

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 87, No. 9 February 28 — March 6, 2019 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## Photos, Private Information To Be Blocked Under 9-1-1 Bill

By JARED BEINART  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (February 19, 2019)—In anticipation of an update to statewide 9-1-1 communication systems by 2021, gruesome imagery of crime scenes or injuries, individuals' medical histories and identification of domestic violence or rape victims may be protected from public view under legislation in the Maryland General Assembly.

Many aspects of a 9-1-1 call are currently available to the public through Maryland's Public Information Act, said House bill 215 sponsor Delegate Michael Jackson, D-Prince George's.

Senate bill 5, sponsored by Sen. Cheryl Kagan, D-Montgomery, is identical and working its way through that chamber.

"I am all about public information, I am all about transparency and yet there needs to be a balance between transparency, government openness and personal privacy," Kagan said.

This new legislation follows a two-year effort passed last year designed to improve the current 9-1-1 communication network and

systems throughout the state. Maryland is expected to transition all 24 of the state's jurisdictions to new "Next Generation 9-1-1" communications by Dec. 31, 2021, according to the commission report.

Next Generation 9-1-1 allows residents to communicate with emergency operators via texts, photos and videos.

The new system will allow callers and operators to "use the same communication tools that they use every day to talk to their families and neighbors," Montgomery County's 9-1-1 Communications Division Director Bill Ferretti said during a Feb. 5 bill hearing.

In November, a statewide, bipartisan commission released a 65-page report that included 23 recommendations on upgrades that could improve the Next Generation 9-1-1 system.

This new bill is a response to a privacy protection recommendation, which requires "special attention" to be paid when handling certain information under the Maryland Public Information Act, according to the report.

"The (Public Information Act) is a crucial tool that allows citizens to see the workings of our government," Jackson said. "However, (the law) is not designed to let someone into

our neighbors' houses and lives during their most tragic time that they may experience."

Jackson stated that Next Generation 9-1-1 communication will allow operators to receive pictures and videos of incidents, as well as blueprints of buildings and locations that would help responders.

Through Next Generation 9-1-1, emergency responders will receive new types of information, which could subject victims to "public scrutiny," said Leslie Knapp Jr., legal and policy counsel for the Maryland Association of Counties.

The legislation blocks release of information that could identify victims of rape, domestic violence or abuse, and certain health records.

"The potential for abusive use for such media, whether its victim shaming or posting on the internet by a vindictive neighbor, is extremely high. We've seen that in other states and we want to try and prevent that here," Knapp said.

Currently, 45 states have entered the planning stage of the Next Generation 9-1-1 com-

See 9-1-1 BILL Page A8



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

**Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan talk with representatives from the Association of Global Automakers, Hyundai Motor Company, and Toyota Motor Corporation.**

## Governor Hogan Promotes Clean Cars Act of 2019

First Lady, Governor Take Spin In Electric Vehicle

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (February 14, 2019)—Governor Larry Hogan today promoted the administration's Clean Cars Act of 2019, joining First Lady Yumi Hogan for a drive in a 2019 Hyundai Nexo Fuel Cell vehicle, the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV with water as the only emission produced. Also joining the governor and first lady were Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles; Maryland Energy Administration Director Mary Beth Tung; Maryland Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis; and representatives from the Association of Global Automakers, Hyundai Motor Company, and Toyota Motor Corporation.

"We are excited about the incredible success of our Clean Cars Act of 2017 and look forward to working with our colleagues in the legislature to grow this program," said Governor Hogan. "By doubling the amount of available funding for the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit, we are continuing our record of skilled stewardship of the environment while also increasing the accessibility of clean cars to even more Marylanders."

The Clean Cars Act of 2019 builds upon the administration's successful Clean Cars Act of 2017. Due to incredible demand, the initial \$3 million in initial funding for the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit, which was distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, was exhausted by November, less than halfway into the fiscal year. The new legislation doubles the amount of funding dedicated to the program, increasing available funds to \$6 million. The tax credit will also be expanded to include fuel cell electric vehicles, increasing the number of vehicles that qualify.

"We are proud to have the governor and First Lady Yumi Hogan drive our NEXO, the technological flagship of our growing eco-vehicle fleet, as he works to promote and expand opportunities to bring more zero emission vehicles to market in Maryland," said David Kim, Vice President of Government Affairs for Hyundai Motor Company. "We appreciate the technology-neutral approach he and his administration have taken to create balanced, comprehensive policy and look forward to working with the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Council."



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ANAID BANUELOS RODRIGUEZ

**190221-N-DX072-1043 GULF OF THAILAND (Feb. 21, 2019)—Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Joseph Panganiban, from Fort Washington, Md., signals to Landing Craft, Utility (LCU) 1651, assigned to Naval Beach Unit (NBU) 7, as it departs the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay (LPD 20). Green Bay, part of the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), is in Thailand to participate in Exercise Cobra Gold 2019. Cobra Gold is a multinational exercise co-sponsored by Thailand and the United States that is designed to advance regional security and effective response to crisis contingencies through a robust multinational force to address common goals and security commitments in the Indo-Pacific region.**

## \$15 Minimum Wage Bills Under Consideration in Legislature

By DAVID JAHNG  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 22, 2019)—Legislation that would increase the minimum hourly wage in Maryland to \$15 would mean higher salaries for struggling workers, but may also mean higher prices and companies leaving the state, supporters and opponents told lawmakers this month.

House bill 166, or the "Fight for 15", would raise the state minimum wage from \$10.10 to \$15 an hour by 2023. Lawmakers heard just as much opposition as support for the legislation at a House Committee hearing Feb. 6.

Identical legislation, Senate bill 280 sponsored by Sen. Cory McCray, D-Baltimore, was heard on Thursday. Neither piece of legislation has advanced out of committees.

Over the past four years, Maryland's minimum wage rose to \$10.10 an hour, and it is one of 29 states that have minimum wages above the federally mandated \$7.25.

However, families are still struggling to pay the costs of basic necessities, said Delegate Diana Fennell, D-Prince George's, sponsor of the bill.

Closing the wage gap would allow not just youth, but older workers in the food and health care industries to support

themselves without having to work multiple jobs, Fennell said.

Democrats are holding out the "Fight for 15" as one of their signature initiatives this legislative session; Republicans, including the governor, are generally opposed.

About 150,000 jobs could be lost with higher wages, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said at a press conference on Feb. 7.

But supporters said the bill could increase productivity and help people who are forced to work multiple jobs.

"Am I paying a living wage?" should not be a question employers are asking, said Ned Atwater, owner of Atwater

restaurants in Baltimore, who supports the bill.

A message that everyone is valued is conveyed with higher wages, Atwater said.

It is the hope and understanding that raising the minimum wage would help individuals be happier, more productive and committed to their jobs, Senate Majority Leader Guy Guzzone, D-Howard, said.

Mat Rice has been the employer for an advocacy group run for and by people with developmental disabilities since 2008, but he said he had to sign for one of his employees to get food stamps in 2017.

"I never had to do that, that is heartbreaking," said Rice.

Raising the minimum wage is a step in the right direction to ensure the developmentally disabled are adequately paid, said Rice.

But for Edward Bolton, a small-business owner in St. Mary's County, wage increases would cost him \$150,000 annually—more than his net profits from last year, he said.

His three auto parts stores rely on lower-wage employees as delivery drivers, and an increase in salaries would limit part-time positions and the number of vehicles he can own, Bolton told Capital News Service.

"Which in turn means the service to my customers suffers," Bolton said.

Many minimum wage positions would become much harder for employers to afford, which in turn could make it more difficult for entry-level, younger workers to find jobs, said Laura Toraldo, senior director of communications and digital media at the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

See MINIMUM WAGE Page A8

### INSIDE

#### PG Valor Shoots Up Top and Defeats West Chester Wildcats

On February 12, PG Valor headed into the community to help facilitate a basketball practice with the Forestville Falcons of the Forestville, MD Boys and Girls Club.

Community, Page A3

#### To Be Equal: Jussie Smollett Case Threatens To Distract From The Rising Tide of Hate Crimes

The Chicago police appear to have done thorough work in Smollett's case. ... Every report of a hate crime should be investigated as thoroughly.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Assisted Living Locators Launches Franchise In Fort Washington

"Our goal is to assist families in choosing appropriate care options for their loved ones, to save time, decrease stress, and to provide 'peace of mind,'" said Kris Jones, Assisted Living Locators franchise owner.

Business and Finance, Page A5

#### Movie Review:

Glass

As a fan of "Unbreakable" and "Split," I like how Shyamalan combines the comic book elements of the former and the horror elements of the latter into the nutty, self-aware, periodically thrilling amalgamation that is "Glass."

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

There's a lot of talk about overfishing and pollution wreaking havoc in marine ecosystems, but has anyone actually studied if there is less wildlife in the oceans these days?

—Melissa Cassidy, Raleigh, NC

Features, Page A7

# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### "Lincoln's Assassination: Was it just one mad act?"

Attend the 20th Annual Conference of The Surratt Society and hear what these Civil War historians have to say:

"Booth's Confederate Connections," by Judge Sandy Prindle; "Montreal: City of Secrets," by Barry Sheehy; "The Neff-Guttridge Connection and Dark Union," by Dr. Edward Steers; "Enter the Gray Ghost: Col. John Singleton Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracies," by David Goetz; "It's Not the Principal, It's the Commission," by Richard Willing; and "The Black Flag and Its Relevance to April 14, 1865," by John C. Fazio.

