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Remember and Honor Our Heroes May 27, Memorial Day 2019

See page A6 for information on Bowie's Parade, A Celebration in Brandywine, and more!

PHOTO CREDIT MORGUEFILE BIGAL101

Interim PGCPs CEO Announces Salary Step Restoration Plan For Staff Impacted By Recession

The proposal will impact nearly 8,300 eligible employees.

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 14, 2019)—Today, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Interim CEO Dr. Monica Goldson announced a salary step restoration proposal to compensate dedicated employees. Teachers, principals and support staff whose raises were frozen during the economic downturn yet remained with PGCPS consistently for the last 10 years will receive a restorative salary increase over the next three years. All eligible employees will receive a 3 percent salary increase in addition

to any current negotiated compensation enhancements. In total, nearly 8,300 employees are eligible for the salary restoration proposal. The plan will be funded through a combination of state Kirwan funding and nearly \$20 million in cuts from across the school system, none impacting resources in the classroom.

"For the last decade our community and employees have been slowly recovering from one of the worst economic recessions in the nation's history. Along with teachers, our bus

drivers, school nurses and custodians bore the brunt of lost wages and have seen the least increase in their paychecks over the last 10 years," said Dr. Goldson. "Through it all, these employees were committed to serving our students and building the next generation. Taking this step forward demonstrates our commitment to retaining employees and recruiting the best to join us in the years to come."

During the economic downturn, numerous cost-savings strategies were used to limit the impact on students and schools, including a "freeze" on employee salary increases from

2009 to 2012. Based on draft estimates from a PGCPS compensation study, the \$46 million commitment to restore the lost salary steps will impact close to 8,300 employees, including nearly 3,500 teachers and over 3,650 support staff. The proposal provides one step increase annually for the next three fiscal years. This will cost just under \$16 million annually for the next two years and approximately \$15 million for the third year.

PGCPS will continue working with its four union partners—ACE-American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2250, Association of Supervisory and Administrative School Personnel (ASASP), Prince George's County Educators' Association (PGCEA) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 400—to formally negotiate compensation items.

Council Responds to Interim Schools CEO Employee Salary Step Restoration Plan

UPPER MARLBORO (May 14, 2019)—The Prince George's County Schools Interim CEO, Dr. Monica Goldson, has announced a multi-year, \$46.5 million proposal to restore recession-related salary cuts to support nearly 8,300 school employees. Scheduled step increases for school staff have remained frozen over the last ten years.

The Prince George's County Council supports Prince George's County Schools funding, including operational, formula and construction spending. The proposed salary step restoration plan would be supported with funding from the State Kirwan Commission and nearly \$20 million in school system cuts, none impacting classroom resources.

The Council welcomes Dr. Goldson's efforts to address this longstanding issue for dedicated school employees who have continued to serve the system and its students, despite fiscal challenges.

As the County's fiscal authority, and in consideration of the current Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Review Process, the County Council will perform its due diligence and conduct a fiscal impact analysis of the salary step restoration proposal on the Board of Education Budget.

—Karen D. Campbell, Prince George's County Council Media

Five Prince George's County Students Win Awards at Maryland History Day

Outstanding Maryland Teachers Also Honored

By CHRISTINE (CHRIS) STEWART
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE, Md. (May 14, 2019)—Nearly 700 middle and high school students gathered to present their extensive historical research at the 2019 Maryland History Day competition. The competition, held on May 12 at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), is the culmination of a year-long program from Maryland Humanities. In 2019, more than 25,000 Maryland students participated at the school level.

Working solo or in small groups, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme, which this year is "Triumph and Tragedy in History." Maryland History Day sparks critical thinking and helps develop skills in research and analysis, writing, and public speaking. The program is open to public, private, parochial, and homeschool students in grades 6 through 12.

Competitors at Maryland History Day have already won first or second place in their category at school and district levels. Students from sixteen Maryland counties and Baltimore City received special awards, designated for outstanding Maryland History Day projects that cover specific subjects.

Students from seven Maryland counties and Baltimore City will represent Maryland at the National History Day competition, where they will compete among 3,000 participants from across the country and beyond. National History Day is June 9–13, 2019 at the University of Maryland in College Park. The competition involves students from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia. Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day, a non-profit education organization that promotes an appreciation for historical research among middle and high school students through multiple annual programs, including the National History Day Contest.

Support for Maryland History Day is provided by the State of Maryland through the Maryland State Department of Education, Old Line Bank, Thalheimer-Eurich Charitable Fund, Columbia Gas of Maryland, and Wegmans.

