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Millard House II Appointed PGCPs Superintendent

Former Houston schools chief will take helm of Maryland's second-largest district on July 1

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 7, 2023)—Millard House II, formerly Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, will take the helm of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) on July 1. Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced his appointment Wednesday during a news conference at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building.

House led Houston ISD for two years, ending his tenure in the nation's eighth-largest district earlier this month. He previously served as director of schools for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (CMCSS) in Tennessee, chief operating officer of Char-

lotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina and deputy superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools in Oklahoma. House founded and led a college preparatory middle school in one of Tulsa's most economically underserved neighborhoods and served as executive consultant and executive director of New Leaders for New Schools.

"It is both an honor and a pleasure to join Prince George's County Public Schools," says Mr. House. "I look forward to listening and learning in the days ahead in an effort to build upon a rich tradition of educating students in an equitable manner."

He will succeed Dr. Monica Goldson, who is retiring this month after a 32-year career in Prince George's County Public Schools, including the last five



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPs

Millard House II

as Chief Executive Officer. "As we welcome new leadership, I am committed to en-

See PGCPs Page A5

Bowie High School Gun Incident

By UNA COOPER
City of Bowie, MD

On June 7, 2023, at 12:47 p.m., the Bowie Police Department received a call to the Bowie Library located at 15210 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20716 for a subject armed with a long gun. When officers arrived on the scene it was reported that the suspect may have possibly fled in a dark colored vehicle. A review of the surveillance video confirmed a light complected male wearing

a white shirt, black pants armed with some type of long gun.

A secondary report was received from Bowie High School, which shares the parking lot with the library, that the suspect was possibly hidden inside of the school. At this point, a shelter in place was ordered for the main building of Bowie High School as well as the Bowie Annex. Officers then immediately made entry into the school to search for the suspect, but he was not located.

Based upon the photo, the ju-

venile suspect was identified, and investigative efforts led to the suspect's apprehension on foot a short distance away from the school shortly after 3 p.m. He was not armed at the time of the arrest, but the weapon was later recovered and determined to be an airsoft pistol which closely resembles a long gun. City of Bowie Police investigators are coordinating with the Prince George's

See INCIDENT Page A4



PHOTO COURTESY LUMINIS HEALTH

Deneen Richmond (L), president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, and Tori Bayless, chief executive officer of Luminis Health (R) joined members of the Adams family for a ceremonial check presentation inside the new Behavioral Health Pavilion in Lanham.

Bowie Family Makes Major Contribution to Support Behavioral Health Services in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (June 7, 2023)—To help fulfill Luminis Health's mission of enhancing the health of the people and communities it serves, Bowie Mayor Timothy Adams and his wife, the Honorable Sheila Tillerson Adams have personally donated \$100,000 to Luminis Health's behavioral health services in Prince George's County.

Tori Bayless, chief executive officer of Luminis Health, and Deneen Richmond, president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, joined members of the Adams family for a ceremonial check presentation inside the new Behavioral Health Pavilion in Lanham.

Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) opened the Behavioral Health Pavilion in the summer of 2022 to meet the grow-

ing needs of mental health services in Prince George's County. The Pavilion currently offers a broad continuum of services including:

- Outpatient Mental Health Clinic to provide therapy and medication management for adults and adolescents
- Behavioral Health Walk-In Urgent Care for non-emergent behavioral health concerns for ages four years old and up. This service is available Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Psychiatric Day Treatment Program which includes a mental health partial hospitalization program and an intensive outpatient program for adults and adolescents
- A 16-bed Inpatient psychiatric unit for adults "Since 2019, Luminis Health, a locally formed

See CONTRIBUTION Page A5

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller Joins Small, Minority, Women, and Veteran Entrepreneurs at Business Development Workshop

Over 200 Business Owners Network with Buyers from 16 State Agencies

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland LG News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 8, 2023)—Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller joined the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs' signature Ready, Set, GROW! Procurement Connections Workshop to recognize small, minority, women, and veteran business owners and explore networking and procurement opportunities at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill.