The Conference opens Friday, April 5, when the bus leaves the Surratt House for "Riding Freedom's Train Tour." Fee, \$80. It returns to the Surratt House by 5:30 p.m. for the Welcoming Reception with registration and "substantial fare" (yummy buffet!) at the James O. Hall Research Center, next door to the House.

Sat., April 6: full buffet breakfast and registration, followed by talks listed above, a boxed luncheon, Author's Hour at 5:40 p.m., Social Hour with cash bar at 6:15, and banquet and program at 7 p.m. The program will be E. Lawrence Abel's "John Wilkes Booth and the Women Who Loved Him."

Fee for the Friday night Reception and Saturday's talks and meals is \$200 (\$225 if paying later).

Sun., April 7, there's another tour, Mr. Madison's Valley," leaving from the Colony South Hotel at 8 a.m., returning at 6:30 p.m. Fee, \$95.

The Surratt House is at 7401 Surratts Rd., Clinton. For information: 301-868-1121 or www.surrattmuseum.org.

### Neighbors and other good people

Condolences to former Morningside Mayor (and current Clerk/Treasurer) Karen Rooker on the death of her father, Francis David McCrone, on Feb. 10. He served for years at the VFW and in other organizations. I'll tell you more about him in next week's column.

I was pleased to get an invitation from Morningside to attend the Senior Bingo and Luncheon on Feb. 15 at the

Town Hall. It was a great opportunity to touch base with some old-time Morningsiders and meet some new ones. And, though I didn't win at bingo, I did win a door prize.

At the luncheon we introduced ourselves, said where we live and how long we've lived in the Town. The winner was Gloria Grapevine who has resided on Pickett Drive since 1951.

Girl Scouts are selling cookies in two locations at the Mall in Clinton. They have a new flavor, Carmel Chocolate Chip. My favorite is Dos-si-dos. What's yours?

By the way, I don't do Facebook or any other medium you have to hold in your hand. So, when you get news (and I know you do), email me at muddmm@aol.com, call at the number at the top of this column, or drop by 4304 Skyline Dr.

### Morningside election deadlines

Petitions for candidates in the upcoming Morningside Elections are due by March 6, at 5 p.m. And the last day to register to vote in the Election is April 1 at 9 p.m. Call the Town for information at 301-736-2300.

Election Day is Monday, May 6. Morningsiders will be electing a Mayor and two Council Members. Mayor Benn Cann tells me that he will be running for re-election. I don't know yet about the Council Members.

### Morningside Memories:

#### 61 years ago

When the Owakonze Camp Fire Group held that dance party at the Town Hall on Feb. 24, 1958, there was square dancing and rock & roll. Last week I listed the Camp Fire Girls who attended. But there were Blue Birds, too: Denise Allen, Barbara Hewett, Peggy Holmes, Julie Ann Koch, Sheila Miller, Pat Stewart and Lisa Stocklinski.

### Bill Malkowski, 4th Degree Knight who played the accordion

William Francis "Bill" Malkowski, 87, of Temple Hills, Air Force retiree and amazing volunteer, died Dec. 22. He was a native of Boston, son of William and Stella Malkowski. He

served 26 years in the Air Force, retiring as Senior Master Sergeant, and then had a career at the U.S. Mint.

Bill volunteered for more than 20 years with the Red Cross at Andrews, and was a 4th Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus. At St. Philip's Church he was a Eucharistic Minister, usher, lector, retreat coordinator and, every Saturday after Mass, he led the rosary.

He was an avid golfer, enjoyed baseball and bowling. And he played the accordion.

Bill is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty; children, Stephen, Lorraine and Patricia; five grandchildren and three great-grands, sister Florence and nephew Alan. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's with burial at Resurrection Cemetery. The reception was held at the Knights of Columbus.

In church, Bill always sat in the front row, first seat on the aisle. I can't get used to not seeing him there.

### Deacon Donald Doby, Hillcrest Baptist Church

Donald Leon Doby, 81, retired Master Gunnery Sergeant, died at home Feb. 14. He was born in Barnwell County, S.C., to the late Rev. Woodrow and Mary Alice Doby. He served with the Marines for 26 years, then worked at Howard University, retiring again after 18 years, and became a realtor. He was an active lifetime member of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Chapter 17.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Gloria, daughters Donna and Stephanie, two grandchildren, a brother and two sisters. Funeral services were at Hillcrest Baptist Church where Donald was a Deacon for more than 30 years.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Winifred Lanehart, March 1; Karen (Elborne) Stern and Harold Titus, March 2; Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor and Matthew Flaherty, March 4; and Roy Derrick, March 6.

Happy anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman, their 60th(!) on March 4; and Larry and Susan Frostbutter, March 5.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Congratulations and Happy Wedding Anniversary to Emmanuel and Claudette Oghogho who will celebrate their Anniversary in March.

Clinton United Methodist Church sends out prayers for all the military members for their well-being and we thank them for their service to our country.

### BUFFALO SOLDIER

Based on the true story of our nation's longest surviving buffalo soldier and veteran of the Spanish-American War, this dramatic and amazing play with music from Virginia Rep on Tour tells the heroic story of the brave soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, who served our country well with little of the recognition they deserved will be presented Tuesday, March 12, 10:15 a.m. and 12 noon.

Recommended for grades 3-8 Curriculum Connection: U.S. History, Music, Language Arts, Character Development. Tickets: \$8/person; \$6/person in groups of 20 or more at the Publick Playhouse. The address is 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784. Telephone number is 301-277-1710.

### MEDSTAR SOUTHERN MARYLAND HOSPITAL CENTER

"Each year, hospital associates are asked to donate to a school supply drive to benefit one area school. This year, the associates donated 426 school supply items, which were delivered by MSMHC's Community Outreach staff to Waldon Woods Elementary School in Clinton prior to the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year."

The Washington Regional Transplant Community has presented MSMHC with a Silver Award for promoting organ, eye, and tissue donations.

### AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES

The Charles Duckett Log Cabin is a rare chestnut log tenant farmhouse from the 1880's. It was likely built by Charles Duckett, a former slave and landsman in the Union Navy

during the Civil War. The cabin is part of the Patuxent Rural Life Museums complex, which includes the Duvall Tool Museum, a tobacco museum, a blacksmith shop and an early 20th century Sears, Roebuck & Company Simplex house.

The Charles Duckett Log Cabin is located at 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Park: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily; Visitor Center: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tours are April-October, Saturday and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. Telephone number is 301-627-6074. For additional information you can visit www.history.pgparcs.com.

### CAMP SPRINGS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Camp Springs Senior Activity Center has programs and services that are popular among seniors 60 and better. This center offers a variety of classes, special events, day trips, health screenings, educational sessions, clubs and drop in activities. Stop by and check us out and join in the fun.

Hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sunday closed. The Center address is 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland 20748. Contact 301-449-0490, TTY 301-699-2544.

The Senior Nutrition Program operated by the Prince George's County Department of Family Service's Area Agency on Aging offers a nutritionally balanced lunch daily at this center. Additionally, they provide limited transportation to and from the center. Contact Family Services at 301-265-8450 for additional information.

### COLONIAL TAVERN DINNER

Be our guest as we recreate the atmosphere and flavor of a mid-18th century tavern dinner in Upper Marlborough Saturday, March 16 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Enjoy colonial food and spirits. Following dinner, listen to or join in with Ship's Company as they sing sea chanteys and tavern songs of the period. Reservation and payment required in advance. Fee: Resident \$35; Non-Resident \$45. Darnall's Chance House Museum. The contact number for more information is 301-952-8010.

## Around the County

### Short Édition Short Story Dispenser

A Short Édition Short Story Dispenser is coming to a Prince George's County venue courtesy of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System on March 2 to coincide with Read Across America. You may choose either 1-, 3- or 5-minute stories to read while on the go. These free short story paper strips offer a great reading escape, especially during waiting periods, travel delays or as a break from your mobile world. Enjoy short stories, poetry and flash fiction! The Short Story Dispenser is designed to encourage reading by increasing literacy awareness, provide a showcase for novice writers, and emphasize the relevance of literature. Short Édition is a French company created in 2011 with subsidiaries in America as of 2018.

—D. Scott-Martin, Prince George's County Memorial Library System

### Pere Alexander Selected CIAA Player of the Week

By GREGORY C. GOINGS  
Bowie State Sports Information

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Feb 18, 2019)—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in conjunction with the conference's women's basketball coaches and Sports Information Directors released its final Weekly Basketball Honor Roll today and Bowie State redshirt senior Pere Alexander was voted as Player of the Week. Alexander averaged 16 points per game and 6.5 rebounds in the Bulldogs 2-0 week. She shined brightly in Saturdays (2/16) regular season home finale versus Chowan, leading all scorers with 23 points on 8-of-16 shooting from the floor, knocked down 12-of-13 free throws, grabbed eight rebounds and dished out five assists.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BOWIE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION  
Bowie State redshirt senior  
Pere Alexander

### Local Students Honored

#### Local Student Earns Degree

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (February 19, 2019)—St. Cloud State University graduated more than 700 students during Fall semester 2018.

Commencement ceremonies took place Friday, December 21, 2018.

#### Lanham, MD

#### Obinna Otti, Master of Science, Information Assurance

SCSU offers more than 15,000 students more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs in business, education, fine arts and humanities, science and engineering and social sciences. St. Cloud State is located 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities along the banks of the Mississippi River and has one of the strongest international programs in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system; has one of three business colleges in Minnesota nationally accredited at the undergraduate and graduate level; and is one of the largest producers of new educators in the country.