Maryland History Day Winners 2019

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Special Prize Winners:

Student: **Daniel Bates**

Award: Special Prize, Peace Study Awards, Senior Division, sponsored by Peace Study Center, Baltimore



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT MITRO HOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Daniel Bates (R) and The Honorable Mark Semanie, Executive VP and COO of Old Line Bank. Old Line Bank is one of the event sponsors.

Topic: The Destroyer of Worlds

Category: Exhibit

School: Homeschool

Teacher: Robin Bates

See MARYLAND HISTORY DAY Page A3

Anne Arundel Medical Center and Doctors Community Health System Announce Intent to Form New Health System

By ARMINTA PLATER
Anne Arundel Medical Center

ANNAPOLIS, Md. and LANHAM, Md. (May 13, 2019)—Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) and Doctors Community Health System (DCHS) are taking the first step in the formation of a new health system that will serve the region. The two hospitals are working toward a definitive agreement pending completion of a due diligence process and standard regulatory approval.

Last year, DCHS began the search for a partner to help strengthen its existing services, make new investments, and to continue to meet the needs of patients and the Prince George's County community.

"Partnership is essential for independent hospitals that are working to navigate the rapidly changing health care environment," said Philip Down, CEO of DCHS. "We vetted many affiliation opportunities, and ultimately chose Anne Arundel Medical Center because of our shared values of community service and quality care."

While the hospitals have primary locations in separate counties, there are bordering service areas between the two, with AAMC serving patients in Prince George's County through locations in Largo and Bowie, and DCHS serving patients in its Crofton location.

"Our contiguous service areas make this an ideal opportunity to come together and provide care to our collective community," said Victoria Bayless, president and CEO of AAMC. "We determined that our counties share more than just a border, and we want to make the region in which we operate healthier as a whole. Together, we believe that we can bring better care to the residents of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties."

Through the new health system, AAMC plans to invest up to \$138 million over five years in the existing DCHS campus and its IT infrastructure, expand inpatient and outpatient services, and launch much-needed programs that support the Prince George's County Community Health Needs Assessment.

"We are excited by the opportunities this partnership is designed to deliver and look forward to working with the team at AAMC to learn from one another," said Rene LaVigne, chairman of Doctors Community Hospital's Board of Trustees. "We admire the high level of care that AAMC provides its patients, and the incredible abilities of its staff, which is why we view them as an ideal partner as we plan for how to best serve this region in the years ahead."

"AAMC is excited by the opportunity to partner with DCHS and to expand and enhance care across Prince George's County. Together, the two systems can meet the unique needs of this region and grow, even in a complex and challenging health care environment," said John Belcher, chairman of AAMC's Board of Trustees.

Due diligence discussions are expected to continue for the next 30 days. A name for the new health system will be announced this summer.

INSIDE

Northwestern, Parkdale Students Win First Place at Final Scholastic Olympics

The math-a-thon, which is considered the signature competition, is played like the popular television Jeopardy game show.... Spelling is a regular spelling bee-type competition. History focuses on U.S. facts and current events.

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: Graduation Season: Celebrating Accomplishments, Committing to Equality

[Last] week marked the 65th anniversary of *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*... Falling as it does in the midst of graduation season, it is an occasion to reflect on the significance of the decision and how far we have yet to go.

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland's Consumer Advocates Push For New Debt Collection Laws

Over the last quarter century, the debt burden for many Marylanders has increased through a combination of rising housing, healthcare and tuition costs coupled with stagnant wage growth.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review:

Little

Chism's screenplay may be pale and tired, but 14-year-old Marsai Martin (from TV's "Black-ish") is a firecracker. She's convincing as a supercilious woman in an awkward teen's body and easily holds her own in every scene.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I am in the market for a small motor boat to putter around in lakes near my home in Michigan but I don't want to contribute to water pollution. What are my options?

—Marlene Y., Merritt, MI

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Archbishop Gregory to celebrate Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery

Throughout the Washington Archdiocese, outdoor Mass (under a tent) is celebrated at Catholic cemeteries on Memorial Day, May 27 at 10 a.m., to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, the new Archbishop of Washington, will be celebrant and homilist at Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Rd., Clinton.

Other cemeteries and the celebrants include:

Mount Olivet Cemetery, 1300 Bladensburg Rd., Washington. Auxiliary Bishop Michael W. Fisher.