"Today, we celebrate the success and excellence of the small, minority, women and veteran-owned businesses who call Maryland home, and explore ways to increase our partnerships moving forward," said Lt. Gov. Miller. "Maryland's well-educated workforce and high-quality academic and economic institutions make our state a hub for small business owners and entrepreneurs. We must ensure

all small business owners have equitable access to the unique opportunities our state has to offer."

Lt. Gov. Miller presented Governor's Citations to three outstanding small business owners for their contributions to the statewide economy as well as the communities they serve. The honorees are:

- Dr. Mino Bennett—Green Technology, Inc.
- Myke Jones—Dynamic Service Integration, Corp.
- John Walters—Walters Relocations, Inc.

Over 200 business owners attended the workshop which included an overview of the state's three socioeconomic procurement programs and insights on navigating the state's procurement processes. During the networking portion, vendors were able to meet with buyers from 16 different state purchasing units who provided information on what they

are purchasing now as well as what is in the pipeline.

"Understanding the State of Maryland as a customer is an important key to success in this competitive arena," said Pamela Gregory, Chief of Staff with the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs. "We are pleased to partner with MGM National Harbor to bring vendors and buyers together in the same room."

The Ready, Set, GROW! workshop is a component of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs' outreach programming which also includes monthly training workshops covering a broad range of topics curated to help small businesses compete with confidence in the state contracting arena and bi-monthly webinars that connect entrepreneurs to resources at the state, federal, and local levels.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Lt. Gov. Miller (R) presented Governor's Citations to three outstanding small business owners for their contributions to the statewide economy as well as the communities they serve.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Shakespeare in the Parks: The Tempest

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 7, 2023)—Each summer, the Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks tours a professional, family-friendly production of one of Shakespeare's plays throughout the county, making great theatre available to everyone. Enjoy free, en-

tertaining, and accessible productions of the work of the greatest playwright of the English language at parks and arts centers throughout Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Bring your lawn chair, a picnic, and enjoy the Bard under the stars.

Tour Schedule: June 25—July 16; to view locations, dates, and times, visit https://www.pgpcps.com/event_list/shakespeare-in-the-parks-tour-the-tempest-at-montpelier-house-museum-grounds.

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The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Arts and Cultural Heritage Division is proud to announce our 10th Anniversary Celebration Tour with the show that started it all, *The Tempest*, directed by founding Artistic Director Christopher Dwyer. This 1980s-infused tale follows Prospero, who is stranded on a deserted island in the Mediterranean with his daughter Miranda, narrowly escaping his evil brother. He now comes to grips with a life he left behind and whether to enact revenge on his brother who has just washed up on shore. Complete with magic, fairies, and physical storytelling, this fast-paced 90-minute outdoor adventure is perfect for the entire family.

This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org). For more information, call 301-446-3238.

—Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

COMMUNITY



Change of Command ceremony for the new adjutant general for Maryland. Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, the 30th adjutant general for Maryland, relinquished command of the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Military Department to Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birckhead during a ceremony held at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore on June 3.

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Moore Hosts Maryland National Guard Change of Command Ceremony

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 3, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore hosted the change of command ceremony for the new adjutant general for Maryland. Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, the 30th adjutant general for Maryland, relinquished command of the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Military Department to Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birckhead during a ceremony held at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

"Over the past three and a half years under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Gowen, the Maryland National Guard has risen to even greater heights," said Gov. Moore. "I have every confidence that Maj. Gen. Birckhead will lead with great distinction

and integrity and that she will work tirelessly to ensure that Maryland's National Guard remains one of America's very best military organizations."

Maj. Gen. Birckhead, who was promoted from the rank of brigadier general earlier in the day at a ceremony held at Morgan State University, previously served as the assistant adjutant general-Army since May 2018. She now leads the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department, which includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Defense Force.

"I do not take this charge lightly. I will use the breadth and depth of my experience to do the best for you to ensure readiness," said Maj. Gen. Birckhead. "I will remember my commitment to not

only the Soldiers and Airmen but also the civilians who are a part of the Maryland Military Department."

