

The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LAYNE LITSINGER

A group of hemp seeds and products on display at the Abell Foundation Hemp forum on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, in Annapolis, MD. The panel detailed the many uses for hemp seeds such as fiber, fuel, food and medicine.

Sponsor of Bill to Legalize Hemp in Maryland Thinks This is the Year

By LAYNE LITSINGER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Proponents of industrial hemp say legalization of the cannabis relative offers many potential benefits, and, if a bill in the state Legislature is approved, Maryland might be part of a growing acceptance of the plant.

A key obstacle remains—lack of education about hemp's properties and capabilities, proponents say.

"There's no hidden agenda, they are business people and they are trying to grow a product," said Rona Kobell, who spoke at an Abell Foundation Hemp forum on February 2 in Annapolis, Maryland.

According to a January 25 report by Kobell, hemp is controversial because it's associated with marijuana. Both plants come from the genus Cannabis, but hemp is mainly grown for its fiber and oil.

Michael Renfroe, a biology professor from James Madison University, spoke at the forum about the common misconcep-

tions between marijuana and hemp. Forum participants said they are not the same.

"To say you can't tell the difference between hemp and marijuana is to say you can't tell the difference between broccoli and Brussels sprouts," said Renfroe.

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PG Community College and PG County Police Department Partner on New Cadet Program

By PRESS OFFICER
PG Community College

LARGO, MD—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) and Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) announced the launch of a new Police Cadet Program. The cadet program will offer selected applicants the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in police work while also earning an income and college credits towards an associate degree in criminal justice. The Prince George's County Police Department will grant cadets administrative leave to take classes as a cohort at PGCC. Once the cadets complete the 2 ½-year program, they must then apply to become Prince George's County police officers. The program goal is to produce more experienced and mature police officers that are ready to serve and protect the residents of Prince George's County.

"At the end of this process, we take a young person from our community who is interested in becoming a police officer, we give them gainful employment and the invaluable opportunity to learn about law enforcement—what it really is, as opposed to what it is portrayed as on television and in the movies which are two totally different things—and they start

earning those college credits towards their associate degree before entering the police academy when they turn 21," explained Chief Stawinski.

Major Terence Sheppard, commander of the PGPD Training Academy said, "There are other cadet programs in this region, but our cadet program is unique in the fact that we are tailoring it for individuals to continue their education. We are going to be doing things that no other cadet program in our area is able to do. Our cadets are going to be doing things like crime scene searches, collecting evidence, and taking fingerprints. The possibilities are endless. We want to give them the opportunity to do as much as they possibly can during this 2 ½ year period before they actually enter the academy."

Prince George's County Police Department cadets will earn about half the credits necessary for their associate degree at PGCC, and the remaining half while at the police academy. The cadets will graduate as Prince George's County police officers with an associate degree in criminal justice.

"We are so thankful to our thoughtful and tremendous partner in Prince George's Commu-

See CADET Page A3

Annapolis Roundup—Bills On Live Video, Pink Hunting Gear, Organ Transplants

By HANNAH BROCKWAY
Capital News service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In a move to bring more transparency to the state government, the Hogan administration has proposed legislation, Senate bill 295, that will require all sessions of the Maryland General Assembly—including floor sessions, voting sessions and hearings—to be livestreamed to the public. Maryland is one of seven states

that doesn't have audio or video of what's happening on the floor, according to the governor's office. The bill was heard by a Senate committee on Tuesday.

Tax bill would alter personal exemptions

A bill altering personal exemptions passed unanimously in the Senate on February 6, 2018. The

See BILLS Page A7

Prince George's County Public Schools Launches 'Let's Talk'

New Customer Service Tool Piloted to Increase Responsiveness to Public Inquiries

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On February 13, 2018, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) announced the launch of a new online customer service tool, Let's Talk!, de-

signed to better connect parents and community members to services. The pilot program will allow for improvements throughout the year to increase responsiveness to public inquiries.

See LET'S TALK Page A6

Bowie State Quarterback Amir Hall Wins Deacon Jones Trophy as The 2017 Black College Football Player of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

ATLANTA, GA—Bowie State junior quarterback Amir Hall has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Black College Football Player of the Year Award. He was presented with the Deacon Jones Trophy, named in honor of the football legend and inaugural Black College Football Hall of Fame inductee.

Black College Football Hall of Fame Trustees Mel Blount, James "Shack" Harris, Art Shell and Doug Williams made the announcement during the 2018 Black College Football Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Atlanta on Saturday night. The Award recognizes the most outstanding football player from a Historically Black College & University (HBCU) that embodies the rich tradition of athletic excellence and integrity associated with HBCUs.

Hall led the Bulldogs to a 9-2 regular season record and



Amir Hall, Black College Football Player of the Year.

PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

a berth in the NCAA Division II playoffs. He threw for 3,519 yards and 41 touchdowns in 11 games. He completed 65 percent of his passes while throwing just four interceptions in 381 attempts, leading the na-

tion's top Division II offense. Hall threw for at least 300 yards in a game seven times and surpassed 400 yards twice. Perhaps most impressively, he accounted for 294 points between passing and rushing touchdowns.

In just two years as the Bulldogs starting quarterback, Hall is already the all-time school leader in passing yards, touch-

See AMIR HALL Page A5

INSIDE

Proposal to Keep FBI Headquarters in Washington Meets Resistance

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, attending a conference in Washington, told Capital News Service "I was disappointed" with the FBI decision but answered no other questions.

Community, Page A3

Big Rainbows in the Political Clouds for Children: Some Really Really Good News

Good news these days has been few and far between but the Bipartisan Budget Package/Continuing Resolution (CR) signed by the President earlier today offers significant and long overdue hope to children, families and communities.

Commentary, Page A4

Senator Ben Cardin Returns to Leadership Position on Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

Senator Cardin also regularly meets with Maryland economic development boards and local chambers of commerce to talk about programs that help small businesses and the challenges they face regionally.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri

The crime shocked the town (everyone knows who "Angela Hayes" was), but Chief Willoughby (Woody Harrelson) is well liked, and his deputies, while not exemplary lawmen—more on that later—don't seem to have botched the investigation in any obvious way.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is so-called Regenerative Agriculture and why are environmentalists so bullish on it?

—Jess Mancuso, Montgomery, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Morningside Volunteer saves injured person trapped in burning car

On Feb. 4, about 3 a.m., a member of the Morningside Volunteers (who does not want to be identified) was off-duty and headed for the Firehouse when she came on an accident with an injured person trapped in a burning car.

The rescuer immediately jumped into action, breaking out the sunroof, extricating the injured and quickly administering lifesaving first-aid, all before other emergency crews arrived on the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital and has survived.

If not for such bravery and quick thinking, this could have had a very different outcome.

Former Skyliner is published author

Kelli Y. Stonework, of Clinton, is the author of a new book published Feb. 1, *The Ultimate Presentation Road Map: How to Write for the Right Audience and Present with Confidence*.

Kelli grew up in Skyline, daughter of Col. Ralph and Daisy Young, attended St. Philip's Elementary, graduated from La Reine High School and went on to college.

She's the Founder of KYS Solutions, a communication skills training company specializing in helping business professionals develop effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills. She is also passionate about serving her community and as such is a Leadership Prince George's Alumna, Board Member of St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families, an Insurance Producer, and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

People

- Roneshia Alexius Harmon, granddaughter of Ashby and Elizabeth Harmon, of Skyline, graduated Dec. 19 from Liberty University with a degree in Science and Art and is working in New York. She'll come home to walk with her class on May 19.
- Caroline Cottrell graduated Dec. 16 from Florida State with

a degree in Human Services. She is the daughter of Keith and Kristine Cottrell of LaBelle, FL, and the granddaughter of Betty and the late Ray Cottrell, of Skyline.

- Yvonne Garvin, of Skyline, turned 80 on Jan. 27 and was guest of honor at a huge, surprise birthday party at the home of her daughter Angela, in Upper Marlboro.

- District 8 Councilman Obie Patterson will host the "Mottown Revue" on April 7 at Oxon Hill High School. Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm. More about this as it comes in.

- Betty Cottrell, who edits the newsletter for the Oxon Hill Pantry, called to let the Skyline community know the canned goods they brought to the quarterly meetings during 2017 are valued at \$303. That's \$303 towards helping feed hungry people. Maybe we'll do even better in 2018.

Liberty Girls:

An American Girl Book Club

The Liberty Girls book club is back at Darnall's Chance House Museum. It's back with a book about the adventures of Caroline Abbott, a girl living during the War of 1812. At each session, members will participate in a book discussion with a County librarian, do a period activity or craft, and enjoy light refreshments.