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell.

All Souls Cemetery, 11401 Brink Rd., Germantown. Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville.

St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Rd., Mechanicsville, Md. Father David Beaubien, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Leonardtown.

All are welcome.

Neighbors and other good people

Happy birthday to Gladys Locks who turned 90 on May 10. Gladys lived in Skyline for years and is the mother of Skyline 2nd vice-president, Kenia Spivey.

Wendi Winters, one of the five journalists murdered in the June 28 mass shooting at *The Capital Gazette* newsroom in Annapolis, has received the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association's first Courage in Journalism Award at its annual conference May 10. She ran at the shooter, probably saving lives, but it cost Wendi her life.

Carolyn Blake won the only Council position up for election in District Heights Ward 2. She will serve alongside Mayor Eddie Martin and Commissioners, Harryette Irving, Johnathan Medlock and Cynthia Miller.

Skyline Citizens Assn. held their Spring meeting on May 15 at the Firehouse. Dr. Alvin Thornton, Chairman of the County School Board, gave an interesting presentation on the County's 208 (!) schools. Carla Cash, District 8 Constituent Services Representative, gave us all ideas about how we can complain to her—and she'll be diligent

in helping to solve the problem. Morningside Mayor Benn Cann filled us in on what's happening in Morningside. It was a good meeting.

Condolences to Motoko Howard, longtime organist at St. Philip's Church, on the death of her father Shotaro Ueta, on May 2. Motoko, her husband Frank and son Max flew to Takamatsu, Japan, to attend the funeral and be with his family.

Good news for Morningside VFD, McNamara and White Rose

The Maryland General Assembly evaluated 262 Legislative Bond Initiative requests and totaled approximately \$70 million for:

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, \$325,000 for an expansion "that will allow responding vehicles to be safely housed and more easily dispatched" when needed. This was in partnership with Delegates Dereck Davis, Darryl Barnes and Nick Charles, District 25.

Bishop McNamara HS, \$250,000 for renovation and to establish a science and innovation center "where important and much-needed training will be provided in the central part of District 25."

Suitland's White Rose Foundation Facility, \$250,000 "to improve their ability to provide health and social services to children, families and seniors" in the community's underserved areas.

Coming up

Town of Morningside's Community Yard Sale, Saturday, June 8, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date June 15). Set-up begins at 7:30 at the Morningside Firehouse. Tables/space, \$10 for Morningside & Skyline; \$15 for non-residents. To reserve, call Mon.–Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 301-736-2301.

The Forestville Pregnancy Center's annual Golf Tournament at Oak Creek Golf Course. Fee is \$125, which covers breakfast, snacks and refreshments during the day, lunch, door prizes, and more. And there's a chance of winning \$10,000 at one of the designated holes. Register your foursome online at www.forestvillepregnancycenter.org.

Do you remember Shannon?

Do you recall a man who used to knock on doors in Morningside and Skyline years ago, selling sewing needles? His name was Shannon Noe, and he was from Houston, Texas. He came

for years, once a year, always walking. The last time, as I remember, he seemed shriveled, from being out in the sun. Shannon Noe. Do you remember him?

I think the needles started out being 50 cents a packet and inflated to \$1. (I still have several.)

Morningside Memories: 30 years ago

The Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Middle Branch Park across the Patapsco River from downtown Baltimore, was dedicated May 28, 1989. Inscribed on it are 1,046 names of Maryland men who died in the War.

Thomas F. Brown, Jr., is the only Morningsider. He died Oct. 10, 1969 and was the son of Thomas and Helen Brown who lived at 307 Larkspur Road.

Suitland residents who died: Charles H. Blankenship, Woodrow C. Cronkrite, Harry R. Italiano, Charles D. Smith, James R. Taylor and David L. Wright. District Heights: Thomas W. Jones. Hillcrest Heights: William W. Abshear. Marlow Heights: James S. Allport. Silver Hill: William L. Campbell. Forestville: Francis B. Concannon and Ronald E. Stoker.

Frank Rinaldo, MPD Detective

Frank Rinaldo, 94, of District Heights, died May 13. He was born in Camillus, N.Y., son of Italian immigrants Raymond and Maria Rinaldo.

He served in the Navy during WWII, was a Metropolitan Police Detective Sergeant and Security Counselor for Bowie High School.