The adjutant general is a member of the governor's cabinet and is responsible for the readiness, administration, and training of more than 7,000 members of the Military Department, generating nearly \$300 million annually for Maryland's economy.

Additionally, two assumption of command ceremonies took place at the Fifth Regiment Armory for the assistant adjutants general. Maryland Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Drew E. Dougherty assumed command from retired Brig. Gen. Edward S. Jones, and Maryland Army National Guard Col. Andrew W. Collins assumed command from Birckhead.

JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Juneteenth Family Festival

Mount Rainier will be celebrating Juneteenth through the Juneteenth Family Fest on **Friday, June 16**, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in front of City Hall, 3503 Perry Street, Mount Rainier. Organized and led by the Juneteenth Family Celebration Committee, consisting of Mount Rainier Community members, the event promises to be an exciting afternoon of fun, games, live entertainment, vendors and more! The event is free, and everybody is welcome. Rain or Shine.

City of Laurel Juneteenth Celebration

The City of Laurel will be hosting its Juneteenth celebration on **Saturday, June 17** from 12–4 p.m. at Granville Gude Park at 8300 Mulberry Street. Features include cultural events, health screenings, food, live entertainment, family games, and more!

Admission is free. Drop by the District 1 table for info about County programs and services. —District 1 Weekly News

Juneteenth Festival Announced by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 8, 2023)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to announce its 2023 Festival for Juneteenth: the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Marking the date that the last enslaved people learned of their freedom, the month of June and the nineteenth day were combined to form the word Juneteenth.

As a part of the Department's ongoing mission to provide exciting and unique cultural programming to county residents, the Juneteenth Festival is a must-attend event for the young and young at heart. The festival takes place **Saturday, June 17** at Watkins Regional Park from 12–5 p.m. and includes:

- Live entertainment: Avery Sunshine, Rare Essence, Proverbs Reggae Band, DuPont Brass Band, Brencore Allstars Band
- Visual art exhibition: "My Coloured Girls" by Bevadine Zoma Terrell
- Arts Activities: Arts on a Roll, Taratibu Youth Association, Bubble Wands with Blessed Hands Bless, DC Face Painters
- History Activities: Freedom Cabin, Sankofa Mobile Museum Preview
- Food and merchandise vendors
- Non-profit exhibitors

The 2023 Juneteenth festival is a FREE event. To learn more, visit <http://www.pgparcs.com/Juneteenth>.



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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Pride Month Is Marred by a Record Number of Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills in State Legislatures, With Black Youth Most at Risk

"We are powerful because we have survived, and that is what it is all about—survival and growth."
—Audre Lorde

Pride Month should be a time for celebrating love, the freedom to love whom we choose, and triumph over the prejudice, ignorance, and fear of the past.

The prejudice, ignorance, and fear of the present, however, have cast a dark shadow over this year's celebration.

In the past few years, there has been an astonishing increase in the bills restricting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning people of the community (LGBTQ+). In this legislative session alone, state legislators have introduced a record 491 proposals to undermine and weaken nondiscrimination laws, limiting access to books and performances like drag shows, blocking medically-necessary and gender-affirming health care.

Nearly half of the bills target our most vulnerable

young people, attempting to prevent trans students from participating in school activities like sports, to force teachers to out students, and to censor any in-school discussions of LGBTQ people and issues.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed four bills on May 17 as well as expanded on Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law. This law has restricted sexual orientation and gender identity discussions in the classroom from kindergarten to third grade. The updated law will expand the prohibited discussion to eighth grade.

How will our youth express their authentic selves if it is illegal?

On June 28, 1969, in New York City, police raided a gay bar called the Stonewall Inn. Such raids were commonplace, as the expression of LGBTQ identity—cross-dressing, holding hands, kissing, or dancing with someone of the same sex—was illegal. This time, however, instead of complying, the crowd fought back. This spark ignited a fire, which led to five days of rioting to defend LGBTQ rights in America.

History is being reversed. Politicians hoping to ride a wave of hatred and ignorance into higher office are driving the nation backward toward the dark days of shame before Stonewall.