Sign-up has started, but space is limited. There is a \$30 membership fee which covers the book discussions, period activities, crafts, light refreshments, a new 2018 Liberty Girls t-shirt and, at the last of the four sessions, a tea party.

The sessions will be March 3 & 10 and April 7 & 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Darnall's Chance, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., in Upper Marlboro. Information: 301-952-8010.

Bridgework

Washington has begun its largest construction project in history—replacing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge which opened in 1950. Completion is expected by 2021. Braedon Graham, who often walks

the bridge with his dog, says "I've been walking my dog across the bridge and we've had to move out of the way for bikers and runners, and so it will be more accessible."

And speaking of bridges, the two parallel Beltway bridges that carry the traffic over Suitland Road are being replaced. The bridges are 54 years old. Work should be complete by 2020. But it sure is a mess right now with lane closures and potholes.

May they rest in peace

I have just been informed of the death of Carol Glaubitz Lee, daughter of the late Morningside Mayor Jerry Glaubitz and his wife Jean. And have also learned that Dick Hall, of Skyline, has died. I'll pay tribute to both in future columns.

Thomas Richard "Tom" Moore, 71, of Camp Springs, who retired from C&P/Verizon in 1994 after 30 years of service, died Feb. 11. He was born in Washington to George and Mary Moore, graduated in 1964 from Gwynn Park High School and served in the Army. He was a member of the Knight of Columbus and a longtime parishioner at St. Philip's where the Mass of Christian Burial was held. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Constance; daughter Angela L. Cole and son Thomas Jr., five grandchildren and one great-grand.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Father Bernard Ihrle, his 91st on Feb. 23; Larry Miller, Feb. 24; Kevin Gray and Sibyl Deily, Feb. 25; Angela Hutchinson and Thomas "TJ" Flaherty, Feb. 27; Terrence Flaherty, Feb. 28; and Gerry Joliffe who—since he was born on Leap Day, Feb. 29—won't have another birthday for two more years.

Happy anniversary to Freda and Michael McDonald on their 38th anniversary, Feb. 28.

And happy 50th anniversary to Marlow Heights Shoe Repair! I previously wished them a happy 40th. Sorry about that. Anyway, take your shoes to them—they know how to fix 'em.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association of Upper Marlboro, Maryland supports the Faculty, Staff, Students and Friends of Frederick Douglass High School in honoring the 1963 State Championship Basketball Team of Frederick Douglass High School on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

A reception was held at Frederick Douglass High School, Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland followed by presentations at 7:00 PM to the 1963 basketball players. George Pinkney, John Randall, Horace Owens, Gerald Pinkney, Earl Robinson, Joseph Weems, Owen Johnson, Robert Cleveland, Eugene Smith, Emory Riley, Warren Magruder, Ernest Johnson and Larry Colbert played on this great Senior Varsity Basketball Team. Fallen Eagles basketball players are Horace Owens, Co-Captain, George Pinkney, James Banks and Gerald Pinkney. Fallen Eagle Head Coach, Charles Briggs and Fallen Assistant Coach William Blount.

The 1963 Basketball Players were presented with the Maryland General Assembly Official Citation that read be it hereby known to all, that sincerest con-

gratulations are offered to each player (1963 MD State Class B Boys Basketball Team Frederick Douglass High School) in recognition of your achievement and contribution to preserving and promoting the legacy of Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Presented on the 6th day of February 2018 by Delegate Susie Proctor of Charles and Prince George's Counties Legislative District 27A.

KEEP ON STEPPING

St. Philip's Line Dancers will meet Friday March 2 and Friday March 16 at St. Philip's Baden Parish with Ruby Hinnant, Instructor. The Line Dancers meet every other Friday from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. The address is 1801 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 30613. Church number is 301-888-1536. Ruby Cell# 301-943-2816.

37th ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

Maryland's 5th Congressional District's 37th Annual Black History Month Celebration (African Americans in Times of War) was held at the Camelot on Central Avenue in

Upper Marlboro, Maryland Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Honored Guest was Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-05 District) Democratic Whip, U.S. House of Representatives. Greetings were by Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04 District) U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Benjamin Cardin (MD) U.S. Senate, Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD) U.S. Senate and County Executive Rushern Baker. Keynote Speaker was Dr. Lonnie Bunch Founding Director, Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

THE QUEENS ROYAL COURT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT DAY

Come and meet local pagant, campus queens, and other female leaders who will be sharing their stories and imparting wisdom to the next generation. Enjoy entertainment, giveaways, catered lunch, and more.

Girl's Empowerment Day will be held Sunday, February 25 from 11:00 AM-4:30 PM (Ages 8-17). Fort Washington Forest Community Center. Resident Fee is \$10; Non-Resident Fee \$13. Telephone number is 301-292-4300.

Neighborhoods

BGE Engineer Receives National Technology Award

EPRI Recognizes an Initiative That Will Help Local Energy Companies Expedite Response to Power Outages; One of Several Award Winners from Exelon

BALTIMORE, MD—The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) recently honored BGE senior engineering tech specialist Jack Edwards with the Technology Transfer Award. EPRI gives this award annually to utility employees who have explored and implemented innovative technologies on behalf of their company and the industry. Edwards was part of a team of employees from fellow Exelon companies ComEd, PECO and Pepco Holdings who researched how deploying low-cost sensors on electric distribution poles could assist utilities in responding to outages faster and more efficiently.

"BGE is committed to testing and implementing innovative technologies like these low-cost utility pole sensors that improve our system's reliability," said Derrick Dickens, vice president of technical services for BGE. "I applaud Jack for this well-deserved award and his research which ultimately helps our company provide quality electric service to customers throughout our service area."

Edwards and the Exelon team discovered that the both types of sensors, including one developed by EPRI, could provide exact locations of downed utility poles and alert faster than previous methods, allowing utilities to quickly deploy resources and restore power. Nearly 200 sensors in total were installed as part of this project.

The awards were presented during EPRI's Power Delivery and Utilization (PDU) awards dinner in Coronado, CA.

"The 2017 Technology Transfer Award winners have taken EPRI R&D to new levels to shape and improve an integrated energy network," said Arshad Mansoor, senior vice president of R&D at EPRI. "The commitment and collaboration demonstrated by these individuals and teams not only benefits their companies, but the entire industry as we all have a stake in transforming and integrating the power system."

There were ten employees from Exelon's utilities and generation fleet that received a total of five awards.

WSSC Calculates Volume of Sanitary Sewer Overflows in Prince George's County

LAUREL, MD—WSSC has calculated the total volume of the two sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) caused by excessive rain in Prince George's County.

The first SSO occurred at WSSC's Broad Creek Wastewater Pumping Station at 10315 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington, MD, and began on February 11, 2018, at 7:48 a.m. Sunday and ended at 1:20 p.m. Sunday. During the overflow, all six pumps at the station were in operation, however, rainfall totals in excess of three inches from Saturday to Sunday exceeded the station's maximum pumping capacity. The total amount of untreated wastewater that entered a drainage ditch, which eventually flows into Broad Creek was 520,000 gallons. WSSC crews have cleaned up the af-

ected area and spread lime to neutralize the odor in the wake of the overflow. Sixteen signs have also been posted warning people about the overflow.

The second SSO occurred at 14300 Indian Head Highway, near the Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant (address originally reported as 11 Farmington Road W. in Accokeek, MD), and began at approximately 9:39 a.m. Sunday and ended at 1:30 a.m. today. Due to excessive rainfall, extremely high wastewater flows came into the plant at the time of the SSO, causing a manhole just off the plant's grounds to overflow. It is estimated that 951,000 gallons of untreated wastewater flowed into Piscataway Creek. WSSC crews have posted 10 signs warning people to avoid the area.

It is important to note that WSSC's water and wastewater systems are separate. The overflows did NOT affect WSSC's drinking water.

WSSC is committed to protecting the health of the public and the environment. With more than 5,500 miles of sewer mains throughout its service area, WSSC appreciates notification from citizens of a sewer back up or water main break. Please call our 24-hour Emergency Call Center at 301-206-4002 to report water or sewer emergencies in Montgomery or Prince George's counties. Customers can also report emergencies via email at emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com, and those customers who have smart phones can report emergencies using the WSSC Mobile App.

BGE Increases Appliance Recycling Reward During February

BALTIMORE, MD—Appliance Recycling through the BGE Smart Energy Saver Program® helps customers recycle older, inefficient, refrigerators and freezers by offering a \$50 reward, and hauling away their old appliances at no additional cost. But in February, participating residential customers will receive a fifty percent bonus for a total reward of \$75 through Feb. 28, 2018.

For some customers, a spare, running refrigerator or freezer could waste up to 1,200 kilowatt hours of energy and \$100 in electric costs every year.

