability when intervening in a small scuffle or a schoolwide brawl,"

he said. "Teachers should not have to worry that they will be sued if they stop one student from inflicting harm on another."

Dirks, who also testified for the bill in 2020, agreed with Cox then on what the role of teachers should be.

"Educators need to be able to focus our attention on the academic needs and physical safety of our students without fearing reprisal or risk of civil liability as a result of good faith actions aimed at protecting them," said Dirks in her 2020 written testimony.

While it passed in the House on March 11, 2020, the bill died after being referred to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Grammer said he hopes that with the freshman members of the House looking at it with new eyes, the bill will have enough support to become law.

"It's well written, it's very short. It's passed unanimously and had bipartisan support," Grammer said of the bill and its predecessor. "I think one of the opportunities this year is really to walk through all this policy and have the freshman members hear a lot of it, and for them it's going to be brand new."

Grammer said the current bill is the same as that passed by the House of Delegates during the 2020 legislative session. This includes an amendment suggested by the Maryland Association for Justice that further specifies the staff member must have intervened in a "reasonably prudent manner" and the actions were not "grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious."

"We worked with this bill sponsor back in 2020 to improve the immunity provision to include a standard of conduct of reasonable prudence under the circumstances so that the bill was more clear in what conduct would be protected and what conduct would not be protected," said George Tolley, who was MAJ's legislative chair in 2020, of their proposed amendments.

If passed, this act would go into effect Oct. 1.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Gov. DeSantis Has Charted a Course to the White House That Cuts Straight Through the Swap of White Supremacy

“Ron DeSantis has clearly demonstrated that he wants to dictate whose story does and doesn't belong. He wants to control what our kids can learn based on politics and not sound policy ... He wants to say that I don't belong. He wants to say that you don't belong. Whose story does and doesn't get to count. But we are here to tell him, we are America. Governor, Black history is American history, and you are on the wrong side of history.”

—Florida State Rep. Fentrice Driskell

Bayard Rustin, as most students of American history now know, was one of the key organizers of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was Rustin who introduced Martin Luther King, Jr., to the Gandhian tactics of non-violent resistance that guided the Civil Rights

Movement through the 1950s and 1960s.

Because Rustin was a gay man at a time when same-sex relationships were criminalized, he often was forced to work from behind the scenes, allowing others to take the credit for his achievements. For decades, his transformational influence was downplayed and devalued. A warped history of the movement was allowed to take shape, one that historians only recently have begun to correct.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis wants to shove the legacy of Rustin and others like him back into the shadows, perpetuating a warped history of the nation.

DeSantis' reactionary move to ban an AP course on African American studies is loosely based on his opposition to what he calls Critical Race Theory, a legal concept taught in law schools and little

understood by the general public. Right-wing activists and politicians like DeSantis have co-opted and corrupted the term to undermine any effort to confront or even to acknowledge systemic racism.

As CNN political writer Brandon Tensley noted, “Because so many Americans don't know what CRT is, it's the perfect tool for scaring white conservative voters with made-up problems—for mobilizing them against the racial awakening of the past year.”

The course itself is organized into four major units: Origins of the African Diaspora, including topics such as “The Strength and Reach of West African Empires” and “Intercultural Forces in African Kingdoms and City States;” Freedom, Slavery, and Resistance, which covers the period from the origins of the transatlantic slave trade to abolition; The Practice of Freedom, focused on African-American experiences since abolition including Reconstruction and the Negro Renaissance, and Movements and Debates, which examines the Civil Rights Movement, Black feminism and intersectionality, and the diversity within Black communities.

DeSantis' feeble efforts to rationalize the ban are so vague they are essentially meaningless. “Intersectionality is foundational to CRT,” his Department of Education howled, without even attempting to explain why either concept represents a threat. His “concerns” reflect a profound ignorance—or deliberate misrepresentation—of both the curriculum and the legal theory he claims to oppose, but the ignorance is largely the point. The ban, like the ludicrous Stop WOKE Act that the course allegedly violates, is less about the details

of a specific curriculum and almost entirely about weaponizing white grievance and resistance to a multicultural democracy.