Black, indigenous, and people of color LGBTQ individual experience far more discrimination than

their white counterparts. They already face systemic hurdles in employment and the justice system. They also experience discrimination in situations that impact their basic needs: 24% reported discriminatory treatment from a healthcare provider, 44% share that discrimination has impacted them from renting or buying a home, and 48% have an income of less than \$40,000 a year.

While not all of the anti-LGBTQ bills will become law, they all have a devastating effect.

In 2022, 41% of LGBTQ youth contemplated suicide. This rate is twice as high as the general population of youth. Further, 11% of white LGBTQ youth attempted suicide while double the amount of BIPOC LGBTQ attempted suicide.

The legislation that wishes to ban important conversations about the LGBTQ community will not witness progress, only children's deaths.

Throughout history, figures such as Audre Lorde, Marsha P. Johnson, James Baldwin, Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, Gladys Bentley, Ron Oden, Lorraine Hansberry, and Phill Wilson have paved a path of hope. They will continue to inspire today's LGBTQ youth of color and their needed allies. These icons will not be forgotten; we will fight for their history and our youth's futures.

—June 8, 2023

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

"The Mindless Menace of Violence"

The day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who had announced his decision to run for President, gave a speech at the Cleveland City Club. He said that it was not a time for politics, but a time of "shame and sorrow," and he spoke on the "mindless menace of violence in America which again stains our land and every one of our lives":

"No one—no matter where he lives or what he does—can be certain who will suffer from some senseless act of bloodshed. And yet it goes on and on . . . We seemingly tolerate a rising level of violence that ignores our common humanity and our claims to civilization alike. We calmly accept newspaper reports

of civilian slaughter in far off lands. We glorify killing on movie and television screens and call it entertainment. We make it easy for men of all shades of sanity to acquire weapons and ammunition they desire."

Robert Kennedy continued: "When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother, when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color or his beliefs or the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies—to be met not with cooperation but with conquest, to be subjugated and mastered. We learn, at the last, to look at our brothers as aliens, men with whom we share a

city, but not a community, men bound to us in common dwelling, but not in common effort. We learn to share only a common fear—only a common desire to retreat from each other—only a common impulse to meet disagreement with force."

These words speak clearly to the moment in our nation today. At the time our dark, deep despair at Dr. King's death was leavened only by the fact that we still had Robert Kennedy. But two months after giving this speech, Robert Kennedy was shot by an assassin at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. He died the next day, 55 years ago on my birthday, June 6, 1968. I never wore the beautiful bracelet my fiancé Peter Edelman, Robert Kennedy's legislative assistant, had bought at the Ambassador Hotel as a birthday present.

As I walked into St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City where Robert Kennedy's body lay in state, a weeping Charles Evers, the brother of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, clung to me asking over and over, "What are we going to do now?" Riding the train from New York City to Washington, D.C. bearing Robert Kennedy's body, I was deeply moved by the stricken faces of young and old, Black and white mourners who lined the train route and mirrored my stricken heart. The single most poignant moment for me was when the hearse carrying Robert Kennedy's body to rest near his brother John Kennedy

at Arlington National Cemetery crossed Memorial Bridge and paused for a brief time at the Lincoln Memorial, allowing the poor people still in Resurrection City from the Poor People's Campaign to bid farewell while singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

In his speech in Cleveland Robert Kennedy had also said: "There is another kind of violence, slower but just as deadly, destructive as the shot or the bomb in the night. This is the violence of institutions; indifference and inaction and slow decay. This is the violence that afflicts the poor, that poisons relations between men because their skin has different colors. This is a slow destruction of a child by hunger, and schools without books and homes without heat in the winter . . ." He said for all of this there were no final answers, but we knew what we must do:

"We must admit the vanity of our false distinctions among men and learn to find our own advancement in the search for the advancement of all. We must admit in ourselves that our own children's future cannot be built on the misfortunes of others. We must recognize that this short life can neither be ennobled or enriched by hatred or revenge. Our lives on this planet are too short and the work to be done too great to let this spirit flourish any longer in our land."