Through BGE's recycling program, more than 95 percent of each appliance is recycled. By removing these older units from the energy grid and properly recycling them, BGE customers not only help reduce energy demand, but also help contribute to a vast reduction in emissions of ozone-depleting substances and greenhouse gases.

Since the program's inception, approximately 63,000 inefficient refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and dehumidifiers have been recycled, saving more than 82.3 million kilowatt-hours of electricity use, the equivalent of removing the greenhouse gas emissions of 13,126 passenger vehicles from the road for a year.

To participate, customers can simply visit BGESmartEnergy.com to schedule a pickup

online or call 866.898.1901 to schedule over the phone. To qualify for the \$75 limited time offer, customers must schedule a recycling appointment now through Feb. 28, 2018, and have their unit picked up no later than March 24, 2018. Appliances must be in working condition and measure 10 to 30 cubic feet, which is the standard size for most refrigerators and freezers. Room air conditioning units and dehumidifiers may also be recycled through this program for an additional \$25 bonus, if picked up at the same time as an eligible refrigerator or freezer.

The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program is a suite of programs that enable customers to control energy use, leading to more efficient use of electricity and lowering energy bills from where they otherwise would be. Collectively, the programs help contain the cost of energy and improve reliability. The programs also help to reduce peak demand and slow the growth in energy consumption to lessen the need for more power plants. BGE offers energy-saving solutions for renters, homeowners, large and small business customers, nonprofits and institutional customers. More information is available at BGESmartEnergy.com. These programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

How Scammers Use Impersonation, Blackmail, and Trickery to Steal from Unsuspecting Daters

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Romance scams are different from other scams. They prey on lonely people looking to connect with someone, and can often take months to develop to the point where money changes hands. The emotional harm to the victim can be even more painful than the monetary loss.

The spread of online dating sites and apps has made this fraud even easier to commit. Victims in the US and Canada have reported losing nearly \$1 billion over the last three years, and BBB estimates there may be more than a million victims in the U.S. alone. Because most people do not file complaints about romance scams with BBB or law enforcement, this may just be the tip of the iceberg.

BBB's study, "Online Romance Scams: How Scammers Use Impersonation, Blackmail, and Trickery to Steal from Unsuspecting Daters" looks at how these scammers work, who the scammers are, and what is being done to combat them. You can read the full study here.

Anatomy of a Romance Scam

Experts identify several distinct stages of the scam:

Contacting victims

Romance scammers use dating websites, apps, Facebook, and other social media. Many use stolen credit cards to join the sites and post fake profiles. They meet victims, interact with them, and quickly try to get them to move to a different form communication such as email or texting. This

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Helping To Improve Your Child's Self-Concept

It's probably not something you consciously think about, but as an adult you have a well-formed "self-concept," an understanding of who you are, where you fit in, what you're good at, what things you try to avoid, and a general sense about yourself as a person.

But for young children, especially at the age of puberty or early adolescence, their self-concept is just developing. This tends to be the times when children begin to form an identity of their own, one separate from their parents.

It's a time when peers become more important and when the opinions of peers often carry more weight than what Mom or Dad has to say. At the same time, the physical and emotional changes that are a normal part of development are taking place, too, often leaving the child feeling insecure and even scared.

For a child who isn't included in one of the more popular groups of students at school, he or she may develop feelings that "Nobody likes me," or "I don't have any friends." Such feelings and insecurities are a normal part of growing up for many children but can also have a variety of negative effects impacting academic performance and even bringing on significant depression in a child.

When this occurs being a parent means having special patience and understanding. You're likely to hear "You just don't understand," when you try to tell your child that he's wrong about how other children view him or her. He or she doesn't want to be told how to think. To help your child, try a different approach.

Even when you face a negative reaction, it's important to continue to give positive, reassuring feedback. Learn to really listen to your child's complaints and problems without being judgmental or critical. Be supportive and indicate that you understand.

If your child is showing clear signs of depression, from falling grades to withdrawing from favorite things, it's a time to seek professional help. Your child's school counselor can be a good place to start. In addition to having seen such problems many times, school counselors are trained to assist a child in learning how to think, rather than simply telling the child what to think.

A professional counselor can also help parents better understand what your child is experiencing, and can provide advice on dealing with the challenges you both are facing.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

Scammers from A2

way, if the dating site identifies the scammer as being bogus and shuts them down, they are already in contact with their victims elsewhere. The scammers will often make fake Facebook pages for their aliases to help bolster their fake identity. *Grooming*

This is when the fraudster learns about the victim's life and builds trust. This stage can go on for months. It may include daily texts or messages. Some scammers even send flowers and small gifts. This is also when scammers may request small favors. This can help them test how open a victim ultimately may be to helping when an "emergency" pops up and the scam kicks into high gear.

The grooming process also focuses on isolating victims from their friends and families so they don't have help when making decisions. The scammers will convince victims that their friends and families have questionable motives to criticize the scammer.

Cadet from A1

nity College. This is an invaluable collaboration and critical investment in our own community," said Chief Stawinski.

"Prince George's Community College is honored to partner with the Prince George's County Police Department to offer the Police Cadet Program," said Dr. Yvette Snowden, associate vice president for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Prince George's Community College. "Police officers are critical to our community; Prince George's Community College will serve as the foundation for providing the critical thinking

The sting

The scammer will finally ask for money; usually for an emergency, business problem, or plane ticket to finally meet. If the victim sends money, the scammer will find ways to keep asking for more. These scams can also be dangerous: victims have unknowingly been pulled in to money laundering or drug trafficking and, in a few cases, even convinced to fly overseas to meet their love interest only to be kidnapped and held for ransom.

The fraud continues

Even if targets realize they have been victims of a scam, the fraud may continue with a new scam pretending to help them get their money back. A fake law enforcement official may reach out to say the scammer has been caught and the victims can get their money—if they spend several thousand dollars in fees. The original scammer will also sometimes reach out and admit that the "relationship" started as a scam but then claim they actually fell in love. And the cycle continues.

skills required to be a county police officer. We are thrilled to be a fundamental part in shaping these cadets to be our future leaders in law enforcement."

Cadets must meet certain criteria to be considered for the PPGD cadet program. In addition to passing a background check, physical test, and possessing a valid driver's license, cadets must be between the ages of 17 ½ and 19 ½ with a high school diploma or expect to graduate high school in May 2018 with a 2.5 GPA or better. For the job description, candidate criteria, and application, please click here. The application process is now open.

Proposal to Keep FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Meets Resistance

By ULIA KARRON
and JAROD GOLUB
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On February 13, 2018, Maryland lawmakers slammed the General Services Administration's proposal to build a new FBI headquarters in downtown Washington instead of Prince George's County, saying it was a waste of taxpayers time and money.

Attempts to find a new location were scrapped last year in response to a Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing in August. Instead, in a report to the panel, the GSA suggested demolishing the J. Edgar Hoover Building, which has been the home of the FBI since 1974, and rebuilding on the same site.

President Donald Trump supported creating a new home for the FBI in the district, setting aside funds in the proposed infrastructure plan in his ad-

ministration's proposed fiscal 2019 budget.

"The concept of a consolidated FBI that would house 11,000 employees was well thought out and supported by both the Bush and Obama administrations," Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, III said in a statement. "Not only have resources and money been wasted, but more importantly, we are no closer to providing the American people the increased security and safety they desperately need from a consolidated and high security campus."

"For Prince George's County, it would have been a major boost for the local economy having that type of synergy from the FBI's location in the county," Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, said.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, attending a conference in Washington, told Capital News Service "I was disappointed" with the FBI decision but answered no other questions.

In Trump's plan, \$2.2 billion would be allocated to the headquarters, in addition to \$523 million appropriated by Congress for a new building in 2017.

The total cost of demolishing and rebuilding at the same site is estimated at \$3.3 billion, according to the consolidation plan.

The FBI building funding is part of a \$199 billion infrastructure plan containing projects that span the next 10 years.

"Time and time again, Congress was told that the FBI needed a new, fully consolidated headquarters in order to complete its vital national security mission," House Minority Whip Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, said in a statement. "It was made clear that building a new headquarters at the Pennsylvania Avenue location would not achieve that objective and be exceedingly costly for taxpayers."

Instead of consolidating the workers in Springfield, Virginia, or Greenbelt or Landover,

Maryland, the FBI's headquarters in the district would displace some employees to states as far away as Alabama, Idaho and West Virginia, according to the GSA's report.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, said Monday that approximately 20 percent of the workers would be sent to locations around the country.

"We're going to be fighting this decision," Van Hollen told Capital News Service on Tuesday. "They have reneged on the commitment to consolidate the FBI on a different campus in a more secure location."