His wife Margaret preceded him in death. He was the father of Mary, Teresa, Steve, Ray, Mike, Patricia and the late Jeannette; grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of seven. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Spirit Church, Forestville, with burial at Resurrection.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Edna Lucas and Harry Messer, May 24; Dennis Cook, Norma Edwards and my son John McHale, May 25; Christopher Nichols, Gary Lewis, Sr. and Steven Busky, May 27; Teddy Burke and Kevin Nichols, May 30; Ruth Garner, Aiyana Poe, my granddaughter Sarah McHale and John Tierney, May 31.

Happy anniversary to John and Nichole Barbour on May 25.

Around the County

BOXTOROW HBCU Football Daily Podcast Highlights Bowie State June 20

BOXTOROW, a subsidiary of DWCommunications, LLC, brings back BOXTOROW w/Donal Ware HBCU Football Daily Podcast for the third year beginning Wednesday, June 19. Last year, BOXTOROW celebrated the 126th year of HBCU football with its first ever daily podcast.

Ware will preview all 51 HBCU football programs in a daily (Monday–Friday) podcast, leading up to the kickoff of the HBCU football season, which begins Thursday, August 29.

Download or listen to the podcasts at <https://boxtorow.com/hbcu-football-podcast/>. The podcast Schedule highlights Bowie State on 6/20.

—Donal Ware, BOXTOROW

Students Win Wisconsin Idea Fellowships

MADISON, Wis. (May 10, 2019)—The 2019–20 Wisconsin Idea Fellowships have been awarded to nine outstanding undergraduate projects at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A student from Prince George's County has won a fellowship.

The projects, which are all rooted in the concept of addressing needs identified by community partners, range in topic from food insecurity, the disparity in education, addressing ecosystem issues and more. A total of 15 UW-Madison undergraduate students are part of this year's projects, sponsored by the Morgridge Center for Public Service.

Now in its 21st year, Wisconsin Idea Fellowships (WIF) are awarded annually to UW-Madison undergraduate projects working to solve issues identified by local or global communities. Fellowships are awarded to semester-long or year-long projects designed by an undergraduate student or group of students in collaboration with a community organization and a UW faculty or staff member.

Projects receive both logistical support as well as financial support-up to \$7,000 in total depending on project scope and duration. A portion of each project's funding is awarded to students as a personal stipend, allowing them to pursue a WIF project using time they might have otherwise worked a job. Some projects will begin this summer, and some will last through next May.

Included in this year's program are also three annual special awards sponsored by: The Michael Thornton and Nora Medina Social Innovation Award, and two American Family Social Entrepreneurship Award.

The winning project team [from Prince George's County is]:

College Readiness for Students of Color Through Diverse Engagement and Programming

Students: Sarah Neufcourt—Ivry-Sur-Seine, France,

Jocelyn Lewis—Largo, Maryland

This project promotes equity, diversity and success in agriculture and natural resources related studies as well as college readiness for underrepresented students in Milwaukee, WI. In partnership with Vincent High School in Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Minorities of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (UW MANRRS), high-school students will participate in a four-day Agricultural Immersion and College Readiness program on the UW-Madison campus. During both the fall and spring semesters, high school students are invited to visit campus where they will attend workshops, networking sessions and presentations focusing on resources and opportunities available to students of color at UW-Madison.

For more information, go to <https://morgridge.wisc.edu/2019/04/17/2019-20-wisconsin-idea-fellowships-awarded-to-nine-projects/>

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Save-the-Date—

Caring for the Continuum of Life 2019:

A Healthcare Symposium

PASADENA, Md. (May 13, 2019) — After the success of last year's inaugural event, Hospice of the Chesapeake will once again host a free educational opportunity for professionals and community members. The Caring for the Continuum of Life: A 2019 Healthcare Symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, 6801 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland. Hosted by the Chesapeake Life Center, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Palliative Medicine, the symposium will feature a full day of presentations from experts in the fields of hospice and palliative care, grief counseling and spirituality. Some of the sessions will offer continuing education credits.

Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Ben Marcantonio said the goal of the symposium is to provide much-needed education to empower patient-centric decision making and begin to change the way families experience advanced illness, end of life, and grief and loss.

"We are part of the world's most advanced healthcare systems and we still see people struggle to navigate decisions about treatment or gain access to the care that will best meet their needs," Marcantonio said. "What we see most significantly is that patients and families do not always receive all the information they need to make informed decisions about the care they want."