His work became our work, and 55 years later, the work goes on.

—June 9, 2023

Saving the Bay Means Creating a Future With and for People

By HILARY HARP FALK
for the Bay Journal News Service

What does it mean to save the Bay? That is the question we should be asking ourselves after reading the latest report from the Chesapeake Bay Program's Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

The 132-page Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response is a painstakingly detailed examination of why progress to save the Bay has been slower than expected and is anticipated to take a lot longer. After reading the report, with all the challenges it points to, I'm more energized than ever and hopeful this is our chance for a modern environmental awakening.

For the roughly half-century history of the environmental movement, we have been yearning to return to a pre-colonial time of clearer water, cleaner air and more abundant wildlife. We've sought to restore what was lost and preserve what is left.

This made sense in a world on fire from pollution and struggling to accommodate a skyrocketing population. But despite enormous effort and incredible progress in many areas, the resources we've sought to protect are still at grave risk. The water is not clean enough. The air is not safe enough. The wildlife continues to disappear. And climate change—not seriously considered 50 years ago—is an existential and immediate threat to all of us.

It's not that we've failed. We have cleaner water and cleaner air than when we started. It's that in trying to recreate the past, we've too often neglected to build for the future.

The world we live in today and the scale of the threats we face de-



PHOTO BY SKYLER BALLARD/CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Children enjoy Fort Smallwood Park in Pasadena, MD, where the Patapsco River flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

mand a new approach, one that builds on what has worked and looks forward, not back. Saving what is most precious to us isn't a matter of turning back the clock to an idealized time when nature flourished and human influence was minimal. It's creating a future in which humans and nature flourish together.

Nowhere is there greater opportunity to do this than the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The effort to save the Bay is one of this country's oldest, most-studied and most successful environmental restoration movements. And rightly so.

Even as a child growing up in Baltimore in the 1980s, when scientists declared the Bay was dying, I fell in love with its mysterious shorelines, the strange snails and fish I encountered while tagging along on assignment with my dad, a landscape photographer. Later, as a young educator on Port Isabel, an island in the Bay that sits to the west of Virginia's Tangier Island, I fell in love with its people, among them the watermen who showed me what it was like to live off what the Bay provides.

It's impossible to separate the two—the people and the place. That's as true in Baltimore's bustling Inner Harbor as it is on remote Port Isabel, and it's a truth I saw repeated across this country's treasured landscapes while directing programs for the National Wildlife Federation. How can we create a future where both thrive?

To truly succeed in the next chapter of Bay-saving, we're going to have to widen conservation's historically narrow lens. We can no longer assume that all we need for a healthy Bay is enough oxygen in the deepest water—an improvement that is necessary, but not the only goalpost.

The Bay is more than its molecules and more than a piece of water in Maryland and Virginia. It's the streams our children play in, the

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Incident from A1

County State's Attorney's Office and charges are forthcoming.

The Bowie Police Department would like to thank the students, parents, Prince George's County school administration and the public for their cooperation and support. We are fortunate that this incident was resolved peacefully without injury or tragedy. We also extend our gratitude to the Prince George's County Police, Prince George's County Special Operations Division, Maryland State Police, Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff, ATF Hyattsville 2 Field Office, Greenbelt Police, Upper Marlboro Police, and all the other allied police agencies that assisted.

Once the suspect was apprehended, the shelter in place was lifted and an orderly dismissal of the students was conducted.

Please direct any questions to Deputy Chief Dwayne A. Preston, Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5700.

Statement: District 4 Council Member Ingrid Watson Commends Community and Police Response to Bowie High School Lockdown Incident

(June 8, 2023)—The safety of our communities, especially our students, is an utmost priority. News of an armed intruder prompting a lockdown at Bowie High School on Wednesday was both frightening and concerning. Thankfully, no one was harmed in this incident.

By all accounts, the cooperation and support of our Bowie Library, Prince George's County Public Schools, Bowie High School, and the community helped law enforcement to achieve a peaceful resolution without injury or tragedy.