DeSantis has charted a course to the White House that cuts straight through the swamp of white supremacy.

After all, if white people experience “guilt, anguish or other forms of psychological distress” as a result of acknowledging systemic racism, they might be inspired to alleviate that distress by dismantling systemic racism. That's a terrifying prospect for people who are so accustomed to the status quo that even the slightest effort to level the playing field feels like an earth-shattering cataclysm.

It's impossible to know whether DeSantis genuinely shares that fear. But it's undeniable he's eager to exploit it for political advantage. His opponent in his first gubernatorial campaign famously remarked, “I'm not calling Mr. DeSantis a racist. I'm simply saying the racists believe he's a racist.”

Three Florida students are poised to sue DeSantis if he does not lift the ban and allow the AP African American studies to be taught in schools. But because the College Board has agreed to revise the course, it's likely that future students will be taught a watered-down curriculum that avoids the harsh realities that cause “distress.” This injustice gives DeSantis and his allies the power not only to distort the past, but to shape a future where structural inequalities persist and racism is allowed to flourish.

—January 26, 2023

Charlie Alexander

President and Chief Executive Officer



Introducing Infinite Legacy: Giving Life. Restoring Hope.

Earlier this month, The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland (The LLF) and Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC) merged to become Infinite Legacy, one united organ procurement organization (OPO) serving almost 10 million people in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. Both former organizations entered the merger proactively last Spring, with each in a position of exceptional strength both clinically and financially.

The merger comes as both former organizations, as well as the U.S. organ donation system, saw high-performing organ and tissue recovery num-

bers last year, including several records broken. In 2022, Infinite Legacy staff recovered organs from 323 deceased donor heroes and helped facilitate 904 transplants, which contributed to saving the lives of 788 people. We are humbled to also recognize an additional 77 ‘donors in spirit,’ people who intended to be organ donors, however, for various medical reasons, their organs were deemed not viable or transplantable at the time of their death.

In addition, Infinite Legacy staff facilitated 1,985 gifts from 1,037 eye and tissue donors, enhancing the lives of up to 77,775 people. These

patients received corneas to restore sight, skin to heal burns, heart valves to repair defects, bones to correct injuries and tendons/ligaments to restore movement. Staff also recovered and allocated 384 organs, eyes and tissues for vital medical research and assisted with 47 living kidney donor surgeries at local transplant centers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. exceeded 42,800 total organ transplants performed in 2022, which included over 25,000 kidney transplants and also record numbers of liver, heart and lung transplants according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. Additionally, almost 15,000 people became deceased donors, the twelfth consecutive record-setting year.

With the merger closing, Infinite Legacy realizes an exceptional opportunity to bring together collective expertise, resources and offerings to provide improved donation and transplant services to the communities it serves. Within our first two weeks of being operational, our organization has facilitated 46 recoveries of organ and tissue donors.

With more than 4,200 people in Maryland, Northern Virginia and DC waiting for an organ transplant, it's imperative that we put ourselves in a position where we can maximize the number of lives we can save and improve through organ and

Infinite Legacy

Giving Life. Restoring Hope.

tissue recoveries. This merger accomplishes that. We are proud of this new organization and are looking forward to what we will achieve as Infinite Legacy, giving life and restoring hope to those desperately waiting for a lifesaving transplant and honoring our donor heroes and their courageous families.

Infinite Legacy is one of the nation's 56 OPOs working in partnership with 68 hospitals and eight transplant centers to decrease the number of patients waiting for an organ. We facilitate organ, eye and tissue donation and educates people about the critical importance of registering to be a donor while honoring the legacy and generosity of donors and providing care to their families.

I encourage you to get the facts about donation and register at InfiniteLegacy.org.

Gun Control from A1

“Maryland is now left with no choice in the wake of the Supreme Court's dangerous decision, to address what they want to do about the question of public carry,” Everytown for Gun Safety Regional Legal Director Sam Levy told Capital News Service. “There's simply going to be more people carrying guns in public, and Maryland now has to do whatever they can to mitigate those risks.” Everytown and Moms Demand Action are affiliated.