—Adam Hammer, St. Cloud State University

### Salisbury University Fall 2018 Dean's List

SALISBURY, Md. (February 19, 2019)—Some 75 Prince George's County area students were named to the Dean's List at Salisbury University for the fall 2018 semester.

Bowie area residents include Kelsey Adams, Noah Aghdam, Angela Barzanti, Sandra Benyella, Rachel Bruce, Danielle Burnette, Giacinta Giglio-Valentino, Danielle Giroux, Natasha Hawkins, Sloane Henderson, Savannah Johnson, Cheldone Jones, Micah Kinsey, Patrick Laughrige, Natalie Marcos, Chiamaka Onunkwo, Ann-Marie Proctor, Patrick Ryan, Victoria Smalling, Kayleigh Sweitzer and Mitchell Ward.

Clinton area residents include Monica Bonilla, Emmanuel Ekhtar, Dinah Gill and Gwynne Richardson.

District Heights area residents include William Hall and Makayla Smith.

Fort Washington area residents include Elizabeth Weaver and Italia Whetstone.

Hyattsville area residents include Adijat Adeyemi, Hillary Agyemang, Hope Caldwell, Temika Carroll and N'Tumahawa Kamara.

Lanham area residents include Blessing Ajayi and Iphigenie Leonard.

Laurel area residents include Adetomiwa Adesokan, Alexis Afamefune, Terrell Archie, Kaylyn French, Arianna Gomez, Iliana Jones, Martina Maya-Callen, Samuel Mudd, Victoria Myles, Aishat Olokun and Sarah Wagner.

Riverdale area residents include Victoria Alexander, Alicia Lisier and Ashley Olortegui.

Temple Hills area residents include Jada Odum and Imari Pyles.

Upper Marlboro area residents include Tiara Broome, Makayla Fuller, Kara Hart, Leah Hill, Alexis Moore, Johnson Ogunyoye, Nia Royster and Austin Schwarzmann.

Other area residents include Promise Harrison of Hyattsville; Andrea Homberg of Aquasco; Julianna Renzi of Beltsville; Peyton Reynolds of Brandywine; Javonte McBride of Capitol Heights; Glory Ngwe of Cheltenham; Priyana Maddox of Glenarden; Maiya Chapman of Glenn Dale; Kathryn Breon of Greenbelt; Danielle Malley of Joint Base Andrews; Judith George of Landover; Diamond McGill of Oxon Hill; Mya Miller of Seat Pleasant; Quentin Loman of Springdale and Isaiah Neal of Suitland.

At Salisbury University, some 8,700 students in 43 undergraduate, 15 graduate and two doctoral programs pursue liberal arts and professional degrees. Located on the Eastern Shore 30 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 20 miles from the Chesapeake Bay, Salisbury is 2-½ hours from Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Norfolk, VA, and Wilmington, DE. SU is ranked among the nation's best colleges in U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review.

—Ryanne Morris, Salisbury University

### Final Application Event: Summer Youth Enrichment Program

Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the New Carrollton Library (7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD).

Applications for the Youth @ Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) are open until March 22. Any Prince George's County resident between the ages of 14-22 is eligible to apply for SYEP. If you've held a summer job through SYEP in the past, you will still be eligible to apply this year. You can find more information about SYEP and the online application at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/598/YouthWork-SYEP.

# COMMUNITY

## PG Valor Shoots Up Top and Defeats West Chester Wildcats

PG Valor extends their overall record to 8-4 with 138-126 victory

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG Valor Basketball Team

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (February 19, 2019)—While the All-Star weekend was filled with many onlooking sports-viewers, PG Valor headed to Philadelphia, PA to face the Westchester Wildcats. The first matchup of the season for the two teams with the Wildcats being a new franchise, PG Valor didn't delay in preparation and skillfully came out on top. With deep 3-pointers from players like D'Angelo Vaughan and Shakir Brown, aggressive team rebounding, and great ball movement from players like Donnell Graham and Nathaniel Goldsmith, the team will advance their record for the season to 8-4.

On February 12, PG Valor headed into the community to help facilitate a basketball practice with the Forestville Falcons of the Forestville, MD Boys and Girls Club. PG Valor players Tauron Crenshaw, Donnell Graham, Keith Shivers, and Khalil Fletcher lended a helping hand and showed the youth team various basketball techniques and shared some goal-oriented advice. The team was excited to share this time with the youth and continue their dedication to the community around them.

For more information regarding Season 3 and all other PG Valor news, visit our team website at [www.pgvalor.com](http://www.pgvalor.com). You can also connect with us by visiting our social media page on Instagram: @pgvalorbball or by contacting us via telephone 240-918-7500.

PG Valor is an American Basketball Association (ABA) team in Prince George's County, Maryland. In addition to competing in the ABA from November through March for regular season games and from March through April for playoff and championship games, PG Valor competes in charity games against other professional and local teams. At the end of its first season (2016-2017), PG Valor was ranked No. 2 in its conference. PG Valor was ranked No. 1 in its conference and the 2018 Chesapeake Division Champion in its second season (2017-2018). Ten PG Valor players have received contracts to play overseas; one player was signed to the G-League; and one player participated in the 2018 ABA All-Star game. Recently, three players have been selected for the 2018 ABA Gold.

The ABA is a men's professional basketball league. The original ABA was formed in 1967. In 1976, four ABA franchises merged into the NBA: the Indiana Pacers, Denver Nuggets, New Jersey Nets and San Antonio Spurs. The lead attorney for the ABA during the merger was Dick Tinkham, who was a co-founder of the Indiana Pacers and the commissioner of the ABA. Opposing counsel was David Stern, who later became the commissioner of the NBA. In partnership with the NBA, the ABA was reformed in 2000. Today, the ABA has over 100 teams and 1,500 players who are former NBA players, Division 1 and 2 NCAA players, McDonald's All-Americans, and international players. The ABA has introduced the ABA Gold, a new league that showcases the ABA's best players.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY PG VALOR

### Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

John Eager Howard Community Center, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743 • FREE

For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900

At any age, there are lifestyle habits we can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve our health. These habits may also help to keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline. This free Alzheimer's Association workshop covers four areas of lifestyle habits that are associated with healthy aging: cognitive activity, physical health and exercise, diet and nutrition, and social engagement. In each area, we will discuss what we know, drawing on current research, as well as what we can do—steps to take now to improve or maintain overall health in each area.

### The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

## Is The News Harming Your Health?

It's more difficult today not to know what's going on in the world. From print sources, to online media, to 24/7 radio and TV news stations, everybody is working to keep us informed about the news.

And it turns out that's not always a good thing.

While you may think it's important to stay up-to-date, when so much news, and in such detail, comes at us every day it can have a negative effect. One recent survey found more than half of Americans reporting that the news caused them stress, made them anxious, tired and even unable to sleep at times.

And yet we can't seem to stay away. That same survey found that one in ten adults checks the news every hour and that some 20% of us constantly monitor our social media feeds.

One problem with all this news is that not all of it is what we really need to know. Cable news networks must fill up 24 hours each day and do so by first reporting a story, then repeating and emphasizing often-disturbing details, and next assembling a panel to analyze it in minute detail.

In addition, the news being reported, especially of disasters of any sort, tends to be much more visual than ever. TV and online news is filled with not only professional video of events, but often also includes smartphone videos and audio clips that can have an extremely strong impact on viewers as we are drawn closer into the disaster or other event.

A first step in trying to be less affected by the news being delivered is to become more aware of how a news event changes your mood or makes your thoughts more negative. If you find yourself becoming more anxious or stressed as you watch the news, take a break and turn to a more positive activity.

You can also cut back on how much news you let into your life. No one needs constant news alerts on their phone, or to have a 24-hour news channel constantly in the background.

Experts recommend limiting your consumption of the news to one block of time each day. Maybe watch a news update at lunch, or before dinner. While it's a good thing to be aware and informed, it's not a good thing when too much news is negatively affecting your life and health.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACACorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACACorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

## Prince George's County Public Schools Educator Selected as a National 'LifeChanger of the Year' Grand Prize Finalist

International High School English teacher Keishia Thorpe surprised during school assembly with \$5,000 award

By MATT KANE  
for National Life Group

LANGLEY PARK, Md. (Feb 25, 2019)—On February 21, Keishia Thorpe, an English teacher at International High School at Langley Park, was named a national 2018-2019 LifeChanger of the Year Grand Prize Finalist during an assembly held in her school's cafeteria.

Thorpe received a \$5,000 prize, which was awarded as a \$2,500 individual prize and a \$2,500 donation to International High School at Langley Park. The award was presented by National Life Group representatives Mallorie Manosh and Roberto Abele, as well as Thorpe's principal, Carlos Beato.

Thorpe is being recognized for making a beneficial difference in the lives of students for the past 14 years. As a young woman, she immigrated to the United States from the Bahamas, earned a college track and field scholarship, and graduated at the top of her class. Since then, she has made it her civic and personal responsibility to help others achieve their own dreams of going to college.

Many of the students Thorpe teaches either struggle with the English language or are undocumented. She has gone above and beyond

to prepare them for college by staying after school on many evenings to tutor them and assist them with applications. She has also led students on learning trips and was instrumental in helping a high school in her native country become the first government-registered school to offer Advanced Placement courses. Because of her work, many of her students have been able to take Advanced Placement classes and earn scholarships.

Beyond the classroom, Thorpe is the co-founder of US Elite International Track and Field, Inc., a nonprofit under which she created the Liaison International Scholarship Program. This gives student-athletes who are considered "at risk" an opportunity to use their gifts and talents as a vehicle to access scholarships to earn a college diploma debt-free.