The joint response of law enforcement in this matter is commendable, and I extend our community's gratitude to the Bowie

City Police, Prince George's County Police, Prince George's County Special Operations Division, Maryland State Police, Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff, ATF Hyattsville 2 Field Office, Greenbelt Police, Upper Marlboro Police, and all other allied police agencies assisting.

The successful resolution of this incident offers a timely reminder of how important it is to immediately report the sighting of any weapon or suspicious individuals and/or objects to authorities. I encourage the continued engagement of our residents as we continue to work together for an even stronger and safer community.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Contribution from A1

health system, has invested \$85 million at our Lanham campus, including expanding behavioral health services,” said Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC. “The Adams’ generosity and commitment to our community warms my heart tremendously. Their financial support will provide access, treatment and programming to Prince Georgians who deserve high-quality care close to home. It is my sincere hope these much needed services will help end the stigma of receiving mental health and substance use treatment.”

This summer, we anticipate opening an 8-bed addiction residential services followed by a substance use disorder intensive outpatient treatment program. Major funding for the new Behavioral Health Pavilion was made possible through a \$20 million grant from Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Prince George’s County Council.

Luminis Health is a non-profit regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. Comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center, Doctors Community Medical Center (DCMC), J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center, Pathways, DCMC Rehab, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise, the system serves a population of 1.5 million people. As one of the area’s largest charitable assets—with 789 licensed beds, 90+ sites of care, and 9,600 team members—Luminis Health contributes close to \$100 million for the community’s benefit. Learn more at LuminisHealth.org and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Will Working Affect My First Year’s Benefits?

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 from working in January of this year and have since claimed Social Security. I didn’t work at all in February or March, but I began a part time job in April. I’m very confused about how Social Security counts earnings for the first year. I don’t know if I need to keep each month’s earnings under \$1,770 or if they average it. Some of the literature I’ve found says each month must remain under \$1,770 or NO benefit will be paid that month. Two people at the Social Security office told me that they’ll just dock me \$1 for every \$2 I am over that, even in my first year. I also cannot find anything about when they count your income. Is it when it’s earned or when it’s paid? If I go over in a month because there are three pay periods, can they withhold the benefit for that month? I’m just so confused! **Signed: Part Time Worker**

Dear Part Time Worker: The Social Security earnings test during your first year collecting benefits before full retirement age is, indeed, somewhat confusing. The reason is because there are two methods which Social Security may use during your first calendar year collecting early benefits, and they will use the one which results in the least financial impact to you. To elaborate:

If you claim benefits mid-year before your full retirement age, for the remainder of that first year (starting in the month benefits begin and ending in December) you’ll be subject to a monthly earnings limit (\$1,770 for 2023). If you exceed the monthly limit in any remaining month of that first calendar year, you won’t be entitled to benefits for that month, so Social Security would (eventually) take back that month’s benefit. That is, unless using the annual limit (\$21,240 for 2023) instead will result in a smaller penalty. If your total earnings for your first year collecting are over the annual limit (e.g., \$21,240 for 2023), the penalty would be \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit and, if that is less than the penalty from using the monthly limit, they will assess the smaller penalty. In other words, Social Security will use the method which is most beneficial to you when assessing a penalty for exceeding the earnings limit during your first calendar year collecting benefits. And just for clarity, the earnings limits are much higher and the penalty less during the year you attain full retirement age (FRA).

Something else to be aware of: if you know in advance you will exceed the annual limit it would be best to inform Social Security in order to avoid an Overpayment Notice next year. If you don’t, Social Security won’t know about your 2023 earnings until you file your 2023 income taxes, so you’ll get your 2023 monthly payments as usual. But when the IRS informs Social Security of your 2023 earnings later next year, Social Security will ask you to detail your monthly work earnings for 2023. If you have exceeded the limits, they will determine an overpayment amount and will ask you to either pay back what is owed in a lump sum or will withhold your benefits for enough months to recover what you owe for exceeding the 2023 earnings limit. Then, after you reach full retirement age (FRA), you’ll get time credit for all months in which benefits were withheld, thus slightly increasing your monthly payment after your FRA.