The gun control advocates plan a Tuesday (Jan. 31) rally in Annapolis with Students Demand Action volunteers. They will meet with local lawmakers, including Waldstreicher, and Senate Judicial Proceedings Chairman Will Smith, D-Montgomery, to discuss strengthening gun laws, including concealed carry laws such as The Gun Safety Act.

“The purpose of these types of place location laws is to identify locations where, for exam-

ple, alcohol is being served, where people's judgment is likely to be impaired,” said Levy. “Keeping guns out of sensitive places like bars, like stadiums, like courthouses, like polling places, address a whole number of potential threats, not just mass shootings.”

Waldstreicher said that's exactly right, guns don't belong in certain places, like hospitals, government buildings, parks and restaurants.

“Any fender bender could turn into gun violence; any dispute over a check at a restaurant can turn into gun violence,” said Waldstreicher. “When guns are everywhere, we are less safe.”

Not everyone said the bill would increase public safety. The bill faces opposition from gun advocacy groups, who said the bill will punish law-abiding gun permit owners.

“It would adversely affect public safety. It certainly would adversely affect the rights of concealed carry permit holders to be able to protect themselves,” said Mark Pennak, president of

Maryland Shall Issue, a Maryland gun rights group. “It will have no effect on actually promoting public safety because everyone agrees—permit holders do not commit crimes.”

The constitutionality of The Gun Safety Act is also being questioned in the wake of the Bruen decision. Since Bruen, states such as New Jersey and New York have proposed gun legislation similar to The Gun Safety Act, limiting where permit holders may carry weapons. Both of these proposed bills are held up by district courts over constitutional questions.

“It is so plainly contrary to how the Supreme Court ruled in Bruen that it effectively denies the right to public safety in all urban and many rural areas in Maryland,” said Pennak. “This area doesn't even begin to qualify as a sensitive area under the Supreme Court's ruling, so it's dead on arrival, because if it does pass, we will bring suit, and it will fail.”

Despite criticisms, Waldstreicher remains confident that his

bill is strong enough to withstand examination.

“Mark Pennak is a constituent, and I respect his point of view even though I disagree with it,” said Waldstreicher. “What Mark doesn't say is that no appellate court has ruled on similar laws from other states, so I am optimistic that we can draft a bill that will both provide for public safety and withstand constitutional scrutiny.”

Sen. Jill Carter, D-Baltimore City, member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, said that further distinctions must be made to decipher which public places qualify as sensitive.

“I can certainly understand the lack of permission if someone has private property and they don't want it there; they have every right to prohibit it,” said Carter. “However, I think that we are going to have some conversations about the 100 feet within public accommodations because that's very broad.”

The Gun Safety Act is not the only gun reform proposal this legislative session. Gun violence

remains a pressing issue, particularly with 41 mass shootings occurring between Jan. 1 and Jan. 26, according to national data from the Gun Violence Archive. The archive defines a mass shooting as a minimum of four people shot, either killed or injured, excluding the shooter.

Waldstreicher has also proposed the Raise the Age Act of 2023, SB 86, which will also be heard on Feb. 7. The bill would prohibit individuals under 21 from possessing a rifle or shotgun, except under certain circumstances. It also would prohibit selling, renting, or

transferring certain ammunition to anyone under 21.

In the House, Del. J. Sandy Bartlett, D-Anne Arundel, proposed HB 0003, which concerns firearms surrendered under final protective orders. This bill would alter the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include tracking, screening and vetting of firearms surrendered under final protective orders. It would also require reporting the number and type of firearms surrendered, the jurisdictions, and specific information regarding the individual who surrendered the weapon. It is pending.

Van Hollen, Cardin Join in Introducing Bills to Protect Communities, Schools From Assault Weapons

Assault Weapons Ban prohibits gun used in recent Monterey Park shooting

WASHINGTON (Jan. 30, 2023)—U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) joined Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) in introducing a pair of bills to protect communities from assault weapons.