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the nonprofit, which started after two nurses, Fran Grauch and Marth O'Herlihy, attended a lecture by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross that showed them a new way to care for patients in their end of life: To provide skilled care that embraces the mind, body and spirit and focuses on comfort and quality of life. It is fitting that the organization has become known for freely sharing its four decades of expertise in advance of their mission of caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss.

"As a 40-year member of the healthcare community, we believe that we have a responsibility to increase awareness and understanding as well as reduce the burden of making these life-changing decisions," he said. With the support of community partners, this educational symposium is 100 percent free of charge to attendees as a part of the nonprofit's ongoing commitment to those it serves.

Additional information and updates will be available at www.caringforlifemd.org in the weeks to come. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Jennifer Castellanos-Graham at 443-837-1527 or jcastellanos-graham@hospicechesapeake.org.

For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

—Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

SUMMER READING & WRITING SKILLS

Programs are sponsored by Loyola University Maryland, School of Education, a non-profit organization. Classes are taught by instructors from the Institute of Reading Development. All programs meet once each week. The locations are Largo Community Church, 1701 Enterprise Road Mitchellville, Maryland and Trinity Episcopal Church, 14515 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Tuition varies by program grade. Please ask about our family discount when you call. Call 1-800-570-8935 for more information or to register, Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–10 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Inquire early because class size is limited.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Happy Birthday to Joan Falby, Joyce Isaac, Jenet Smalling, Joshua Jackson, Nana Smalling, Abena Smalling, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, Doris Hill, De'Andre Bowden, Theresa Joiner, Kolbi Dee, Agatha Jalloh, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Ricky Thomas and Dacinth Dorsett who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of May 2019.

Happy Anniversary to Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Marcus and Nadia Long who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries during the month of May 2019.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

If you would like to participate in MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Volunteer Program, please call 301-877-4553 for more information about volunteer opportunities. The volunteers make a difference every day helping to support the health of our community.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP COOPERATIVE PARISH

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish/Christ United Methodist Church and Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor will have a Pentecost Revival. Everyone is invited to attend our Pentecost Revival. "A fresh new fire fall on us". Revival guest speaker

is Dr. Trent Elliot Davis. Thursday, June 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Christ United Methodist Church, 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Special Guest-Redeemer United Methodist Church. Rev. Michael Parker and choir. Friday, June 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Christ United Methodist Church 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Special Guest are Brooks United Methodist Church and Minister Lisa Howard and choir. Light refreshments nightly from 6:30–7:30).

Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. service will be at Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro. Music by New Hope Fellowship Choir. Light lunch will be served after the 11:00 a.m. service.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Patricia Washington, Kim Montgomery, Elandra Dorsey, Markell Peterson, II, Adriene Johnson, Jina Jackson and Chantel Wright who are New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish members celebrating birthdays in May.

SAVE THE DATES

Vacation Bible School 2019 (HERO CENTRAL (Discover your strength in God will be held June 24, 2019–June 27, 2019 from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. hosted by Nottingham Myers UMC at the Family Life Center New Hope Fellowship United Methodist Cooperative Parish. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-888-2171. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. More information to follow later.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER HONOR

UMES senior Jenna Crockett was recognized in April as a distinguished teacher candidate for her commitment to student learning and her approach to reflective teaching as an English education major. Jenna Crockett a Tangier Island, Virginia native received the Maryland Association of Teacher Educators award during an April 13 ceremony at Bowie State University Bowie, Maryland. Crockett's passion for the English language and the impact her teachers had on her life propelled her to pursue a career in education.

COMMUNITY

Northwestern, Parkdale Students Win First Place at Final Scholastic Olympics

By DR. TAMARA HENRY
Scholastic Olympics

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (May 10, 2019)—Northwestern High School students won the \$500 first-place prize in U.S. History and Jeopardy Math, while two Parkdale High School seniors claimed top spots in Speech and Spelling at the 9th and final Scholastic Olympics held May 4 at the College Park Airport.

Three Eleanor Roosevelt High School sisters won a total of \$900 as they racked up victories in second and third places in four competitions.

"This by far was one of our best competitions yet," said Charisse Henry, co-director of Scholastic Olympics. "With new students competing and a few returning champions, Scholastic Olympics ended its nine-year run on a high note that underscored the value and importance of academics. We are so thankful for the support we've received."

Sarah Awang, a senior at Parkdale, won first place in spelling. Hilary Duo, a Northwestern junior, won first history. The top speech prize went to Justina Blanco, a Parkdale senior. And, Anthony DCosta, a Northwestern senior, pocketed the \$500 for first place in Math.