Finally, it is when your income is earned that counts, not when it is paid. So, for example, if you worked in January 2023 and were paid for that work in February 2023, that is considered January income which wouldn’t count toward the February earnings limit.

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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Joseph Williams Named CEO of Rehabilitation Hospital of Bowie

By PRESS OFFICER

Encompass Health

BOWIE, Md. (June 6, 2023)—Joseph Williams has been appointed as chief executive officer of Rehabilitation Hospital of Bowie. The hospital is a 60-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital under construction at 17351 Melford Blvd in Bowie, Maryland. The hospital is expected to begin caring for patients in summer 2023.

Williams will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations at the Southern Maryland hospital, as well as patient care and quality. The hospital will provide 24-hour nursing care along with physical, occupational and speech therapies to patients recovering from major illnesses and injuries, including stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation and complex orthopedic conditions.

“Joseph brings nearly two decades of clinical and leadership experience in various healthcare settings to his new role of CEO,” said Abe Sims, President of Encompass Health’s MidAtlantic region. “Joseph has demonstrated commitment to the Encompass Health brand and patient experience, I am confident in his vision for the hospital and excited to welcome

him to the Bowie community.”

Williams brings 19 years of clinical and leadership experience in various healthcare settings to his new role of CEO. He most recently served as Associate Administrator at UVA Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlottesville, Virginia. In this role, he participated in the Developing Future CEO’s (DFCEO) program, a comprehensive program that develops and prepares participants for the CEO position. Williams first joined Encompass Health in 2013 as a nursing supervisor at Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of North Virginia in Aldie, Virginia. During his tenure, he was promoted to various leadership positions including director of quality and patient care, as well as chief nursing officer. Prior to his time with Encompass Health, Williams worked case manager for VITAS Hospice in Vienna, Virginia.

Williams obtained his bachelor’s degree in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University and his master’s degree in business and health administration from UMUC in Adelphi, Maryland.

Encompass Health (NYSE: EHC) is the largest owner and operator of rehabilitation



PHOTO COURTESY ENCOMPASS HEALTH
Joseph Williams, CEO of Rehabilitation Hospital of Bowie.

hospitals in the United States. With a national footprint that includes 157 hospitals in 37 states and Puerto Rico, the Company provides high-quality, compassionate rehabilitative care for patients recovering from a major injury or illness, using advanced technology and innovative treatments to maximize recovery. Encompass Health is ranked as one of Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For and Modern Healthcare’s Best Places to Work in Healthcare. For more information, visit encompasshealth.com, or follow us on our newsroom, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

PGCEA President Welcomes New PGCPS Superintendent

Prince George’s County Educators’ Association Looks Forward to Working with Millard House II to Ensure Educators and Students Have World Class Schools

By PRESS OFFICER

PGCEA

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 7, 2023)—[Last week] Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks held a press conference to announce her appointment of Millard House II as the new Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS).

House is coming to Prince George’s from Houston, TX where he served as the superintendent of Houston Independent School District (ISD). His ability to achieve academic gains and recruit diverse highly qualified educators has earned him state and national recognition.

PGCEA President Dr. Donna Christy released the following statement:

“We warmly welcome Millard House II and his family into the Prince George’s

County Schools family. PGCEA is thrilled about County Executive Angela Alsobrooks’ appointment, as it signifies the opportunity for significant and tangible improvements within PGCPS. The appointment paves the way for real change in our school district, and we look forward to working in partnership towards a brighter future.”

This new administration has the potential to build upon a strong negotiated agreement with PGCEA, enhancing recruitment and retention efforts while strengthening our Grow Your Own program to build a resilient pipeline of educators.

By actively listening to the voice of educators we can alleviate the crushing workload, giving more time for lesson planning and meaningful interactions that prepare students for college and career success.

PGCPS from A1

uring a smooth transition. Serving the children of Prince George’s County Public Schools has been my life’s work,” said Dr. Goldson. “When I accepted this position, I did so with my full belief in the students who enter our classrooms each day. The success of our students and schools requires the support of everyone in our community. This success enriches our community.”