"Through a track scholarship, Keishia was able to complete college and had the opportunity to help her family," said Dr. Tresha Borris, a family member and Thorpe's nominator. "With the Liaison International Scholarship Program, she wanted to provide the same access and opportunity for other student athletes to change their lives in the same way that higher education was able to change hers—not just for the athletes she coaches, but all

athletes in her school district and community."

Thorpe is also the founder of the Hope Beyond Distance Foundation, a program that supports immigrant students, including those who were undocumented. As part of her work, she invited speakers who are immigrants to share their stories and created a safe space where students felt supported. She also successfully hosted two forums where she invited the Chancellor, city leaders, council members and immigration lawyers to answer questions from immigrant students' families and offer support services.

Thorpe was selected as a LifeChanger of the Year winner out of more than 832 teachers, administrators and school district employees nominated for the award from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

LifeChanger of the Year is a national program sponsored by National Life Group that annually recognizes and rewards K-12 school district educators and employees who make a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership. LifeChanger of the Year nominees must be full-time educators, teachers, principals, or any member of the school district's staff who makes a positive difference in the lives of students.



PHOTO CREDIT NATIONAL LIFE GROUP

Left to right: Roberto Abele (National Life Group), Keishia Thorpe, Mallorie Manosh (LifeChanger of the Year program director).

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Jussie Smollett Case Threatens To Distract From The Rising Tide of Hate Crimes

*"I'm left hanging my head and asking why. Why would anyone, especially an African American man use the symbolism of a noose to make false accusations? How could someone look at the hatred and suffering associated with that symbol and see an opportunity to manipulate that symbol to further his own public profile. How can an individual who's been embraced by the city of Chicago turn around and slap everybody in the face making these false claims?"*

—Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson

[Last] week, the Southern Poverty Law Center announced that the number of hate groups in the United States continued to rise for the fourth consecutive year in 2018.

Also, [last] week, a television actor was arrested on charges of staging a fake racist and homophobic attack on himself, allegedly so he could appear more sympathetic in salary negotiations.

The announcement by Chicago police of the case against Jussie Smollett sparked outrage and dismay across the nation, particularly among people of color and LGBTQ people who are increasingly targets of hate crimes like the one Smollett allegedly staged. Smollett is, of course, presumed innocent until proven guilty and is entitled to due process. But the accusations shock the conscience.

The SPLC said the 30% rise in the number of hate groups since 2014 coincided with a 30% increase in the number of hate crimes reported to the F.B.I. from 2015 through 2017. At least 50 people were killed in

a wave of right-wing violence in 2018, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Just a week ago, federal authorities arrested a self-described "white nationalist" Coast Guard officer who had stockpiled 15 firearms and more than 1,000 rounds of mixed ammunition and who wanted to use violence to establish a "white homeland." His hit list of prospective victims included prominent Democratic politicians, activists, political organizations and media personalities.

In the face of the growing menace of hate-fueled terrorism, it would be tragic if the collapse of Smollett's story makes it harder for true victims of hate crimes to be believed. As *New York Times* columnist Jamelle Bouie noted on Twitter [last] week, the details of many hate crimes are outrageous, and his accounts of the horrors of lynchings and other racially-motivated terrorism are sometimes met with incredulity. "Why didn't anyone do anything?" he was asked.

"Take a deep dive into the history of racist violence in the United States and you'll come away with countless items that sound absurd or even ... conspiratorial. But they are true, and the truth of them informs reactions today," Bouie wrote.

Bouie was responding to a conversation that included mention of the 1998 murders of James Byrd Jr. and Matthew Shepherd. White supremacists attacked Byrd, spray painted his face and chained him by his ankles to the bumper of a pickup truck. He was dragged three miles, conscious for most of his ordeal until he was decapitated. Shepherd's attackers, moti-

vated by homophobia, tied him to a fence and pistol-whipped him into unconsciousness. He hung on the fence for 18 hours before he was found, and lingered nearly a week in a coma before he died.

"These crimes were so monstrous and random and thorough that they might seem to defy plausibility," journalist Gene Denby of NPR wrote. "How can anyone look at the history of racialized violence or hate crimes in America and think some randos with bleach and a noose ain't feasible?"

The Chicago police appear to have done thorough work in Smollett's case. They took his complaint seriously, devoted considerable resources to investigating his claims and followed the evidence where it led. Every report of a hate crime should be investigated as thoroughly.

Many questions remain about the Smollett case. False reports—particularly in a high-profile case—represent a squandering of precious law-enforcement resources. Chicago, battling a wave of gun violence, can ill afford the distraction. Indeed, Superintendent Johnson said, "I just wish that the families of gun violence in this city got this much attention, because that's who really deserves the amount of attention that we're giving to this particular incident."

Rather than minimize the true victims of hate crimes, we should take this opportunity to turn our attention to the rising threat. And should Smollett be proved beyond a reasonable doubt to have betrayed the public trust, [he] must be held accountable for his actions.

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



## Cardin, Cornyn and Jones Join Forces to Protect Military Spouses Who Are Teachers

WASHINGTON (Feb 19, 2019)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.), John Cornyn (R-Tex.) and Doug Jones (D-Ala.) together have introduced legislation that will eliminate a barrier for teachers in military families to earn loan forgiveness for their years of public service. S. 532, the Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act, would ensure that military spouses teaching in our hardest-to-serve school districts do not lose eligibility for the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness program should they follow their military spouse's relocation or reassignment to military installations in the United States or abroad. A companion bill, H.R. 1229, was filed by Rep. Steve Chabot (Ohio-1) in the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Loan Forgiveness program incentivizes teachers to commit to students in our lowest-income school districts in exchange for up to \$17,500 in federal student loan forgiveness. Teachers qualify for loan forgiveness once they have taught full-time for at least five consecutive years at a low-income school or educational service agency. Teachers who are military spouses often fail to qualify for loan forgiveness after moving in the middle of the school year due to their spouses' permanent change of station orders. Under current guidelines, such a move would void that year of service and cause a teacher to lose eligibility for the program.

"Military families make enormous sacrifices each day for our country. Spouses committed to public service and educating our children should not be penalized for keeping their family together for a new military assignment. This commonsense legislation will allow these double service families to earn the benefits they have dutifully worked towards and continue to incentivize individuals to serve our hardest to educate children," said Senator Cardin.

"Military spouses and families often sacrifice job stability in support of their loved ones who are fighting to protect our nation," said Senator Cornyn. "This legislation allows spouses who are educators in low-income schools to remain eligible for their loan forgiveness program if their family is being relocated by the military."

"Military spouses make tremendous sacrifices in service to our country," said Senator Jones. "However, their eligibility for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program should not be one of them. I'm proud to cosponsor this bill, which would ensure that teachers who are married to service members can benefit from this important program."

### The Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act (S. 532)

The Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for

Military Spouses Act allows military spouses to complete their five consecutive years in five complete years. The bill:

- Provides a waiver from the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program's five consecutive years of service requirement for military spouses if their spouses is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders from the Armed Forces.
- The waiver will allow individuals to remain eligible for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program should they resume teaching full-time at a qualifying low-income school within one year of their relocation.
- Allows military spouses that follow their service members overseas to remain eligible for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program if they teach at one of the Department of Defense Education Activity schools on military installations.
- Requires the Department of Education to provide a report to Congress every two years on the number of military spouses who remained eligible for Teacher Loan Forgiveness as a result of this legislation.

This legislation has been endorsed by the Military Officers Association of America, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Honoring the Trailblazing Judge Patricia Wald

When President Barack Obama awarded Judge Patricia Wald the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, he summed up her career this way: "Patricia McGowan Wald made history as the first woman appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Rising to Chief Judge of the Court, she always strove to better understand the law and fairly apply it. After leaving federal service, Judge Wald helped institute standards for justice and the rule of law at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Hailed as a model judge, she laid a foundation for countless women within the legal profession and helped unveil the humanity within the law." This gives a brief sense of what made my friend Judge Wald, who passed away last month at age 90, a trailblazing champion for justice for children and all of us.

Early on Judge Wald was an example of the importance of giving every child an equal chance to succeed—girls as well as boys, wealthy and working class. She was raised by a single mother in a crowded home with their close-knit extended family in Torrington, Connecticut, a factory town where Judge Wald spent teenage summers on World War II-era assembly lines "up to [her] arms in ball-bearing grease." Most of her relatives' lives revolved around work at the factory, but they encouraged her as she excelled in school and supported her dream of going to college. She graduated first in her class from Connecticut College (then Connecticut College for Women) in 1948 and went on to Yale Law School where she was an editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and one of only 11 women in her class.

She described that experience years later: "We more or less accepted the fact that we would be a minority, that we would not escape notice in class, and that we would always be asked to give the plain-

tiff's testimony in rape moot courts . . . the men lived in the big stone dormitories, but the women were required to live off campus in this dinky old house that was falling down near the railroad tracks. Every night for three years the Boston-Maine went roaring by my window at a quarter past twelve." Though I followed her at Yale Law School more than a decade later, my fellow women students and I experienced some of the same isolation including exclusion from the all-male Yale Law school dormitories and our constitutional law professor's course which he insisted on holding at Mory's—a private club across the street from Yale Law School that excluded women. But Judge Wald said the silver lining was the bond it forged: "By sticking together we managed to weather the storm."