A Trump tweet Tuesday defended his infrastructure plan, claiming it had "received great reviews by everyone except, of course, the Democrats."

"The president's budget doesn't add up," said Cardin. "We have a budget that is not balanced either in its revenues or in its priorities for the American people."

Prince George's County Council Supports Council of Government's Resolutions for an Improved Metro System

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, February 13, voted unanimously to adopt CR-8-2018, legislation supporting the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) resolutions adopting the Board of Directors "Statement of Principles on Metro," long-term dedicated funding of Metro and other actions supporting the restoration of Metro to a world-class transportation system that is safe, efficiently managed, and maintained in a state of good repair.

The COG Board "Statement of Principles" established by

Resolution R-37-2017, emphasizes the urgent need for local and state governments, the business community and other stakeholders to take unified actions to ensure that funding solutions and supporting actions are in place by July 2018. Resolution R-64-2017 addressed long-term dedicated funding and other actions supporting the restoration of Metro, including six actions in support of the rail system's operating and financing needs.

Prince George's County Council Chair Danielle Glaros (D)—District 3, says the "Statement of Principles on Metro" is an important step toward restoring waning public confidence in Metro.

"Metro plays a critical role in the success of our local econ-

omy and the COG Board has identified restoring Metro as one of its top regional priorities. Many of our residents depend on Metro for their transportation needs, and COG's 'Statement of Principles' sets us on a path to achieve the world-class and reliable Metro system riders expect and deserve. I look forward to working with Metro, the COG Board, and my colleagues throughout the region to support this effort."

The Council also voted to authorize the Chair's signature on a joint letter expressing support for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's position on Metro operations, long-term funding and state of good repair. The letter was also

signed by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, and Montgomery County Council President Hans Reimer.

COG is comprised of twenty-four jurisdictions of the National Capital Region representing State, County, local governments and their governing officials, including Prince George's County plus members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures. The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies. In addition, a wide network of policy, technical, and advisory committees, partnerships, and programs advance COG's regional work.

Hemp from A1

The main differences between hemp and marijuana are the tetrahydrocannabinol—or THC—content, and the cultivation process said professor Ronald Turco, Agronomy Department head at Purdue University.

Hemp, when grown, contains less than 0.3 percent THC, whereas marijuana can contain up to 30 percent, Turco said.

He also explained that hemp is grown as a row crop in fields for its seeds and fiber, whereas marijuana is hand grown and harvested for buds containing THC, which is what gives marijuana users a high.

Turco said marijuana is listed as a *Schedule I* substance, making it illegal at the federal level, and the only way to distinguish between hemp and marijuana is through lab procedures measuring THC content.

Federal regulations state that industrial hemp can be produced if a state legalizes an agricultural pilot program to study its cultivation, growth and marketing.

As of 2016, it is legal for the Maryland Department of Agriculture or any institution of higher learning to grow industrial hemp for research purposes.

Maryland has legalized medical cannabis, and decriminalized marijuana use in smaller amounts; proponents say this should encourage the expanded legalization of hemp in the state.

According to the Abell Foundation's hemp report, the crop would bring economic and

environmental opportunity to the state.

Economically, the report said, hemp creates new jobs and generates more revenue.

The report justifies that environmentally, hemp requires no pesticides to grow. It also explained that hemp replenishes the soil, reduces pollution and helps with land erosion and runoff.

The report also states that the main uses of hemp include fiber, fuel, food and medicine.

"Hemp is grown for fiber and oil, ..." said Renfro. "You cannot get high from it."

Kobell said during the hemp forum that many people have claimed that hemp could do things it couldn't actually do. Accurate information about hemp has been crucial to push legalization.

"There is hope for hemp because of education," said Kobell. Hemp seeds can be used in foods, such as snack bars.

Since the seeds are not legal to grow outside of the department of agriculture or an institution of higher education, anyone else who wishes to use the seeds must import them from overseas. It is against federal law to transport the seeds across state lines.

According to the Abell Foundation Hemp Report, most hemp seed is imported from Europe, and countries such as Canada, Ukraine and China as large leaders in hemp cultivation.

Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo, D-Montgomery, this year

introduced an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program bill to facilitate its growth in Maryland.

Fraser-Hidalgo first introduced the legislation for hemp legalization in 2015 but it failed largely because of lack of education about hemp use, he said.

The 2018 bill establishes regulations that allow the agriculture department or universities to register farmers who could then grow, process, manufacture and market industrial hemp.

Alex Hempfield, whose last name was legally changed from Joseph, is the owner of Livity Foods LLC in Rockville, Maryland, a business selling nutritional bars that contain hemp seeds.

Hempfield said the legalization of hemp growth will alter

customer perception and make people more informed about the product.

"Its economic value will get better. It will employ more people and make more money," said Hempfield.

Even if the legislation Fraser-Hidalgo introduced on Jan. 31 passes, Hempfield said, the process to obtain infrastructure, create and grow the crop will take a few years.

Four states grew hemp in 2015, according to Kobell's report. As of 2018, there are 19 states that grow hemp, the report found, and product sales accumulated a revenue of \$688 million.

Fraser-Hidalgo's bill is scheduled to be heard on Feb. 14 in the House Environment and Transportation committee.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LAYNE LITSINGER?

Alex Hempfield, who changed his last name from Joseph, shares his hemp nutritional bars with forum attendees at an Abell Foundation Hemp forum on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018 in Annapolis, Md. Hempfield started his own hemp product business in 2011, specifically known for his nutritional bar called 'Everbar'

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Steny Hoyer Remarks at the 37th Annual Black History Month Breakfast

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On February 10, 2018, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) attended the 37th annual Black History Month breakfast, the theme of which was “African Americans in Times of War.” He was joined by keynote speaker Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch III, the Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04), and hundreds of constituents and community leaders from Maryland’s Fifth Congressional District. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery.

Opening Remarks

“Thank you, Adeyinka, and good morning. Congressman Brown and I are pleased to welcome you to the thirty-seventh annual Black History Month Breakfast. This year, our theme is courage and the remembrance of African Americans from Maryland and across the country who served valiantly in the First World War. Their story of determined service and heroism is all the more remarkable because these soldiers fought on two fronts: against the enemy on the bloody battlefields of France and against discrimination right here at home.

“In a segregated military, African American soldiers at first were denied the chance to fight and instead given the hard work of unloading and transporting supplies. Later, as the war dragged on, the French military asked for help, and General Pershing allowed two divisions of black troops to

see combat, but under foreign command. These divisions, the 92nd and 93rd—which included the famous ‘Harlem Hell-Fighters’—fought bravely at the pivotal battles of Champagne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne in 1918, which secured the Allied victory a century ago.

“Prince George’s County sent 450 African American soldiers to fight in that war, whom we remember today. These courageous soldiers should have returned home to a hero’s welcome. Instead, they returned to segregation, Jim Crow laws, bigotry, exclusion, and denial of rights and opportunities. They returned to the race riots of the ‘Red Summer’ of 1919, lynchings, and acts of racist violence committed against black soldiers still wearing the uniform of our nation.

“But over the years that followed their homecoming, many of the World War One veterans brought that same fierce courage they displaced in France to the battle at home: the battle for civil rights and for respect. The ‘Harlem Hell-Fighters’ gave way to the Harlem Renaissance. In the 1920’s and 30’s, black veterans marched at the forefront of movements for African American pride and dignity, for the expansion of educational and career opportunities, and for unity in the face of injustice.

“In 2018, we are also marking seventy years since the desegregation of our military as well as fifty years since the assassination of Dr. Mar-

See **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Urban Leaguers Are Ready to Fight for a Fair and Accurate 2020 Census Senior Advisor Jeri Green Joins Urban League’s Census Efforts

“Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.”

—United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 2

Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin accused the Trump administration of attempting to sabotage the 2020 Census, and from all indications, we have reason to be concerned.

The Census Bureau has been without a director since June and remains critically understaffed and underfunded.

The Bureau plans to discontinue the practice of hiring non-citizens with legal work permits—who have been crucial in the past for communicating with hard-to-reach non-English-speaking communities.

The administration has rejected requested changes that could improve the accuracy of the 2020 Census, declining to include a combined question format for collecting Hispanic origin and race, or a separate Middle Eastern or North African category on the Census form.

The administration’s reported choice for deputy director, Thomas Brunell, is a hyper-partisan gerrymandering advocate with no political experience.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors this week warned in a letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, “We are troubled by the administration’s reported intent to appoint a candidate for Census Bureau deputy director whose body of professional work largely centers around achieving partisan advantage in the use of census data.”

Since census data is used to draw Congressional districts, the choice of Brunell seems a deliberate attempt to skew census data to give one party an unfair advantage in the 2022 elections.