The Ogunson sisters competed with gusto to represent Roosevelt. Marvellous, a junior, won third place in both spelling and math, collecting \$200 for each category. Freshman Favor claimed the \$300 second-place prize in history, while her sister Precious, a senior, won third place in history to receive \$200.

"This is the first time I followed them to the competition," said Damilola Ogunson, mother to the young ladies. "Usually my husband comes. The program motivates the students, tries to put more bearing on academics. I am encouraged."

Last year, Marvellous dominated the math competition to win first place and in 2017, she won first place in spelling. Marvellous and Di Chen, now a senior at Northwestern High School, renewed a battle that started last year. Di Chen, who won the \$300 second-place award last year, claimed the same place this year.

The math-a-thon, which is considered the signature competition, is played like the popular television Jeopardy game show where contestants select categories of an array of answers and then provide the questions. Spelling is a regular spelling bee-type competition. History focuses on U.S. facts and current events.

The 2019 Youth Poet Laureate, Mi'Jan Credle, and other young poets from Dialect Prince George's conducted a workshop and performed their work before an enthusiastic crowd. Patrick Washington, leader of the group, exhibited his skills as well.

High Bridge Foundation, Inc. renewed its partnership with Scholastic Olympics, Inc. for one final round. High Bridge is a non-profit organization focused on empowering young people from underserved communities in the Metro Washington area. Foundation President Mayumi Hairston Escalante and founder Dr. Ernest Hairston presented checks for the first, second and third place winners in the U.S. History category.

Scholastic Olympics is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that attacks learning deficits with alternative or unconventional programs.

The quadrathlon is the signature event that has awarded nearly 120 students about \$35,000 in the nine years of the program.

Other sponsors include: The Greater Washington Community Foundation; Prince George's County Council, 5 a.m. Bible Study Ministry, Ron Blount of State Farm Insurance, Dr. Tillman Sease of the Dental Group, and the Christian Education Ministry of First Baptist Church of Highland Park. In addition, Costco, BJs, Wegmans, WaWa and Herts all contribute food for the daylong competitions.

Winners of the 9th annual Scholastic Olympics:

Spelling

- 1st Place—Sarah Awang, senior, Parkdale High School
- 2nd Place—Cara Ruffin, senior, Riverdale Baptist School
- 3rd Place—Marvellous Ogunson, junior, Eleanor Roosevelt HS

Speech

- 1st Place—Justina Blanco, senior, Parkdale High School
- 2nd Place—Mayssa Akid, junior, Northwestern High School
- 3rd Place—Caleb Clark, senior, homeschooled

U.S. History

- 1st Place—Hilary Duo, junior, Northwestern High School
- 2nd Place—Favor Ogunson, freshman, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
- 3rd Place—Precious Ogunson, senior, Eleanor Roosevelt HS

Math-a-thon

- 1st Place—Anthony DCosta, senior, Northwestern High School
- 2nd Place—Di Chen, senior, Northwestern High School
- 3rd Place—Marvellous Ogunson, junior, Eleanor Roosevelt HS



PHOTO CREDIT: ANTHONY E. MOORE SR.

Hilary Duo (R) of Northwestern is awarded his \$500 first prize for U.S. History by Dr. Ernest Hairston and daughter of the High Bridge Foundation.



ABOVE: Sarah Awang of Parkdale wins first in spelling.



LEFT: Anthony DCosta of Northwestern wins first in math.

PHOTOS CREDIT: ANTHONY E. MOORE SR.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANTHONY E. MOORE SR.

Justina Blanco of Parkdale wins first in speech.

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

If It's a Teenager's Room, It's Messy, Right?

Not every teenager's room looks like a cyclone just hit, but many do. And while some teens certainly have inherited that neat gene, for many parents their teen's messy room is often the reason for lectures and arguments.

In reality, most teens don't see their rooms as messy. What they see is a place where they can be private and independent. Becoming more independent is a normal part of the developmental process, and a room that looks chaotic, and that probably frustrates mom and dad, is one easy and safe way of declaring this independence.

Endless arguments about that messy room seldom change the situation, but a few sensible family rules might make life easier.

One rule is that while you may be able to live with some degree of messy, what you can't abide is health-threatening. Dirty dishes and old food wrappers attract bugs and that's not acceptable.

Another good rule is that hiding the mess behind a closed door is not the answer. You can agree to knock before entering, but as a parent you need to be allowed in. A teen hiding a messy room behind a closed door is not developing the basic responsibility needed for adult life.