Being one of the first or only women in a role never slowed her down. As President Obama said, she was the first woman to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit—Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second—and then the first woman to preside over that powerful court. Her long and influential tenure there followed years of useful service fighting for labor rights, the poor, women, and children. She began her career as a clerk for federal judge Jerome Frank and then worked at a Washington law firm. After a ten-year break when her five children were young she took a position at the D.C. Neighborhood Legal Services Project (now Program), an early public interest firm. She later worked at the Mental Health Law Project and the Center for Law and Social Policy and among her accomplishments fought for education for children with disabilities and mental health needs and for juvenile justice reforms. I served with Judge Wald on the Carnegie Council for Children in the 1970s chaired by MIT Professor Ken Keniston and saw firsthand

what a passionate and superb child advocate she was.

President Jimmy Carter named her Assistant Attorney General in 1977 before nominating her to the federal bench in 1979. She was a candidate for Attorney General during the Clinton Administration before withdrawing her name from consideration and I believe she should have been a Supreme Court Justice. But on the influential Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia, where her colleagues included Justice Ginsberg, Robert H. Bork, the late Justice Antonin Scalia, and Kenneth Starr, she wrote more than 800 decisions including those affirming equal rights to employment and education for women, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities. She once said, "I see the law as a way to translate our most fundamental aspirations and goals for an open and orderly society that treats all people in the community with respect," and she followed this simple principle throughout her professional life.

In a 1994 lecture at the University of Maine

School of Law, "Whose Public Interest Is It Anyway? Advice for Altruistic Young Lawyers," Judge Wald said: "I can certainly attest from my own forty years in the law that there are great satisfactions in devoting one's skills to a cause larger than money or even professional reputation. But I can also tell you that doing good can be hard work, and that a lifetime of public service requires just as much, probably more, prudence, discretion, judgment, tolerance for frustration, and long-range perspective as for-profit lawyering." Judge Wald was a model for each of those key qualities and never flagged in doing that hard work. She also gave listeners her definition of "success": "a sense at the end of your career that you have contributed, commensurate with your talent and skills, to the slow but measured advance of your community and nation toward a more just society." I am so grateful for Judge Wald's rich, deep and successful legacy in ensuring just treatment for every child.

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## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
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Contents © 2019, The Prince George's Post

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

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## Spousal Benefits and Enrolling in Medicare

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

### Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 in March. Husband will be 61 in August. If I started collecting Social Security now would I only be able to collect on myself? My husband plans on collecting at 62. Will I be able to collect some of his when he starts collecting at age 62? Also, who can advise me about Medicare? Do I have to apply now? **Signed: Needing Advice**

**Dear Needing:** Yes, if you start your Social Security benefits now, you can only collect your own benefits—you cannot collect a spousal benefit until your husband starts collecting his benefits. Whether you will get a spousal benefit from your husband's record depends upon whether your own benefit at your full retirement age of 66 is less than ½ of your husband's benefit at his full retirement age (or "FRA").

If your husband will be 61 in 2019 his full retirement age for Social Security purposes is 66 and 8 months and if he starts his benefit at age 62 it will be 28.3% less than it would be at his full retirement age. If you start your benefit at age 65, it will be reduced by 6.7% from what you would get at your FRA of 66. Your spousal benefit will be based upon both of your FRA benefit amounts and, if your husband claims his benefit in August 2020 when he is 62, you will have already reached your FRA. So, if 50% of your husband's FRA benefit amount is more than your FRA benefit amount you'll get a spousal boost. But since you are taking your own benefit one year earlier than your FRA, the spousal boost will be added to your own reduced benefit amount, which means your total spousal benefit will be slightly less than half of your husband's FRA benefit amount. To summarize: you can't get a spousal benefit until your husband starts collecting his; you will only get a spousal benefit if 50% of your husband's benefit at his FRA is more than your FRA benefit amount; and your spousal benefit amount will be slightly less if you claim your own benefit one year earlier than your FRA.

Regarding Medicare, whether you need to apply now depends on your current health insurance. If you have "creditable health insurance" coverage through an employer (either your own employer or your husband's) which will continue after you are 65, you do not need to enroll in Part B or Part D at this time. You should check with the employer's Human Resource department to make sure their coverage will remain first payer now that you are Medicare eligible. If you do not now have creditable coverage you need to enroll in Medicare now. You are still in your initial enrollment period, which begins three months before the month you turn 65 and ends three months after the month you are 65. If you do not apply within this time frame and you don't have other creditable coverage you will be subject to a 10% Part B penalty (that never goes away) for each year you delay. If you apply now for your Social Security benefits to start in March, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Part B, but you can choose to opt out of Part B (doctors and outpatient services) as part of the application process. However, if you change your mind and decide to wait to claim your Social Security benefits and you do not have other creditable coverage, you should still enroll in Medicare during your initial enrollment period by contacting your local Social Security office or by enrolling online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). The current monthly premium for Medicare Part B is \$135.50 for a married couple filing a joint income tax return with a combined income (from all sources) of \$170,000 or less.

The 1.7 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

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### Access to Capital 3 Day Workshop Women-Owned Business Training

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Contact Information: Jennifer Funn

\*Scholarship provided by The Columbia Bank

## Assisted Living Locators Launches Franchise In Fort Washington

Free Senior Placement Service To Offer Assistance Throughout Prince George's County

By RHONDA GRUNDEMANN  
for Assisted Living Locators

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Feb. 21, 2019)—Assisted Living Locators announced today the launch its franchise in Fort Washington, MD. Assisted Living Locators will provide the full continuum of



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY  
ASSISTED LIVING LOCATORS  
Senior Living Care Advisors Alisha and Kris Jones

care offering assistance in locating quality assisted living options throughout Fort Washington and Prince George's county area. The franchise is owned by Senior Living Care Advisors Kris and Alisha Jones.

Assisted Living Locators offers a NO COST service for seniors and their families providing expert advice on short and long-term care options, including in-home care, independent living, assisted living, memory care, and retirement apartments. The company generates revenue from the referral fees paid by the providers in their network.

According to the Administration on Aging, the population of adults 65 and older is experiencing the biggest increase in history. Between 2010 and 2050, the number of seniors is expected to more than double.

"As a result of our growing senior population, many different options for care and housing are available, including in-home companion care; 55+ communities; independent retirement options; assisted living and memory care, and nursing homes," said Kris Jones, Assisted Living Locators franchise owner. "Seniors and their families need a trusted advisor to help them navigate what can be an overwhelming amount of information. We are also a resource for short-term respite care, emergency discharges, and out-of-town relocations."

He explained that Assisted Living Locators offers a complete assessment of a senior's needs and recommends a plan that provides the full continuum of care.

"Our goal is to assist families in choosing appropriate care options for their loved ones, to save time, decrease stress, and to provide 'peace of mind,'" said Jones. "And because we live in the community, we look at a wide range of options for seniors that just can't be matched by online resource databases. We tour and rank all the facilities we recommend, and make sure all our partners in the senior care market are fully committed to providing the best care possible."

"We're passionate about helping others and are excited about assisting families navigate the system to find the best senior care options for their loved ones," he added.

For more information about Assisted Living Locators no cost community service for seniors and their families, call Kris and Alisha Jones at 703-878-7870 or visit [www.assistedlivinglocators/fortwashington](http://www.assistedlivinglocators/fortwashington).

Based in Scottsdale, Ariz., Assisted Living Locators offers a no cost, nationwide senior care placement and referral service for in-home companion care, independent retirement options, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing facilities. The company has 107 franchisees in 33 states and District of Columbia. Assisted Living Locators was ranked in Entrepreneur's 2019 Franchise 500® issue and Franchise Business Review's 2019 Top Franchises Report. To learn more, visit: [www.assistedlivinglocators.com](http://www.assistedlivinglocators.com)

## Maryland Workers Make The Case For a \$15 Minimum Wage

Broad coalition of working people and advocates testify in favor of bill to benefit nearly one-quarter of the state's workforce

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Fight for \$15

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb 21, 2019)—Home care, health care, rural, state, security, tipped and young workers from across Maryland joined faith, labor, community and businesses advocates to testify before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee in favor of the Fight for \$15 bill (Senate Bill 280/House Bill 166) this afternoon.

"A strong majority of Maryland residents support a higher wage—one that covers all workers, is indexed to inflation and includes tipped workers," said Ricarra Jones of the Maryland Fight For \$15 campaign. "Increasing pay for low-wage workers is the most significant policy change lawmakers can enact to make a tangible difference to those workers and for our communities overall. Raising the minimum wage is smart policy and smart politics."

The 2019 bill would gradually raise Maryland's minimum wage by about one dollar a year to \$15 an hour by 2023 and automatically adjust it each year after that to keep up with the cost of living. According to the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, 90 percent of affected workers are at least 20 years old, and three out of five work full time. Workers who would benefit from a raise in the minimum wage include one in four Maryland working women, one in four Maryland workers of color, and 23,000 veterans.

The legislation would preserve the current Maryland law that allows communities to raise the wage higher in the future—and oppose any push to "preempt" local

power. It includes a raise for tipped workers who currently can be paid as little as \$3.63 an hour in Maryland.

"Working for tips is exactly like gambling. I live paycheck to paycheck and have never started a month feeling sure that if I worked full time, my rent would be paid by the end," said Drew Koshgarian, a bartender from Baltimore. "Raising the minimum wage to \$15 for tipped employees wouldn't end tipping, but it would protect us from this unreliable and illogical model for compensating our time and hard work."

The bill removes exemptions in current law for agricultural workers in rural parts of the state and ensures they are entitled to at least the state minimum wage. The legislation also includes younger workers under age 20—who are disproportionately from low-income households and half of whom are facing spiraling debt as they work their way through college.