The decennial census is among the most crucially-important undertakings, with far-ranging implications for legislative redistricting, civil rights laws and distribution of opportunities and resources. A fair and accurate census is of paramount importance. The National Urban League has been a powerful advocate for accurate African American representation in the census for generations. In 1970, then-executive director Whitney M. Young testified to Congress about the drastic undercount of African Americans, estimated at 15 percent.

As chair of the Census Bureau’s 2010 Census Advisory Committee, I urged the Bureau to expand its paid advertising to areas that have high percentages of hard-to-count residents, who often distrusts of government workers. I also pushed for more census funding specifically targeted at Black communities.

Despite our efforts, the 2010 Census missed an estimated 1.5 million people of color. Unless the Census Bureau makes immediate, drastic changes, the results of the 2020 Census will be much worse.

As part of our efforts, the National Urban League has enlisted civic engagement expert Jeri Green, who will serve as a Senior Advisor for the 2020 Census. In her former position as Senior Advisor for Civic Engagement with the U.S. Census Bureau, Green educated diverse stakeholders on the benefits of Census participation and engaged Hard-to-Count communities to ascertain their unique challenges to obtaining an accurate count.

Politicizing the census, particularly at the expense of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens, violates the foundational principles of representational democracy. The National Urban League will continue forcefully to advocate for a census that reflects the diversity of our nation.

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HENRY A. WALLACE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Services (ARS). BARC is the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. Beltsville’s record of accomplishments and ongoing programs has made it a world leader in agriculture research. It’s international reputation attracts thousands of visitors each year from the United States and abroad. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination in order to: Ensure high-quality safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. BARC is located at 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Big Rainbows in the Political Clouds for Children: Some Really Really Good News

God has sent some huge rainbows in the clouds for vulnerable children amidst a profoundly negative political climate. Good news these days has been few and far between but the Bipartisan Budget Package/Continuing Resolution (CR) signed by the President earlier today offers significant and long overdue hope to children, families and communities. We now must give our immediate attention to extending that good news to the nearly 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Dreamers and the other Dreamers not yet in DACA, who face a March 5th deadline that would end their hopes and dreams.

The good news in the Bipartisan Budget Package includes:

- The Family First Prevention Services Act that includes long overdue historic reforms to help keep children safely with their families when they come to the attention of the child welfare system and assures them quality care in the most family-like setting appropriate for their special needs when placement in foster care is needed. Family First also offers new supports for preventing and treating families struggling with substance use disorders, including increased support for grandparents and other relatives who have reached out to care for children, regional partnerships to bring systems together to benefit children, and funding to help children be placed in treatment programs with their parents.

- An additional four years of funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which assures a long-term commitment of 10 years and stabilizes comprehensive, affordable health coverage for nearly 9 million children and pregnant women. This is the longest extension of funding for CHIP since it was originally enacted in 1997 and will give the millions of parents of children enrolled in CHIP peace of mind. CHIP has helped cut the number of uninsured children in half, improved child health outcomes and access to care, helped reduce school absenteeism and improved children’s readiness to learn. CHIP, together with Med-

icaid, forms the foundation of our health care system for children. This long-term extension will help us build on that great progress as we work to ensure every child in America the health coverage they need and deserve to survive and thrive.

- Five years of funding for the Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Visitation Program (MIECHV), which has been without funding since September 30, 2017. Pregnant women and children under five in every state and territory benefit from these voluntary home visiting programs that help to improve maternal and newborn health, child development, school readiness, and family economic self-sufficiency and reduce child abuse and neglect, crime and domestic violence.

- Two years of funding for Community Health Centers (CHCs), which offer children and their parents access to a continuum of quality health services. One in 10 children in America use CHCs for health care services.

- An historic increase of \$5.8 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) over two years to help states meet the new quality requirements of the bipartisan

2014 CCDBG reauthorization and extend access to affordable child care to more hardworking families. A CLASP analysis shows this investment will help an additional 230,000 children in working families access child care. Currently CCDBG serves only 1 in 6 eligible children.

- \$4 billion for student-centered programs that aid college completion and affordability, including those that help teachers, police officers and firefighters.

- \$6 billion added to increase prevention and treatment and law enforcement to address the country’s opioid crisis. It is critically important that these dollars reach infants and children of all ages as well as other family members.

The bipartisan package also:

- Offers long overdue assistance in the aftermath of the hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Florida and Texas and the fires in California. This funding will bring relief to children and their parents and finally includes new Medicaid dollars to Puerto Rico.

- Adjusts sequestration’s budget caps so there will again

See **WATCH**, Page A8

The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Speeding up Social Security Disability Claims

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) and my condition has gone downhill pretty fast, to the point that I'm not able to work anymore. I think I could get Social Security disability, but from what I've heard it can take years to get a disability claim approved. With my condition getting worse every day, I don't have that many years left, but I know the bills will still keep coming. I just wish there was some way to get some financial help while I'm dealing with this.

Signed: Discouraged

Dear Discouraged: Yes, as has been widely reported, the backlog of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) applications has ballooned to a number which can cause an initial determination to take 3-6 months, and an appeal of an initial denial can take a year or more. That can be pretty discouraging news for someone such as you dealing with a severe debilitating condition which so obviously meets the definition of "disability". But here is what I hope will be some encouraging news:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has a program, which helps accelerate disability claims for those whose medical condition is so obviously acute and debilitating that approval is practically assured. This program, known as the Compassionate Allowance (CAL) program, is intended to identify and fast-track SSDI applications where the disability is patently obvious and from a medical condition or disease already appearing on the Compassionate Allowance list, including certain cancers, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), acute leukemia and over 200 others. Although the SSA uses technology to try to automatically identify disability applications which qualify for CAL, you can help speed up your application by applying for SSDI in person and notifying the interviewer that your condition is on the Compassionate Allowance List and thus eligible for fast-track handling. You should bring along copies of medical records which confirm your diagnosis as well as contact information for your medical service provider(s). For proven conditions on the CAL list, SSDI applications may get a positive decision in as little as 10 days from when you first file and with a relatively small amount of medical proof. But since medical providers are sometimes slow to provide confirming medical records to Social Security, this can sometimes be a factor which delays even Compassionate Allowance cases. It will help speed your case if you bring with you as much medical information as possible to prove your condition. You may even be eligible for retroactive benefits (up to 12 months) back to the date that the onset of your disability first left you unable to work.

Although your case clearly qualifies for the Compassionate Allowance process, other medical diagnoses not listed as a CAL condition may also qualify for fast-track handling through an SSA program called Quick Disability Determination (QDD). The QDD can be used in cases where a disability clearly prevents a person from working, but isn't listed as a CAL condition. A Social Security disability attorney may be helpful when applying for QDD as well as CAL consideration (disability attorneys' fees are limited by law).

One final note: Although SSDI applications can be submitted online, we recommend applying in person in order to ensure the most efficient handling of your application. The SSA field office staff has the ability to identify your application as eligible for Compassionate Allowance. You can find out more about the Compassionate Allowance program at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

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Amir Hall from A1

downs and passing efficiency. Additionally, he was the 2017 SBN Doug Williams Offensive Player of the Year, which was also awarded Saturday night.

"This was an outstanding group of Finalists this year," said Harris. "Amir had one of the most prolific seasons for a quarterback in CIAA history, and we congratulate him on winning this prestigious award."

The Player of the Year was voted on by a five-member Selection Committee, which is composed of Black College Football Hall of Fame Co-Founders James "Shack" Harris and Doug Williams, Sheridan Broadcast Network's Director of

Sports Ty Miller, former USA Today sports writer Roscoe Nance and ESPN College Football Analyst Jay Walker.

Hall is just the second recipient of the Deacon Jones Trophy. The inaugural winner, Tarik Cohen (North Carolina A&T State University), was selected in the 3rd Round of the 2017 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, where he recently completed a standout rookie campaign.

Other Black College Football Player of the Year Award Finalists included RB Trenton Cannon (Virginia State University), QB DeVante Kincade (Grambling State University) and QB Lamar Raynard (North Carolina A&T State University).

Senator Ben Cardin Returns to Leadership Position on Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) this week resumed his role as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Senator Cardin previously held the position in 2015. He released the following statement on the importance of this committee and its capacity to help the millions of small businesses that drive our economy.

"I am proud to rejoin the leadership of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. They create jobs. I asked to be a member of this committee when I first arrived in the Senate in 2007. Since that time, I have worked to find opportunities for the federal government to be a reliable customer and partner with small businesses and remove obstacles to growth. My priorities continue to be finding better ways to expand access to the tools small businesses need to start and succeed: capital, contracts, and opportunities for growth.