The Assault Weapons Ban would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capac-

ity magazines and other high-capacity ammunition feeding devices. This includes the gun used by a shooter on January 22 to kill 11 people and injure 9 more at a Lunar New Year's celebration in Monterey Park, California.

The Age 21 Act would raise the minimum age to purchase assault weapons from 18 to 21, the same requirement that currently exists in law for handguns.

“Gun violence has traumatized our country

for far too long—including 50 mass shootings just since the start of this year and the ongoing toll of daily killings in our neighborhoods. Inaction is not an option. That's why I joined my colleagues to once again introduce a ban on assault weapons—and why I'll be fighting to get it passed. This necessary legislation will help keep weapons of war off our streets and put a stop to this senseless violence,” said Senator Van Hollen.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
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Contents © 2023, The Prince George's Post

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Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Difficulty With Social Security's Sign-in Process

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

Dear Rusty: Last month I tried to contact Social Security who never picked up a phone on their end. The same with the IRS. When I finally got through, they said I had to join ID.me before they could help me. That took me over a week, and many applications and rejects, to get through. The last step was holding up my Social Security card and my driver's license on a Zoom call to an ID.me representative. I found this very peculiar—why do I have to go through this place to get information from my government agencies? Now I am receiving catalog offers to buy things from ID.me online. I think this is very strange and out of line. How do I get unregistered from this place? I am very afraid they will share my information with the world. Is this a government agency and why do we have to register there, only to have offers to buy things? **Signed: Frustrated Senior**

Dear Frustrated: Many others have shared with us their frustration when seeking enrollment in the federal government's newest credential verification programs so, though I know it's no comfort, you are not alone.

Social Security has, since September 18, 2021, required all newly created online accounts to use either ID.me or Login.gov to authenticate the user's identity. "ID.me" is a private company contracted by the government to ensure that you are who you say you are, thus avoiding any fraudulent activities. Login.gov is the government's own authentication program set up to allow access to multiple government agencies for the same purpose. The intent of both is to give you one set of sign in credentials which can be used to access multiple government agencies, rather than a unique login procedure for each agency. And, most importantly, the purpose is to protect you from any fraudulent activities which could cause you financial harm. Rest assured that your personal information is safe using either of these government-sponsored methods to verify your identity for government business.

Those who have a "my Social Security" account set up before September 2021 can still use their previous SSA-unique identity verification method (a "2-factor ID process") to access their "my Social Security" online account. This method is as secure as the newer methods but is only good for accessing your Social Security account (not the IRS or any other government agency). Nevertheless, creating a new online Social Security account now requires you use the government's current identity verification methods—either ID.me or Login.gov. If you select ID.me (a private company) you do have control over the type of communication you receive from them and can opt out of receiving any offers for additional services. To do so, it is basically a matter of signing into your ID.me account, accessing your Profile, and selecting "Unsubscribe All" in the Preferences section. And in the meantime, you can also select "Unsubscribe" at the bottom of any promotional email you receive from ID.me.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

National Harbor Hosts its Annual Fooduary Event From February 6–12

A seven-day food and entertainment celebration at one of the DMV's hottest destinations

By VICKI BENDURE
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 26, 2023)—National Harbor and its restaurant partners are kicking off 2023 with a celebration of food and entertainment including specially-priced prix fixe menus, cooking and cocktail demonstrations from chefs and bartenders at National Harbor, special offers with The Capital Wheel and more! Fooduary kicks off on Monday, February 6 and runs through Sunday, February 12 with more than 10 participating locations.

Restaurants will offer pre fixe menus including Succotash, Bond 45, Fiorella Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, Rosa Mexicano, Grace's Mandarin and Mason's Famous Lobster Roll. MGM National Harbor's restaurants Osteria Costa, Diablo Cantina and TAP Sports Bar.

Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano

Bar is offering free general admission for evening shows with proof of Restaurant Week receipt. The Capital Wheel, National Harbor's iconic 180-foot observation wheel, will offer a \$10 ticket (does not include tax) when presenting a Fooduary restaurant receipt at the ticket booth. The offer is valid for up to four general admission tickets. All promotions are valid during Fooduary (Feb. 6–12) and may not be combined with other offers.