Liz Richardson, the co-owner of Indigo Ink in Howard County, which has been in business for 15 years, currently has 17 employees and pays full-time workers at least \$15 per hour. She says, "Paying a minimum wage of \$15 is excellent for our business because it creates great company morale—the workers feel valued. Employees are a huge asset to businesses, especially when they stick around long term."

Recent polling shows that Marylanders across the state support taking action: This week's Goucher poll found that 67 percent of Marylanders support raising the minimum wage to \$15.

"Wages are low on the Shore. I make \$12.50 an hour. When I add up my rent,

utilities, transportation and food for myself and my daughter, I barely have enough. When an unexpected bill comes up, like a doctor's visit or car trouble, I fall behind. I don't make enough to keep a cushion," said Tameka Williams, a cook in Berlin. "It's not because we aren't working hard. Everyone I know works more than 40 hours a week and people have two and three jobs. The problem is the hourly wages are so low."

Worker advocates are pushing to enact a "Clean 15" bill that doesn't include loopholes that would exclude certain groups of struggling workers such as seasonal or commission-based workers. The House Economic Matters Committee held a lengthy hearing on the bill last week, with more than 200 people testifying. The House committee is scheduled to vote on the bill on Monday, Feb. 25.

The Maryland Minimum Wage Bill is sponsored by Delegate Diana Fennell (D-Prince George's County) and Senator Cory McCray (D-Baltimore City) and has bipartisan support. It is a top priority for the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and House Speaker Michael Busch have also said they want to raise the minimum wage this session.

Maryland Fight for \$15 coalition members include representatives from more than 200 faith, labor and community organizations and small businesses all working to make life better for workers and their families. Participating organizations include 1199SEIU, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Businesses for a Fair Minimum Wage, CASA, Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF), Jews United for Justice, Maryland State Education Association (MSEA), Maryland Working Families, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Progressive Maryland, Public Justice Center, United Food Commercial Workers (UFCW), Women's Law Center of Maryland, and many others.

## Maryland Receives Top Tier Rank In Public Health Preparedness

By PRESS OFFICERS  
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, Md. (Feb 12, 2019)—Maryland has been named one of 17 states most prepared for public health emergencies in a report issued by the non-profit public health organization Trust for America's Health. The Maryland Department of Health Office of Preparedness and Response strives for a prepared Maryland through coordinated statewide public health emergency plans, biosurveillance,

partnerships with local health departments and hospitals, medical countermeasure readiness and the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps.

"A public health emergency can happen at any time," said Maryland Department of Health Deputy Secretary for Public Health Fran Phillips. "We are proud to be top-ranked in public health preparedness and we will continue to work hard to ensure all Marylanders are safe and ready, should an emergency occur."

The report, *Ready or Not: Protecting*

the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism, used 10 indicators to determine each state's public health preparedness: incident management; cross-sector community collaboration; accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board; accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program; size of the public health budget; water security; workforce resiliency and infection control; countermeasure utilization; patient safety; and health security surveillance.

The Office of Preparedness and Response coordinates the state's public health and medical response during an emergency, including infectious disease out-

# OUT on the TOWN

## PRESENTED BY THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: Telegraph Quartet Performs Beethoven and Weinberg

By MAGGIE STAPLETON  
Jensen Artists

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Feb 7, 2019)—On **Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m.**, the Telegraph Quartet (Eric Chin and Joseph Maile, violins; Pei-Ling Lin, viola; Jeremiah Shaw, cello) is presented by The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (8270 Alumni Drive) in Gildenhorn Recital Hall, an intimate space with bright acoustics, offering a warm and inviting setting for chamber artists.

On this program, the Telegraph Quartet will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's exuberant String Quartet Op. 130—capped off with the original finale, the relentlessly striving "Grosse Fuge"—and Mieczyslaw Weinberg's bold yet elusive String Quartet No. 6, Op. 35, in celebration of Weinberg's centenary. Though he was overshadowed by his contemporary and dear friend Shostakovich, Weinberg spent much of his musical life exploring the quartet form and even wrote one more than Beethoven, totaling 17 in all. Weinberg was influenced by the legacy of Beethoven, whose great quartets revolutionized the form, and continued to explore what the medium could offer and how he could innovate the form.

In addition to the performance, the Telegraph Quartet will read works by University of Maryland School of Music student composers in a **free, public event on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.**

The Telegraph Quartet formed in 2013 with an equal passion for the standard chamber music repertoire and contemporary, non-standard works alike. Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "...an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape" and "powerfully adept... with a combination

of brilliance and subtlety," the Telegraph Quartet was awarded the prestigious 2016 Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the Grand Prize at the 2014 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition.

On September 7, 2018, the Telegraph Quartet released its debut album on the Centaur label, produced and engineered by Jesse Lewis. The album features three kaleidoscopic and kinetic modern string quartets from the 20th century—Leon Kirchner's String Quartet No. 1 (1949); Anton Webern's Fünf Sätze (Five Movements), Op. 5 (1909); and Benjamin Britten's Three Divertimenti (1936).

The Quartet has performed in concert halls, music festivals, and academic institutions across the United States and abroad, including New York City's Carnegie Hall, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Chamber Masters Series and at festivals including the Chautauqua Institute, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Emilia Romagna Festival. The Quartet is currently on the chamber music faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as their Quartet-in-Residence.

Notable collaborations include projects with cellists Norman Fischer and Bonnie Hampton; violinist Ian Swensen; pianist Simone Dinnerstein; and the Henschel Quartett. A fervent champion of 20th- and 21st-century repertoire, the Telegraph Quartet co-commissioned John Harbison's String Quartet No. 6 and gave its West Coast premiere in the fall of 2017 on San Francisco State University's Morrison Artists Series. The Quartet gave the world premiere of Robert Sirota's String Quartet No. 3, Wave upon Wave at Weill Recital Hall for their Carnegie Hall debut in 2018, sponsored by the Naumburg Foundation. The Telegraph Quartet also premiered

Richard Festinger's third string quartet, Icarus in Flight, a musical representation of climate change data from the year 1880 to projected simulations of 2080.

Beyond the concert stage, the Telegraph Quartet seeks to spread its music through education and audience engagement. In the Fall of 2017, the Quartet traveled to communities and schools in mid-coast Maine with Yellow Barn's Music Haul, a mobile performance stage that brings music outside of the concert hall to communities across the U.S. The

Quartet has given master classes at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Collegiate and Pre-College Divisions, through the Morrison Artist Series at San Francisco State University, and abroad at the Taipei National University of the Arts and National Taiwan Normal University.

While the Telegraph Quartet is indebted to numerous mentors and teachers, their primary musical guidance and support has come from Mark Sokol, Bonnie Hampton, and Ian Swensen, at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The Telegraph Quartet is based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information, visit [www.telegraphquartet.com](http://www.telegraphquartet.com). Tickets (\$25 general; \$10 student/youth) are available at [theclarice.umd.edu](http://theclarice.umd.edu) or by calling 301-405-2787.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT MATTHEW WASHBURN

The Telegraph Quartet will perform Friday, March 8. They will read works by University of Maryland School of Music student composers in a free, public event on Thursday, March 7.

### ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK ... Movie Review ...

#### Glass

Glass  
Grade: B  
Rated PG-13, a little mild profanity, some moderate violence  
2 hrs., 8 min.

Picking up a few weeks after "Split" and 18 years after "Unbreakable," M. Night Shyamalan's "Glass" concludes his weird comic book trilogy by bringing all the main players together, crossover-style. That includes David Dunn (Bruce Willis), the security guard who discovered in 2000 that he was virtually indestructible and could see people's sins when he touched them (a "sixth sense," if you will); Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), the brittle-boned comic book enthusiast

aka "Mr. Glass" who positioned himself as David's archenemy; and Kevin Wendell Crumb (James McAvoy), the multiple-personality serial killer from "Split" whose horde of internal voices includes a superhuman beast.

These three are classic comic book archetypes—the reluctant hero, the brainy villain, and the remorseless anarchist—but Shyamalan isn't building toward a classic comic book showdown, at least not in the usual sense. Expecting "Glass" to be a superhero movie, even an M. Night Shyamalan version of one, is the surest path to disappointment.

It is, instead, a nerdy deep-dive into the filmmaker's ideas about superhero movies, featur-

ing deconstruction of comic book storytelling mixed with suspense tropes. The title character initially seems to have been given that honor simply because it's his turn (the unbreakable man and the split man already had theirs), but it proves to be thematically appropriate. He may not be the protagonist, but Elijah Price's existential quandary—"What is my place in this world?"—is at the center of the movie.

David has spent the years since "Unbreakable" running a home-security store by day, being an avenging angel by night. Dubbed "the Overseer" by the media, he's assisted by his son, Joseph (Spencer Treat Clark), who stays back at the Batcave watching David's body-cam feed and advising him via earpiece. Finding the still on-the-loose serial killer from "Split" is a top priority, but so is avoiding detection by the police, who don't like vigilantes because the cops are a bunch of squares.

Elijah Price, meanwhile, has spent the intervening years doped up in a hospital for the criminally insane whose name, like many movie asylums, has the word "raven" in it. David and Kevin Wendell Crumb both end up here, too, and we get to the meat of the story, wherein Dr. Ellie Staple (Sarah Paulson) tries to treat their "delusion" of being superhuman. She works specifically with people who think they have comic book powers. This is a bit of a non-starter for the audience—we've seen these guys in action; it ain't no delusion—but it's enough to make David start to doubt his sanity. David's son and Elijah's mother (Charlayne Woodard) are eventually involved, as is Casey Cooke (Anya Taylor-Joy), the girl who escaped from Kevin at the end of "Split" after developing affection for his true, un-crazy persona.