"I look forward to working with Chairman Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and the full Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee to provide better assistance to small businesses by increasing agency awards to small businesses; preventing bundling and improper sole source contracts that make it impossible for small businesses to compete; increasing loan guarantee backstops; improving the access to capital pipelines; enhancing agency technology transfer programs and phases; and particularly boosting training and contract opportunities for women-owned, disadvantaged, veteran-owned and minority businesses. My thanks and deep



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BEN CARDIN
Senator Ben Cardin meets with the leadership of the Charles County Department of Economic Development and small business leaders from across Southern Maryland.

appreciation go to Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) for her tremendous stewardship of the committee during such a volatile time for our economy."

Senator Cardin's legislative work on behalf of small businesses, especially in Maryland, has continued unabated. Among his legislative accomplishments, in September, he secured a provision in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to extend federal HUBZone eligibility to small businesses in Garrett County and in other HUBZone areas around Maryland. The provision, Senate

Amendment 510, mirrors the HUBZone Investment Protection Act (S. 690), which was authored by Cardin and cosponsored by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.).

In July, he and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) introduced legislation, The Promotion and Expansion of Private Employee Ownership Act, to encourage retirement savings by fostering the growth of S corporations that are owned by Employee Stock Ownership Plans ("S-ESOPs"). The bill would provide an important protection for small businesses by ensuring that they continue to qualify for Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, contracting assistance, or business development programs after they are converted to ESOPs.

Senator Cardin also regularly meets with Maryland economic development boards and local chambers of commerce to talk about programs that help small businesses and the challenges they face regionally. For years, he has traveled the state on his "Made in Maryland Jobs Tour," celebrating the diversity of Maryland-made products and the Marylanders who create them, many of which have been small businesses.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BEN CARDIN
Senator Ben Cardin after touring Michele's Granola in Timonium, Maryland.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BEN CARDIN
Senator Cardin visits with the Evergrain Bread Company in Chestertown, Maryland.

Black History Month from A4

tin Luther King Jr. Neither military integration in 1948 nor the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 60's that Dr. King led would have been possible without the courage and contributions of the African Americans who served in World War One and the courage they showed both abroad and back in their communities. Courage. Courage to risk one's life for the freedom of others. Courage to spend one's life in the pursuit of freedom and democracy at home.

"As we celebrate Black History Month 2018, we honor them—and we thank them for all they gave. And we are inspired by them as we continue the fight for justice, equality, and opportunity today.

"So it is now my great privilege to yield to three outstanding lawmakers from Maryland who are leading this fight in the Congress of the United States: Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and my colleague in representing Prince George's County—Congressman Anthony Brown."

Introduction of Keynote Speaker Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch III

"Wasn't that wonderful? It is now my privilege to introduce our keynote speaker for 2018. We have been blessed over the years to have some extraordinary keynote speakers at our annual breakfast. These have included Barack Obama, John Lewis, Loretta Lynch, Elijah Cummings, Valerie Jarrett, Eric Holder, and—last year, Dr. Carla Hayden.

"This year, we are honored to welcome someone who, perhaps more than anyone else over the past year, has advanced the work of preserving and presenting black history. Dr. Lonnie Bunch is the founding director of the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. For those of you who haven't been yet, it is an extraordinary museum, telling the story of black history in America from the seventeenth century to the present day, filled with artifacts relating to the arts, music, literature, entrepreneurship, sports, military service, and politics.

"It also powerfully lays bare the very difficult chapters of our history in which millions of Americans were cruelly enslaved and then subjected to racial segregation and discrimination. These are parts of American history that our country cannot and must not ignore or gloss over. Just four months after it opened in September 2016, the museum had reached over a million visitors.

"While most museums average visits between one to two hours' length on weekends, the average time spent at this one was six hours or more. It is captivating, engaging, informative, and inspiring. And Dr. Bunch has been its director since 2005, helping to assemble its collections and plan the museum's exhibits and interpretive displays.

"As a high school junior in his native Belleville, New Jersey, Dr. Bunch would read biographies and wonder why there were so few written on great African Americans. Then, he found a book about African American soldiers in the First World War, which led him to a lifelong interest in black history and its role in shaping American history. So it is very fitting that he is our speaker today as we celebrate the legacy of African Americans in world war one.

"After receiving his undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in American history and African history from American University, Dr. Bunch began his career as a professor of history at the University of Maryland. In 1983, he moved to Los Angeles to become the first curator of the California African American Museum. He served as a curator of the National Museum of American History from 1989-94 and later as Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs. In 2000, he made his way to the Windy City to serve as President of the Chicago Historical Society, one of our nation's oldest history museums.

"While serving as founding director of the Smithsonian's African American History and Culture museum, Dr. Bunch also sat as a member of the President's Commission on White House preservation under both George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Today, he joins President Obama and the other notable figures we have hosted as our Black History Month Breakfast keynote speaker.

"Please join me in giving a warm Maryland welcome to Dr. Lonnie Bunch."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Grade: A-
Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity, some brutal violence
1 hr., 55 min

Martin McDonagh, who was born and raised in London but has Irish parents and dual citizenship, examined the squalid, petty lives of his countrymen in several caustically funny stage plays before turning to movies: *In Bruges* dealt with hitmen and remorse; *Seven Psychopaths* took the action to Hollywood and commented on hyper-violent American filmmaking. His third picture, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* takes it a step further, scrutinizing the way Americans respond to real-life violence. McDonagh's gaze is piercing, his opinion of us dim ... but if it's any consolation, that's how his plays treat his Irish characters, too.

Three Billboards ... is grim, often hilarious, and consistently thought-provoking, with heart-rending pain at its center. Mildred Hayes (Frances McDormand) rents the titular ad space outside the titular (but fictional) podunk Midwestern town to put up a message calling out the local sheriff for not having arrested anyone yet for the months-ago rape and murder of her daughter. The crime shocked the town (everyone knows who "Angela Hayes" was), but Chief Willoughby (Woody Harrelson) is well liked, and his deputies, while not exemplary lawmen—more on that later—don't seem to have botched the investigation in any obvious way.

Willoughby, patient and folksy, clearly a longtime acquaintance of Mildred's, understands her frustration but tells her there simply wasn't anything more they could do. There were no witnesses. They have the killer's DNA, but it doesn't match anyone in the system. What are they supposed to do, take the DNA of every man in town? How do they know he was even a local?

Mildred's response is righteous, indignant, and extreme: "If it was me, I'd start up a database, every male baby what's born, stick 'em on it, cross-reference it, and as soon as they done something wrong, make a hundred percent certain it was a correct match, then kill 'em."

One is tempted, in late 2017, to think that sounds like a fine idea. Mildred was abused by her ex-cop ex-husband, Charlie (John Hawkes); between that, her daughter's murder, and the good-'ol'-boys jocularities of the local cops, she's about HAD IT



ROTTENTOMATOES

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri is a darkly comic drama from Academy Award winner Martin McDonagh (*In Bruges*). After months have passed without a culprit in her daughter's murder case, Mildred Hayes (Academy Award winner Frances McDormand) makes a bold move, painting three signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at William Willoughby (Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson), the town's revered chief of police. When his second-in-command Officer Dixon (Sam Rockwell), an immature mother's boy with a penchant for violence, gets involved, the battle between Mildred and Ebbing's law enforcement is only exacerbated.

with men. But to go around compelling DNA samples from every adult male in the region would be illegal and possibly unethical. We sympathize with Mildred, but we see Willoughby's point of view. Furthermore, he's dying of cancer, and Mildred's billboards call him out by name. Is this fair? Can Mildred be right and wrong at the same time?

Responding less diplomatically to the billboards is Willoughby's right-hand man, Officer Jason Dixon (Sam Rockwell), a drunken, hot-headed racist who's notorious for beating up minority suspects and absolutely should not be in law enforcement. He's livid with Mildred Hayes and with Red Welby (Caleb Landry Jones), the young man at Ebbing Advertising who rented her the space. Much of the town feels the same way he does, harassing Mildred as well as her teenage son, Robbie (Lucas Hedges), whose own feelings are mixed. His older sister was raped and murdered, and now there are billboards slapping him in the face with that fact every time he drives home.

You see the painful dilemma we're in here. Don't worry, it gets worse. As Mildred turns up the heat on the cops (who have no choice but to reopen the case and look again), and as Dixon and the town turn up the heat on Mildred, a number of characters do a number of appalling things in their quest for justice, vengeance, and even redemption. Our heart aches for Mil-

dred—and what a flinty, furious performance by a never-better Frances McDormand—yet we can't deny she goes too far. Dixon is a vitriolic bully whose first scene has him calling a Mexican a "beaner" and being spat at (deservedly) by a black man, yet his arc winds up testing the limits of our capacity to forgive. (Rockwell also gives one of the best performances of his career, blending his loosey-goosey affability with malevolence and sorrow.) Harrelson's sheriff is gentle and honorable, notwithstanding his tolerance of Dixon's misbehavior.