National Harbor fans are encouraged to visit the website www.nationalharbor.com/fooduary to learn from chefs and bartenders where they can view tricks of the trade and sign-up for a class.

For more information on Fooduary, visit www.nationalharbor.com/fooduary, additional details will be posted as they become available. For more info on National Harbor, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

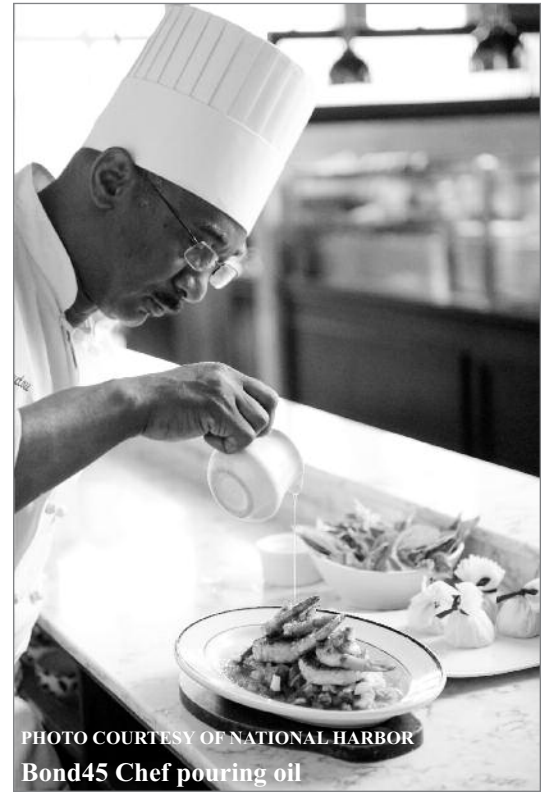


PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR
Bond45 Chef pouring oil

Governor Moore Announces Additional Members of Executive Staff

By CARTER ELLIOTT, IV
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 23, 2023)—Today, Governor Wes Moore announced the latest appointments to his administration's executive staff including senior advisor, chief data officer within the Department of Information Technology, director of scheduling, and an expanded communications team.

"I am confident that our administration is building a team that is fiercely dedicated to serving the people of Maryland," said Governor Moore. "Our executive staff is dynamic and diverse; and together we will take the bold steps needed to ensure that no Marylander is left behind."

Ned Miller
Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement

Ned Miller most recently served as Governor Moore and Lieutenant Governor Miller's campaign manager during their successful 2022 campaign. He previously managed campaigns across the country, including for former Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer of Iowa and congressman Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey. He also managed former New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney's 2017 re-election campaign and went on to serve in the New Jersey Senate Majority Office. Since serving on President Obama's re-election campaign in Florida, Miller has held various communications, research and community organizing roles on campaigns and in government. Miller received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Gettysburg College.

Patrick McLoughlin
Chief Data Officer

Patrick McLoughlin is responsible for

the strategic direction of statewide data management, data sharing, and analytics practices across executive branch agencies. He has 19 years of public and private sector experience helping organizations advance and maximize their use of data as a strategic asset, collaborating with both executive leadership and technical teams to meet organizational goals. Prior to joining the state as Chief Data Officer, his recent roles included Director of Data Solutions at Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, where he led data strategy, data management, governance, and analytics practices, and Director of Business Intelligence for the Maryland Department of Information Technology where he led the BI, analytics, and open data programs. Pat received his Bachelor of Science from Salisbury University.

Arnelda Broadaway
Director of Scheduling

Arnelda Broadaway has more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry. In 2008, she left Maryland to help re-open and rebrand the popular Fontainebleau Miami Beach. She returned to Maryland in 2013 to continue her hospitality sales career. In 2021, she left hospitality to, in her own words, "make a difference." She began working at the National Governors Association as an events planner, where she effectively engineered event and technology logistics for countless meetings, serving more than 200 attendees catering to governors, government officials, and external stakeholders. She also orchestrated all departments—including marketing, sales, operations, technology, and events—to ensure detailed execution in a timely manner.