In January, Dr. Goldson announced her plans to retire at the end of the 2022–2023 school year. She began her career as a Suitland High School mathematics teacher. She steadily moved up the admin-

istrative ranks, serving as principal, associate superintendent, deputy superintendent and chief operating officer prior to her appointment as CEO.

The national search for her successor began this spring, led by Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) and a three-member search committee. In an online survey of students, educators, staff, parents, Board of Education members, elected officials and community members, most results indicated a preference for a candidate with vast experience in K–12 instructional and administrative leadership; passion for student success; and ability to create and foster a safe and open learning environment.

County Executive Also-

brooks interviewed three candidates based on the search committee’s recommendation and selected House.

Leadership sketch: Millard House II

- Millard House II, formerly served as superintendent of the 210,000-student Houston Independent School District, the eighth-largest district in the nation and the largest in Texas.
- Previous posts: Director of Schools, Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (Tenn.); Chief Operating Officer, Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) Schools; Deputy Superintendent, Tulsa (Okla.) Public Schools
- 25+ years experience in ed-

ucation and the nonprofit sector, including Executive Consultant/Executive Director of New Leaders for New Schools

- Founded and led a college preparatory middle school in one of Tulsa’s most economically underserved neighborhoods. Over four years, his school became one of the highest-performing and most sought-after schools in the community.
- Produced steady academic gains across subject areas in Clarksville-Montgomery County and established a multi-pronged teacher pipeline, as part of Tennessee’s Grow Your Own initiative, that garnered state and national recognition.

Bay from A4

shallow-water crab nurseries, and the 18 million people who share its watershed.

The reason progress toward clean water is so difficult is that to achieve it, we need to ask a question we haven’t always asked: What do we need, as humans and communities who love and depend on clean water in our backyards and the totality of riches in our watershed provides us?

It turns out what we need and what the Bay needs are the same more often than you might think. We both need food systems that take care of the soil, produce nutritious foods that support local communities and economies, and are resilient to a changing climate. We need cities and homes that have green spaces, use energy efficiently and pro-

duce as little waste as possible. We need marine resource management that invests in the future by growing and tending the fish populations that support so much business, recreation and wildlife. We need air that is safe to breathe and water that is safe to drink, especially in the environmental justice communities we’ve left behind.

Our task isn’t returning the mighty Chesapeake Bay to a past state, it’s creating a Bay-region ecosystem that is vibrant and functions for all of us, now and in the future. That starts with a shift in focus. We need to look beyond just measuring dissolved oxygen and place more weight on improving habitat in our streams, rivers and marshes—the cradles of life for the Bay.

The Bay will never be saved by only looking backward. It will only be saved by

concentrating on the road ahead, targeting our efforts and paying for outcomes that matter most to local communities. And when we succeed here, our success will be the model to follow for all conservation movements.

If we accept that we should seek not to save the Bay from people but for people, we will create a movement and watershed that work for everyone—for us and for nature. That is the opportunity we have together.

Hilary Harp Falk is president and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Bay Journal. This article first appeared in the June 2023 issue of the Bay Journal and was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.

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Morningside from A2

Lane. They had two sons, Bruce and Michael, who became friends of my kids.

I wish I'd known about Rose Marie and Ed's deaths five years ago. This story is the only way I know, to say good-bye.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Tony Proctor, June 14; Bill Kimbles, June 18; Stephanie Phipps, June 19; Christian Nichols, June 20; my grandson Conor McHale and Aletheia Fadness, June 21; Mark Witherow Sr. and Antonio Jackson, June 21; Gary Fadness, June 22; Edson Cook, June 23; and Gloria R. Johnson, June 24.

Happy Anniversary to Steve and Cornelia Blankenship, their 18th on June 18; to Calvin and Debbie Brown, their 30th on June 20; Tim and Becki Cordero, their 22nd on June 23; and especially to Mary and Mike Dawes on their Golden Anniversary! They were married June 23, 1973.

Happy Father's Day to fathers everywhere!

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