That mixture of goodness and badness in individuals is what makes the film so brutally compelling, as there seems to be no limit to what everyone is capable of. Nearly every character, even the "good guys," has a moment of cruelty. Sometimes it's tough but fair, as when Mildred chews out a Catholic priest for having the temerity to scold her, or when she points out to Willoughby how "he said, she said" cases so often end up favoring the he saids. In a few instances, the cruelty even has a loving element to it; the one flashback we see of Mildred and Angela interacting before the girl's death is starkly memorable in that regard. Other times the cruelty is indefensible yet morbidly funny (a common McDonagh maneuver), making us laugh and then wonder if we ought to be laughing.

McDonagh is not subtle, and *Three Billboards ...* sometimes

feels too on-the-nose. But at the same time, it has an allegorical feel, like a morality play, intended to be plausible but not exactly realistic. Everyone speaks in a stylized rural patois: "Why don't ya draw up a little contract betwixt us?"; "Ain't contravening no laws on propriety"; etc. Everyone is a "type," but they're types infused with qualities associated with other types, disparate characters cut from the same rotten cloth. (That cloth: "humanity.") McDonagh brings up the problems that beset our society—police violence, the oppression of women, institutionalized racism—and wants to know how we're going to handle them. "Anger begets more anger," someone says (followed by mockery for using the word "begets"). But these are nasty, entrenched problems. Maybe we need anger. How committed are we to justice? What about vengeance? What about redemption? Can there be too much of any of those things?

The most overt instance of a character directly stating one of the film's themes is also one of the most important lines, encapsulation McDonagh's pessimistic view of where we're headed. One person asks how a particular situation will be dealt with once they arrive at their destination, and the other person says: "I guess we can decide along the way." No need to establish firm principles of right and wrong now; let's just see what happens. How's that working out for us?

Ready for a New Phone?

How to Tell if it's Time to Switch Your Wireless Provider

(StatePoint)—When you're buying a new phone, it's only natural to wonder if it's time to break up with your current wireless provider and move on. Doing so might save you money and offer you more convenience and better service.

But changing providers is a big decision and there are several things to consider when deciding to change your mobile network along with your phone.

Know Your Priorities

It's important to make sure your mobile plan works for you. Look over your bills from the past few months and make a list of what features are important to you—calling, texting, unlimited data, international calling benefits, travel fees, etc.

Right now, there is no reason to ever run out of data each month. Almost all the major wireless networks are offering unlimited data plans and many will give a lot of free extras to get you to switch. But not all plans are created equal. Do your homework to get the best deal. For instance, some wireless providers include taxes and fees in the quoted rate, while others charge taxes and fees on top of the bill. And if you are getting more than one line, ask about family plan rates. If you are over 55, find out if there are any discounted plan rates for your age bracket and make sure the plan meets your needs.

Look for Discounts and Perks

Americans are now spending over half their screen time on smartphones and digital devices, versus watching traditional television. And the trend is only accelerating—mobile viewing is expected to more than double by 2020.

Seek out a wireless provider that understands how you really use your phone. For example, T-Mobile ONE family plans now come with a standard Netflix subscription included, so customers can binge all their favorite programs on their favorite devices, without spending a penny over the cost of their mobile plans.

Review Trade-in Options

If staying current is important to you, check out a network's trade-in options. These days, many providers will either pay off what you owe on your devices when you switch or give you a sweet trade-in deal. For example, T-Mobile allows customers to trade in their current iPhone for the newest iPhone after just 50 percent is paid off, and customers will have their remaining payments wiped out. Such perks can make a particular network an attractive choice. To learn more, visit t-mobile.com.

Make the Switch

Do some research to decide if you need a new smartphone and what kind of smartphone works for you. When you go in to make the switch, have the customer service rep help you to back up your contacts and transfer everything correctly to your new device. Also consider the best way to protect your new phone—using a case or adding a device protection to guard it against loss, theft and damage.

Breaking up with a wireless provider can feel like a big deal. Before doing so, do your research to make the best decision for you.



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MARYLAND ARTS DAY

This exhilarating event brings together more than 500 arts advocates, artists, educators, administrators, board members, volunteers, and more from across the state. In addition to remarks from lawmakers passionate about the arts and the presentation of the annual Sue Hess Arts Advocate of the Year Award, attendees will hear from dazzling keynote speaker Adam Lerner (Director and Chief Animator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver), and have the opportunity to champion the arts directly with their lawmakers.

For more information visit <http://mdarts.org/events/maryland-arts-day/>

Let's Talk from A1

"By improving service to our community, we hope to increase public trust in the system and contribute to better outcomes for all students," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board of Education Chair. "Better customer service is our priority for the entire school system."

Using digital analytics to identify frequent searches on the PGCPSS website, Let's Talk! provides links directly to programs, schools and offices. Let's Talk! will continue to streamline information-sharing, reducing the need for random

searches or calls. The customer service tool will build on the success of the new "Help Us Help You" feature on the PGCPSS website, which now receives more online visitors than half of school webpages.

"We can make it easier for our community to find information and get answers to questions," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer, "and we can learn a great deal from listening to our community."

The Office of the Ombudsman began implementing a comprehensive plan this school year to deliver courteous, helpful and professional customer service.

Calendar of Events

February 22 — February 28, 2018

Trip to Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Date and time: Thursday, February 22, 2018, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Description: Join us as we travel to Baltimore to tour the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and its exhibits. Afterwards, get lunch at the Harbor on your own. Learn about the history of famous Marylanders from Harriet Tubman to Fredrick Douglas as we travel through time exploring the contributions of African Americans in this state. Transportation will be available from Columbia Park and Bladensburg Community Centers.

Transportation will also be available from Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710; 301-277-2124

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-resident: \$13
Ages: 60 and older

Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-699-2544

Home School Science Club: Nature Friends

Date and time: Thursday, February 22, 2018, 1:00 PM–3:00 PM
Description: A home school science club where children will experience nature through multimedia presentations, discussion, stories, hikes, and hands-on activities. Each class focuses on a different nature theme.

Cost: Resident: \$24; Non-resident: \$32
Ages: 7–9

Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

African-American Medical Pioneers

Date and time: Thursday, February 22, 2018, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM
Description: This exhibit highlights some of the most notable African-American doctors and nurses, and some of the little-known black hospitals in the metropolitan area and abroad. Not long after the turn of the century, the nation had about 200 hospitals built primarily to serve Blacks. For Black healthcare professionals, these hospitals were considered meccas. For Black patients, they were welcome alternatives to being treated in neglected corners of segregated hospitals.

Memorabilia, photos, displays, and light snacks will be available.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

Underground Railroad, Not a Subway

Date and time: Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00 AM
Description: In the puppet performance, Underground Railroad, Not a Subway, students will learn the true definition of the Underground Railroad and how it got its name. They'll see and hear the story of a young boy who decides to run north and escape slavery. The story is narrated by an older gentleman who leads the audience through the boy's journey north as he encounters free Blacks, Whites who are willing to help, and slave catchers. Will he make it? Come see this show to find!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Potomac Landing Community Center
12500 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6043; TTY 301-699-2544

The Evolution of Hip Hop

Date and time: Friday, February 23, 2018, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM
Description: Travel through time exploring the story of one of the most politically and socially influential forms of African-American music: hip-hop. Hip-hop ushered breakdancing into pop culture and confirmed that graffiti was art. It has addressed social injustice, as well as political protest. This production is performed by the talented pre-teens from Columbia Park Community Center.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-699-2544

Spread the Love! Workout

Date and time: Saturday, February 24, 2018, 9:30 AM–10:30 AM
Description: Roses are red, violets are blue... fall in love with a workout for you! Celebrate American Heart Month this February, and take part in a heart-pumping workout that will leave you feeling energized and refreshed! Call us at 301-446-6842 for more information.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 13 and older

Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, M
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Flash Technology Summit

Date and time: Saturday, February 24, 2018, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Description: Join us for fast and interactive technology sessions that will teach youth how to design video games, the ins and outs of radio production, and so much more. Technology changes within the blink of an eye, so don't get left behind!

Cost: FREE
Ages: 10 and older

Location: Southern Technical/Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

A Family Day Festival: "Celebrating Our History"

Date and time: Saturday, February 24, 2018, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Description: Join us as we close out the month for a celebration of our history! Enjoy an African dance class; watch a movie; and stop by for various workshops, performances, storytellers, food, crafts, and more! Vendors will be onsite selling a variety of items.