As a fan of "Unbreakable"

and "Split," I like how Shyamalan combines the comic book elements of the former and the horror elements of the latter into the nutty, self-aware, periodically thrilling amalgamation that is "Glass." (The tie-ins to "Unbreakable," including the use of its deleted scenes, are also well done.) Elijah isn't just the physically weak madman who teams up with a brutish thug to achieve his goals; he's the madman who's fully aware that this is how it always plays out in the comics, who believes he's fulfilling his destiny by becoming a comic book supervillain and comments on it frequently.

But Shyamalan is dead-set against giving us what he sets us up to want. He even teases a specific third-act climax and then devilishly (annoyingly?) doesn't provide it. The story spirals into lunacy and the conclusion is unsatisfying, though it's hard to say just how unsatisfying Shyamalan meant it to be. I suspect his thinking was, "It's so different from what you thought it would be! Isn't that great?!"

But I enjoyed most of the movie, different though it was from expectations. James McAvoy delivers another amazing performance as the multi-minded Kevin, giving each of his personalities his or her own voice, walk, and mannerisms, switching between them without missing a beat. The content may be frivolous, but the skill required to pull it off convincingly is masterclass-level. And while I wish there had been another sequel somewhere that focused on David and Joseph Dunn's crime-fighting escapades, we get an exciting snapshot of them here that will have to suffice. I don't like all of Shyamalan's choices, but I sure get a kick out of watching him do exactly what he wants to do.

From *Unbreakable*, Bruce Willis returns as David Dunn as does Samuel L. Jackson as Elijah Price, known also by his pseudonym Mr. Glass. Joining from *Split* are James McAvoy, reprising his role as Kevin Wendell Crumb and the multiple identities who reside within, and Anya Taylor-Joy as Casey Cooke, the only captive to survive an encounter with *The Beast*. Following the conclusion of *Split*, Glass finds Dunn pursuing Crumb's superhuman figure of *The Beast* in a series of escalating encounters, while the shadowy presence of Price emerges as an orchestrator who holds secrets critical to both men.

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### Calendar Spotlight

#### Highland Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 2–3:30 p.m.  
**Reservation and payment required in advance. Call the museum for details.**

Description: Attention lads and lassies! Spend a cozy winter afternoon at Darnall's Chance Museum and celebrate the museum's Scottish roots by partaking in a traditional Scottish tea. Wear plaid and be entered into a drawing for Scottish-themed door prizes. ADA: Yes

Cost: \$25/Resident; \$32/Non-resident

Ages: 18 and older

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

#### Bridging the Gap / Afternoon Tea

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 2–3 p.m.

Description: Bridging the Gap is the highly acclaimed string duo featuring violinist Peter Wilson and double bassist Aaron Clay. Hailed by *The Washington Post* for "superior arrangements and uncommon musicianship," this unlikely duo offers a unique voice to many musical styles, performing music of the classical tradition, jazz, big band, folk, film music, popular song, and even funk. Known for their engaging personalities on stage, incorporating humor and audience participation in their shows, they have appeared in venues from school classrooms and private homes to concert halls and stadiums.

Cost: \$18/person; **Buy through PARKS DIRECT!**

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY: 301-699-2544

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#### Harmony Hall Arts Center

PHOTO COURTESY THE M-NCPPC

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Harmony Hall Arts Center: 10701 Livingston Road,  
Fort Washington, MD 20744 • 301-203-6070 •  
<http://www.mncppc.org/1979/Harmony-Hall-Arts-Center>



# Calendar of Events

## February 28–March 6, 2019

### Book Discussion: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Date and Time: Thursday, February 28, 2019, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Description: Join us for a book discussion of the autobiographical memoir of former First Lady Michelle Obama. Come ready to share your perspective on the deeply personal experiences she shared about her roots, finding her voice and her time in the White House. Enjoy refreshments and participate in trivia about the author to win prizes.

Cost: FREE!  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744  
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

### Outdoor Stewardship Volunteer Event

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Description: Join our Invasive Plant team monitor and repel the growing threat of invasive plants. Learn valuable information that help protect vulnerable species in our region. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Cost: Free  
Ages: 8 and above  
Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
Contact: 301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

### Read Across America: Dr. Seuss Day

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Description: The first 50 people will receive a FREE "Read Across America" calendar! Join us for a day with the cat in the big striped hat! Enjoy exciting games, crafts, tasty treats, and beloved stories by Dr. Seuss.

Cost: Resident: \$6; Non-resident: \$8. **Register through PARKS DIRECT!**  
Ages: 2–12  
Location: Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715  
Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

### Fierce Superheroes & Villains

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 1–3 p.m.  
Description: When superheroes first appeared in comic books, many minority groups were heavily underrepresented. This exciting program and exhibit will celebrate the many fierce black women superheroes & villains of comic books, television, and the big screen. Who is your favorite?

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-resident \$4  
Ages: 6 and older  
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710  
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

### Afternoon Aviators

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 2–4 p.m.  
Description: How do pilots land planes? Together we will learn what the marker lines on runways mean, and how to use them. Then we will put our skills to the test by creating life-sized runways to land our paper planes, just like pilots! Don't miss out on the fun!

Cost: \$5, includes museum admission  
Ages: 6 and older  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

### Ronnie Spector and The Ronettes

Date and Time: Saturday, March 2, 2019, 8 p.m.  
Description: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees Ronnie Spector and The Ronettes recorded some of the most best-loved hits in the history of rock and roll including the international number one smash "Be My Baby."

Cost: \$55 Regular, \$50 Faculty/Staff, and \$45 Students  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850  
Contact: 240-567-5301, [www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac)

### Every Kid in a Park—Meet at the Ranger Station

Date and Time: Sunday, March 3, 2019, 1 p.m.  
Description: 4th graders—come and learn how to get a free pass to National Parks as we play "Guess Your National Park" game.

Cost: Free  
Ages: 8 and above  
Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
Contact: 301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

### Community Art Drop-In

Date and Time: Sunday, March 3, seatings at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.  
**Reservations required, email [agardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:agardner@greenbeltmd.gov)**  
Description: Tell a story with creative collage. Materials provided! Collage-making workshop with Artist in Residence Raquel Keller.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 201, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Contact: 301-397-2208

### Women's History Month Movie Matinee

Date and Time: Monday, March 4, 2019, 1 p.m.  
Description: In celebration of Women's History Month, enjoy a film that follows the friendship of two high profile activists.

Cost: Free  
Ages: Adults  
Location: Glenarden Branch Library, 8724 Glenarden Pkwy., Glenarden, MD 20770  
Contact: 301 772-5477; 240-696-3844

### Story Explorers: Malala Yousafzai

Date and Time: Monday, March 4, 2019, 4 p.m.  
Description: Come listen to a librarian read stories aloud and do related activities and games to celebrate Women's History Month!

Cost: Free  
Ages: 5–12  
Location: Largo-Kettering Branch Library, 9601 Capital Lane, Largo, MD 20774  
Contact: 301-336-4044

## PLAN AHEAD

### Francis Scott Key Lecture Series—

#### Inspirations Behind Maryland's Unique Quilt Tradition

Date and Time: Thursday, March 7, 2019, 6 p.m. *The lecture begins at 6:30 pm. Reception to follow*

Description: Presented by Alden O'Brien, Curator of Costumes and Textiles, Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, Maryland has a rich and unique quilt tradition. Maryland women made use of the finest fabrics pouring into Baltimore's port and, later, cottons produced in America's factories to create stunning works of textile art. Alden O'Brien will explore how English quilt traditions, decorative arts trends, Maryland furniture and even local Baltimore life inspired quilt makers to develop quilt styles that fit within regional traditions, yet were uniquely Maryland, from early 1800s chintz appliqué, to the famous Baltimore Album quilts at mid-century.

Cost: \$50/person. **Register at [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org)**  
Ages: Adults  
Location: Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201-4674  
Contact: 410-685-3750

### Alison Crockett

Date and Time: Friday, March 8, 2019, 8–10 p.m.  
Description: Alison Crockett is the quintessential nu jazz/progressive soul singer of her generation. You may have heard her on seminal recordings by King Britt, Blue Six, Us3, Landslide, John Wicks, Mathematics, and a whole host of other albums. Crockett's voice has provided the velvety, sensual sound of tomorrow's yesterdays, a captivating tone which evokes both the music of the past and that yet to come. Her voice is dripping with generous helpings of jazz, gospel, and blues. As she says, "I set out to be a craftsman, someone who could mold and shape music like sculpture." ADA: Yes

Cost: Tickets: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members and seniors. **Reservation is required. Reservation Deadline: March 8, 2019**  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Prince George's County Historical Society's Spring Lecture Series:

#### African American Women in Music: The Music of Pearl Bailey

Date and Time: Saturday, March 9, 2019, 1 p.m.