There also has to be a rule that the mess doesn't flow over into family areas. Teenagers, usually without realizing what they're doing, like to signal their independence and mark their territory by dropping sneakers and jackets everywhere.

A good starting point toward a neater teenager's room is to offer to help, but not to do the job for him or her. Often the mess is so out of control the teen doesn't know where to start. Parental suggestions on how to break the job into smaller parts can help, as do tips on storage and sorting.

You can also allow for independence by allowing your teen to have control over how he or she wants to decorate their space. Those wall posters may not be to your taste but probably mean a lot to your teen.

There are lots of areas where parental standards are worth pushing. A messy room, as long as it's not an unhealthy place, is seldom one. Losing something special in the mess, inviting a new friend over, or just a lack of clean clothes may help motivate change. Don't push too hard though, just help, encourage and praise change when it happens.

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

Maryland History Day from A1

Students: Kamali Burns and Samiya Burns
Award: Special Prize in Legal and Constitutional History, Junior Level, sponsored by Cynthia Raposo and Joseph Furey
Topic: Family, Religion, Sales: How Christmas Became A Federal Holiday
Category: Exhibit
School: Benjamin Tasker Middle School
Teacher: Gloria Cuthbertson

Students: Abigail Gross and Gabrielle Stewart
Award: George Washington Leadership Prize, sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon
Topic: Tragedy in the Continental Army: The Winter at Valley Forge
Category: Documentary
School: Kenmoor Middle School
Teacher: Irene Prescott

Maryland History Day District Teacher of the Year: Dr. Omar Price, Duval High School

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, private foundations, corporations, small businesses, and individual donors. Join the conversation on the Maryland History Day Facebook and Twitter pages. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

National History Day® (NHD) is a non-profit education organization headquartered in College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD promotes an appreciation for historical research among middle and high school students through multiple annual programs. More than half a million students participate in the annual National History Day Contest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD provides professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators of all levels. For more information, visit www.nhd.org.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT MITRO HOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right: Samiya and Kamali Burns with Maryland Humanities Executive Director Phoebe Stein



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT MITRO HOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Gabrielle Stewart (L) and Abigail Gross (R) with Allison Wicken of George Washington's Mount Vernon

WSSC Spring Open House Meeting Focus on New Rate Structure

LAUREL, Md. (May 16, 2019)—Continuing a commitment to transparency and public outreach, WSSC is hosting a series of open house meetings this spring to inform customers about several big changes coming to the water utility serving 1.8 million customers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Expected July 1, a new rate structure will change the way WSSC charges for water and sewer. The community-based events will provide details on WSSC's new, modern and simplified rate structure and redesigned bill. —Luis Maya, WSSC
WSSC Headquarters: Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 6–8 p.m. • 14501 Sweitzer Lane | Laurel, MD 20707

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Graduation Season: Celebrating Accomplishments, Committing to Equality

"You are young, gifted, and Black. We must begin to tell our young, 'There's a world waiting for you, Yours is the quest that's just begun.'"
— James Weldon Johnson

Each year I have the privilege to speak at commencement ceremonies at colleges and universities large and small, across the country.

Most recently I had the honor to address Grambling State University—an HBCU that is experiencing a resurgence under President Rick Gallot—most notably for its cutting-edge new cybersecurity program. As an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, I'm proud to join the "Gram Fam."

To them—and to all the graduates of 2019—I share the message of "the three B's"—the ballot,

the book and the buck. The ballot: this generation must thunder to the polls to make its voice heard, even as there are forces at work to silence it. We cannot surrender the power of the ballot. The book: today's graduates achieve something fewer than 25% of African Americans have achieved, a college degree. May their learning and curiosity continue for life. The buck: our people must accumulate appreciating assets—real estate, investments, small businesses. This generation must build a new path toward economic empowerment.

These commencement ceremonies are always joyous occasions, attended by parents bursting with pride over their children's achievements. As someone who has the privilege to lead a movement that has dedicated itself to preparing every child

for college, work and life, I share that pride.

More than three million students and adults have been served by Urban League affiliates' education services since 2005. Earlier this month, many of our affiliates in the Project Ready program celebrated College Signing Day, highlighting the achievements of our high schoolers who have been accepted to further their educations.

While I'm proud of our Urban League accomplishments—as proud as those parents in the crowds at college commencements—I am also reminded of those whom opportunity has eluded.