Cost: FREE admission
Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Regenerative Agriculture: There's No Tilling How Much CO2 We Can Save

Dear EarthTalk:

What is so-called Regenerative Agriculture and why are environmentalists so bullish on it?

—Jess Mancuso,
Montgomery, PA

Regenerative Agriculture (RA) describes farming and grazing practices that help reverse climate change by rebuilding the organic matter in soil and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

"Specifically, Regenerative Agriculture is a holistic land management practice that leverages the power of photosynthesis in plants to close the carbon cycle, and build soil health, crop resilience and nutrient density," reports California State University's Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (RAI). "Regenerative agriculture improves soil health, primarily through the practices that increase soil organic matter. This not only aids in increasing soil biota diversity and health, but increases biodiversity both above and below the soil surface, while increasing both water holding capacity and sequestering carbon at greater depths." The net result is a drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and the improvement of soil structure to reverse human-caused soil loss.

According to Terra Genesis International, which helps businesses integrate sustainable farming practices into their everyday operations, key principles guiding the implementation

of RA include: progressively improving whole agroecosystems (soil, water and biodiversity); creating context-specific designs and making holistic decisions expressing the essence of each farm; ensuring and developing fair and reciprocal relationships among all stakeholders; and continually growing and evolving individuals, farms and communities to express their innate potential.

How these lofty goals are achieved also involves the implementation of many of the practices that are now commonplace in organic agriculture, including permaculture design (utilizing the patterns and features observed in natural ecosystems), agroforestry (incorporating the cultivation and conservation of trees), keyline sub-soiling (to loosen compacted soils), no- or low-till farming (leaving it alone to do its thing), pasture cropping (growing annual crops in dormant perennial pastures), multi-species cover cropping and crop rotations (to introduce genetic diversity), the use of animal manure (to build up the resilience of the soil biota), encouragement of bees and other beneficial insects (for fertilization), the use of organic soil amendments such as biochar or terra preta (to enhance yield while sequestering carbon dioxide), ecological aquaculture (using water not land to grow food), perennial crops (they live on beyond one growing season) and silvopasture (integrating trees with forage and livestock production).



CREDIT: NRCS OREGON, FLICKRCC

Regenerative Agriculture (RA) describes farming and grazing practices—such as the use of cover crops as pictured here—that help reverse climate change by rebuilding the organic matter in soil and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

"Over the centuries, agriculture has caused the loss and degradation of fertile soil, leading to the downfall of civilizations worldwide," points out John Roulac, founder and CEO of the organic superfoods brand, Nutiva, and an outspoken advocate for RA. "Modern industrial agriculture is doing it even faster."

More and more farmers are starting to realize that their survival may well depend on whether they can pivot toward

RA as the world warms. "Regenerative agriculture is an approach to food and farming systems that works with nature's rhythms and technology to feed our growing population, regenerate topsoil and enhance biodiversity now and long into the future," concludes RAI, cautioning that it's critical to change synthetic nutrient dependent monocultures, low-biodiversity and soil degrading practices. Indeed, our very existence may depend on it.

CONTACTS: RAI, www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/aginitiative/; Terra Genesis International, www.terra-genesis.com; Nutiva, www.nutiva.com.

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Bills from A1

legislation, Senate bill 184, clarifies that a taxpayer can deduct personal exemptions for themselves, their spouse and eligible dependents for state income tax purposes. Prior to 2018, taxpayers were able to write off personal exemptions but the value was indexed for inflation and reduced or eliminated if the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income exceeded a certain dollar amount.

Slavery-era insurance provision addressed

A bill repealing provisions of laws that would require insurers to provide the Maryland Insurance Commissioner with information regarding slavery-era insurance policies advanced in the House of Delegates.

Delegate Mary Washington, D-Baltimore, is sponsoring the legislation, House bill 189, which cuts provisions that authorized insurers in the state to submit information related to slaveholder insurance policies to the Maryland Insurance Administration, which could then compile and report that information.

The current law consists of a policy issuing or benefitting a slaveholder that insured against a slave's injury or death. Insurers then had to submit information about the policy, but the proposed legislation repeals the "obsolete" provisions.

Hogan bill addresses repeat drunken driving

The Hogan administration is cracking down on repeat drunk-

driving offenders with a bill scheduled to be heard in a Senate committee on Tuesday. Senate bill 296 increases the penalties for a person who is convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and either has three or more prior convictions or was previously convicted of a specified homicide, manslaughter, or life-threatening injury by motor vehicle. Violators would be given a felony charge and could be subject to imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a fine of up to \$10,000—up from a maximum of 4 years of imprisonment and/or fine of \$4,000.

Legislation bans passenger-seat marijuana smoking

A bill that would prohibit both the driver and passengers of a motor vehicle from smoking or consuming marijuana in the passenger area of a motor vehicle on a highway was scheduled to be heard by a Senate committee. Sponsored by Sen. Robert Cassilly, R-Harford, Senate bill 345 would make the offense a misdemeanor and the existing public marijuana use and possession penalty of a maximum fine of \$500 will apply.

Learner's permit time may be shortened

Sen. Bobby Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, is sponsoring legislation, Senate bill 424, that reduces the period of time by six months during which certain adults younger than age 25 who hold a learner's permit must wait before taking a drivers test for a

provisional license. Young drivers must wait nine months before getting a license under current legislation. Instructional permit holders convicted of, or granted probation for, a moving violation are not eligible.

Hunting in neon pink could become law

A Maryland lawmaker is advocating for the authorization of "daylight fluorescent pink" as a color for certain outdoorwear hunters must wear. Sen. Adelaide Eckardt, R-Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico, has drafted Senate bill 341 that would allow hunters to wear specified pink clothing, or wear daylight fluorescent orange clothing. Daylight fluorescent pink has been authorized in six states. The bill was heard in a Senate committee on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

Bills address organ donation

Two measures related to organ donation are under consideration in the General Assembly. A bill heard on Tuesday by a Senate committee would authorize the Motor Vehicle Administration to designate a vehicle used to transport organs as an emergency vehicle if it meets certain requirements. Under Senate bill 475, sponsored by Delegate Thomas Middleton, D-Charles, these vehicles would be equipped with lights or signal devices and all drivers will be required to complete a course approved by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. And on Tuesday morning, House Speaker Mike Busch, D-Anne

Arundel, honored the University of Maryland Medical Center transplant team and his sister, who donated part of her liver to him last year. Busch is the sponsor of House bill 96, a tax measure that creates an income reduction for up to \$7,500 of qualified expenses incurred by a living organ donor.

Motorcyclists could go helmet-free if bill passes

A bill heard on Tuesday in the Senate Judicial Proceedings committee could exempt some motorcycle riders from helmet requirements in Maryland. Any licensed motorcycle operator who has been riding for at least two years and has completed an approved motorcycle rider safety course, as well as their passengers, will be exempt from headgear. Senate bill 439 was sponsored by Sen. Wayne Norman, R-Harford and Cecil.

Bills would allow collective bargaining at college; crack down on hazing

Multiple Senate bills were on track to be heard in the House Appropriations committee on Tuesday regarding higher education, including collective bargaining rights to certain adjunct faculty (House bill 163) and graduate assistants (House bill 199) at certain public institutions of higher education; and written policy and educational programs on hazing (House bill 368).

Capital News Service correspondent Sean Whooley contributed to this report.

Governor Larry Hogan's Administration Announces New "Maryland OneStop" Statewide Licensing Portal

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Following through on Governor Larry Hogan's promise to improve access to government services for all Marylanders, the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) today unveiled a new statewide licensing portal. Known as Maryland OneStop and available at onestop.md.gov, the portal provides a single point of entry for citizens to access all

offices of state government that issue licenses or permits, from hunting licenses and fishing permits to drivers' licenses and commercial permits.

"Our administration is fully committed to doing everything we can to make state government more efficient and easier to interact with—and with today's launch of Maryland OneStop, that is exactly what we are doing," said Governor Hogan. "This exciting and innovative new portal will make the licensing and

permitting process more customer-friendly for Marylanders than ever before."

Maryland OneStop's modern, intuitive search engine and browsing options quickly and accurately assess a customer's needs to connect them with the right resources in the shortest amount of time. The portal's customer-friendly search results format allows users to quickly view Approval Time, Validation Period, Application Cost, and Average Completion Time in a

single snapshot for each license or permit.

"At DoIT, we take Governor Hogan's commitment to making sure that Maryland is open for business to heart daily. The new Maryland OneStop Licensing Portal is proof of our commitment to bring additional convenience and options to citizens accessing state services by providing digital tools that make interaction simpler and easier for everyone," said Acting DoIT Secretary Michael Leahy.