Description: Pearl Bailey, 1918–1990, was a singer, actress, author, and performer appearing in vaudeville, Broadway, and television. She won a Tony Award and a Daytime Emmy award. Ms. Bailey toured during WWII with the USO, and later after many Broadway productions, she hosted her own television variety series in 1971. She received the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award, she was appointed special ambassador to the United Nations in 1975, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1988. Ms. Bailey is the author of a number of books which include reflections upon her life, and her popular cookbook. *Light refreshments will be served following the program.*

Cost: \$5/person. **Call to reserve your seat!**  
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769  
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT  
WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY  
[PUBLIC DOMAIN]

### Verda's Place: An Homage to a Valiant Woman

Date/Time: Friday, March 8, 2019, 6–8 p.m. Opening Reception  
Description: In 1962, Verda Freeman Welcome became the first Black woman in the country to be elected to a State Senate. Seven years later, she introduced legislation creating the first ethnic commission in the United States, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). In celebration of the MCAAHC's 50th Anniversary we are launching this new exhibition. Through memorabilia, photographs, and archival documents, Verda's Place encourages interaction and participation to move beyond the exhibition space and into the communities of those who visit. Come learn more about this valiant woman and her legacy as we launch this new, interactive exhibition, which will be on display from March 8–December 28, 2019.

Cost: Free, register at [bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/](http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/)  
Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: 410-216-6180

## Earth TALK™ Wishing For More Fish in The Sea As Marine Wildlife Dwindles

### Dear EarthTalk:

*There's a lot of talk about overfishing and pollution wreaking havoc in marine ecosystems, but has anyone actually studied if there is less wildlife in the oceans these days?*

—Melissa Cassidy, Raleigh, NC

Environmental advocates do spend a lot of time harping about threats to our oceans, but sadly for all of us the facts bear out the concern. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), population numbers for the majority of marine wildlife species have declined by half since 1970, with many species down as much as 75 percent. Furthermore, a third of all fish stocks are overfished and one in four species of cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays and skates) are living on the brink of extinction. "Driving all these trends are human actions: from overfishing and resource depletion, to coastal development and pollution, to the greenhouse gas emissions causing ocean acidification and warming," says WWF's Senior VP for Oceans Brad Ack.

Another recent study by University of British Columbia researchers corroborates WWF's findings, concluding that the biomass of predatory fish in the world's oceans has declined by some two-thirds over the last 100 years, and the decline is accelerating, with 54 percent of it occurring in the last 40 years.

No doubt these changes are happening partly as a result of overfishing. According to the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), nearly 90 percent of the world's marine fish stocks are either fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.

Efforts to rein in the industry in the U.S. and elsewhere have led to more sustainable practices, but bad actors still ply deep sea

waters with destructive trawlers and other gear which not only collect more fish than is sustainable but also inadvertently kill many other marine wildlife in the process.

There is some hope. Early results of efforts to essentially rope off certain parts of the ocean as "marine protected areas" (MPAs) to let marine wildlife recover are showing promise. A Center for Biological Diversity analysis of 31 marine wildlife populations found that habitat and other protections afforded them under the Endangered Species Act helped them rebound significantly, with three-quarters of endangered marine mammal and sea turtle species increasing population sizes accordingly.

"The Endangered Species Act not only saved whales, sea turtles, sea otters and manatees from extinction, it dramatically increased their population numbers, putting them solidly on the road to full recovery," says the Center for Biological Diversity's Shaye Wolf. "Humans often destroy marine ecosystems, but our study shows that with strong laws and careful stewardship, we can also restore them, causing wildlife numbers to surge."

Another way to stop or slow the overexploitation of marine resources would be to end the approximately \$20 billion in yearly subsidies for harmful fisheries that encourage destructive practices. The World Trade Organization has pledged to set new targets by mid-2019 that would require member



PHOTO BY TOM FISK, PEXELS

**The oceans certainly aren't as crowded as they used to be now that we have depleted stocks of large marine predators through overfishing, pollution and climate change.**

nations to reroute any such subsidies toward investments in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and coastal community development to reduce pressure on fish stocks. But even if such a drastic restructuring of the fisheries economy takes place, environmental leaders worry it may be too little too late.

**CONTACTS:** "A century of fish biomass decline in the ocean," [www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v512/p155-166/](http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v512/p155-166/); "Marine mammals and sea turtles listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act are recovering," [journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0210164](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0210164); FAO, [www.fao.org/fisheries/en/](http://www.fao.org/fisheries/en/).

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine ([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). **Send questions to:** [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

**TUESDAY TIP**

## COLD WEATHER AND YOUR PET

When the weather outside is frightful, taking care of your four-legged family members in the cold is delightful!

- Winter brings extreme weather that can cause power outages. Have an emergency plan and make sure to include your pets.
- Wipe or rinse off your pet's paws after an outing with a wet cloth to remove any ice or chemicals used to melt snow.
- If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on your car hood before starting the engine to give them a chance to escape.
- If your dog stays outdoors, County law requires a house of proper size that is dry, draft free and at least two inches off the ground. For more cold pet weather tips and laws, check out [bit.ly/coldtipsforpet](http://bit.ly/coldtipsforpet)

second NATURE Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment, Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8 p.m.

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### 9-1-1 Bill from A1

munication integration. Four states—Indiana, Iowa, Maine and Vermont—have already implemented Next Generation 9-1-1.

While the new legislation is intended to protect the privacy and sensitive information of victims, others perceive the bill as a "blanket denial" that will affect the core of the Public Information Act, which is to establish government transparency and accountability.

Among those opposed to the new legislation are the Public Justice Center and the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland.

In testimony, the ACLU of Maryland said that the terms "gruesome and gory" are too subjective and could allow officials to withhold certain documents and information that should be disclosed to the public.

"We very much appreciate and support the interest in protecting domestic violence and victims of any kind of violence from further injury by having information disclosed," said Public Policy Director of the ACLU of Maryland Toni Holness. "The reality is, under our current Public Information Act, (it) gives officials broad discretion to deny a record if an investigation is pending."

In testimony, the ACLU of Maryland added that after an investigation is complete, officials may withhold documents if the disclosure would:

- Interfere with a valid and proper law enforcement proceeding;
- Deprive another person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;
- Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- Disclose the identity of a confidential source;
- Disclose an investigative technique or procedure;
- Prejudice an investigation; or
- Endanger the life or physical safety of an individual.

In turn, the ACLU of Maryland argued that the new legislation is a "solution in search of a problem."

Under current law, denial of public records is broken down into two categories: required and discretionary denials.

Required denials allow officials to deny inspection of public records that are confidential or release would violate state or federal laws or a court order, according to a state analysis.

Discretionary denials provide officials the opportunity to deny inspection of a public record if they believe it would be against the public interest, including investigatory records, or information related to academic, licensing or employment examinations, according to the Maryland Public Information Act.

The legislation also blocks certain information provided by third parties.

### Minimum Wage from A1

Consumers would be hurt as employers raise prices to afford the rising wages, and businesses could "pack their bags and move across state lines," Toraldo said.

Workers younger than 25 made up nearly half of those paid minimum wage in the U.S., a 2018 study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found.

Raising wages would be detrimental to employees, said John Henderson, owner of an Outback Steakhouse in Ellicott City, Maryland.

After the last increase to the minimum wage, prices had to rise too, and the busboy sector of the restaurant had to be let go, Henderson said.

Currently, employers can pay workers less if additional money from tips reaches the minimum wage. This "tip credit" would be phased out by 2026 under the bill.

Jay Steinmetz, CEO of Barcoding Inc., headquartered in Baltimore, told Capital News Service that his company lost a \$50 million contract because their pricing could not compete with companies based in North Carolina.

North Carolina has a minimum wage of \$7.25, and Maryland's neighboring states do not have a minimum wage higher than \$8.75.

People who have never run a payroll, workers compensation and unemployment should not be making the laws, Steinmetz said.

"We'll move our business" out of Maryland, said Steinmetz.

*Editor's Note: See page A5 for another article on this topic.*

### Preparedness from A5

breaks and pandemics, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism. The Office develops, updates and exercises plans for a variety of emergencies, including medical countermeasures, seasonal flu, Ebola Virus Disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, mass fatalities, and public health and health care services recovery.

To ensure staff are properly trained and ready for any public health emergency, the Office regularly plans and participates in local, state and national exercises. Last year, the Office coordinated with agencies throughout Maryland, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a full-scale exercise designed to test public health readiness during a fictitious hurricane and illness outbreak. The exercise tested Maryland's ability to receive and distribute medical materials from the Strategic National Stockpile, the nation's largest supply of medications and medical supplies for use during an emergency. Office of Preparedness and Response staff and Maryland Responds pharmacists used the medical countermeasure plan to ensure secure and safe distribution of these supplies to the local jurisdictions.

Maryland's public health preparedness also includes using non-traditional data sources, such as deidentified school absenteeism data and pharmacy sales, to quickly identify disease outbreaks and other suspicious patterns of illness. This rapid, automated biosurveillance process allows staff to gather and analyze data more quickly than a traditional method of reporting disease.

The Office of Preparedness and Response is also home to the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps, a community-based volunteer program that helps support public health initiatives and response capabilities in Maryland. Maryland Responders volunteer their skills, expertise and time to assist the state and their communities in a crisis. To learn more about Maryland Responds and sign up to volunteer, visit <https://mdr.health.maryland.gov>.

In addition to getting involved with Maryland Responds, Marylanders are encouraged to practice public health preparedness by:

- Creating an emergency kit for their home and vehicle
- Having enough food, water and medical supplies to last three to five days for each member of the family, including pets
- Keeping a current list of medications you are taking
- Making a communications plan with family and friends
- Becoming familiar with alerts, warnings and local emergency services and sign up for alerts at <http://bit.ly/MDpartners>
- Keeping important documents in a waterproof portable container

To learn more about how the Maryland Department of Health is working to ensure public health preparedness across the state, visit <https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov>. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MarylandOPR> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR> for current public health preparedness information.