Arnelda was born and raised in Prince George's County and is a graduate of Suitland High School. She is a proud member

of Philos, an auxiliary organization of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Communications Team: The governor's communications team is led by David Turner, Communications Director and Senior Advisor, and will include the following staff:

Maureen Regan
Deputy Director of Communications

Maureen Regan has served the State of Maryland for more than 10 years, most recently as Director of Communications with the Governor's Coordinating Offices. Prior to joining the governor's office, she was Deputy Director of Communications with the Maryland Department of Health, where she led a number of special projects and initiatives related to Maryland's COVID-19 pandemic response, branding, web design, communications strategy and data visualization. Maureen received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emerson College and is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in Integrated Design at the University of Baltimore.

Brittany Marshall
Senior Press Secretary

Brittany Marshall is an Emmy Award-winning producer and communicator. Most recently, she served as Press Secretary for former Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford. Prior to joining the Lt. Governor's office, she was Director of Media Relations for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration. Brittany's many years of journalism experience spans from producer at WUSA9 in Washington D.C. to reporter and executive producer at WDMV-TV in Hagerstown,

See **EXECUTIVE STAFF** Page A6

Earth TALK™ Mountains of Solar Waste: What Can Be Done?

Dear EarthTalk:

How are we going to deal with all the waste when the solar panels everyone is putting up now wear out in 20–30 years?

—Paul B., Chevy Chase, MD

When purchasing green alternatives for home power generation, there are many features that the average consumer looks for. Most are hoping to find options that are the most efficient, or the lightest, or the most durable, but what about the most recyclable?

This question is often overlooked when making such purchases. Unfortunately, ignoring a product's life cycle can have disastrous consequences, especially if reducing your environmental footprint is a concern.

Take solar panels, for example. The average solar panel lasts roughly 25 years, and the vast majority of them were purchased and put into use within the last 10 years. This means that within the next 15 years, millions of retired and broken solar panels will be flooding landfills. A 2020 study out of the federally funded National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) found that as much as eight million tons of solar modules could arrive in landfills globally by 2030, and by 2050 these solar panels could make up to 10 percent of all e-waste on the planet.

To make matters worse, if the waste isn't disposed of properly, it could cause problems for the groundwater in its vicinity. Solar panels contain trace amounts of toxic compounds, such as lead,

and a carcinogen known as cadmium telluride. If either of these chemicals were to leach into a freshwater source, the water would become unsafe to use in most capacities.

Although solar panels are recyclable, there is little incentive to do so. Made from materials such as aluminum, copper, silicon and glass, approximately 80–85 percent of a solar panel can be recycled; however, the process would actually cost more than the raw materials are worth.

Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office has been hard at work developing a comprehensive system for handling and recycling solar panels. By 2030, they plan on reducing the cost of solar panel recycling to a mere \$3 per panel. This reduc-



IMAGE CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

We sure do love our solar panels, but in 10–20 years a lot of them will be heading for landfills if we don't figure out how to recycle them.

tion would actually make solar panel recycling an economically feasible venture!

That said, there is still the option to rebuild new solar panels from old ones. However, to accomplish this would require a direct reuse of the materials recovered. Silicon, for example, can be directly recycled back into so-

lar panels, or it can even be used in the anodes of lithium-ion batteries—the functional storage unit of power generated through the use of solar panels.

But what about simply making the solar panels greener? Instead of silicon solar panels (what people normally buy), there is another option available

known as Sunflare thin-film solar panels. The lightweight modules have a carbon footprint that is 20 percent that of silicon, they do not require toxic chemicals such as lead, cadmium, hydrofluoric acid or hydrochloric acid to produce, they require less water, and are 80 percent less energy-intensive to make. They are also paper-thin, require no silicon purification, no glass, and no mounts, and are even more efficient in low-light conditions!

CONTACTS: Solar Photovoltaic Module Recycling: A Survey of U.S. Policies and Initiatives, www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/74124.pdf; Sunflare Solar, www.sunflaresolar.com.

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