As the late evolutionary biologist Stephen J. Gould wrote, "I am, somehow, less interested in the weight and convolutions of Einstein's brain than in the near certainty that people of equal talent have lived and died in cotton fields and sweatshops."

[Last] week marked the 65th anniversary of *Brown vs. Board of Education* of Topeka, one of the most significant civil rights cases of the 20th Century. We were proud to participate in the commemorative rally at the U.S. Capitol commemorating the decision. Falling as it does in the midst of graduation season, it is an occasion to reflect on the significance of the decision and how far we have yet to go.

Our mission to prepare every child for college, work and life is especially close to my heart as the son of an educator, and also as a child of the

south, born into the waning days of Jim Crow. My parents attended segregated schools and I was one of the very first black students at the schools I attended. In 1954, the year *Brown* was decided, my father became the first African American to receive a law degree from Louisiana State University. In that same year, my mother was rejected from attending graduate school at Tulane University because of her race.

It is the stories of my parents' generation, and those who came before them, that inspires the work of the National Urban League and the Urban League Movement. We are improving outcomes not only for the students enrolled in our programs, but for public schools as a whole, thanks to our advocacy and activism.

The National Urban League's Equity and Excellence project supports local, state and national advocacy, engagement and education reform efforts.

Most recently, we issued "report cards" to states around the country, evaluating their federally-required plans to address educational inequity. We included recommendations like Congressional hearings on the areas of concern we identified.

The Urban League Movement is committed to opening the doors of opportunity to every child, in every community. You can find out more about our efforts—and how you can help—at ncos.iamempowered.com

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Van Hollen Announce More Than \$1.5 Million in Awards for Research at Maryland HBCUs

National Science Foundation invests in African-American Research Faculty and Students at Morgan State University and Bowie State University

WASHINGTON (May 15, 2019)—United States Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) announced the award of more than \$1.5 million in federal funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for research at two of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Morgan State University will receive close to \$1.25 million for a project aimed at broadening opportunities for African-American students to succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields, entitled "PERSIST—Pathways to Enhance Retention of Students in Science to Transition." Bowie State University will receive a \$300,000 award to empower junior and mid-level faculty to expand the institution's research capacity through a project entitled "Deciphering the Molecular Mechanisms Preceding the Aging Skeletal Muscle Pheno-

type." Both grant awards begin in June of 2019.

"I applaud Morgan State University and Bowie State University for being recognized by the National Science Foundation for their work in increasing the diversity of our STEM pipeline. These federal grant awards rightly recognize both the high caliber of the current researchers at these institutions, as well as the importance of ongoing federal investment to address racial disparities among researchers and students in the sciences," said Senator Cardin.

"These groundbreaking programs at Morgan State and Bowie State underscore the great work HBCUs are doing to encourage students interested in STEM—and this investment will boost their work and our entire economy," said Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Budget and Appropriations Committees. "Ending racial disparity in STEM fields and giv-

ing students a pathway to success is critical for Maryland's future, and I will continue working in Congress to make sure that we have the resources needed to provide the best education possible."

Summaries of the projects along with other information will soon be available via the NSF https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1912170 (Morgan State University) and https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1901096 (Bowie State University).

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports research, innovation, and discovery that provides the foundation for economic growth in this country. By advancing the frontiers of science and engineering, our nation can develop the knowledge and cutting edge technologies needed to address the challenges we face today and will face in the future.

Maryland Becomes 13th State to Raise Minimum Legal Sales Age For Tobacco Products to 21

MDH will launch statewide campaign to get the word out

By PRESS OFFICERS

Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, Md. (May 16, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Health applauds the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Larry Hogan for passing legislation (House Bill 1169) increasing the age from 18 to 21 for the sales of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices (ESDs). Over the coming months, MDH will launch a statewide campaign to get the word out to young adults under age 21 and retailers about the new law, which goes into effect Oct. 1, 2019.

MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall said the state has been tracking a troubling increase in tobacco use in recent years among youth and young adults, particularly since the introduction of e-cigarettes, also referred to as vapes and other names. Maryland's Tobacco 21 law covers e-cigarettes, taking the important step of defining them as tobacco products.

"We know most smokers start when they are underage and their brains are still developing," Neall said. "This can quickly lead to nicotine addiction and also make them more susceptible to other addictions. This is a public health crisis that needs to be addressed immediately."

Maryland's new law covers all individuals under the age of 21, with the exception of active duty military age 18 to 20. Approximately 780,000 Marylanders use tobacco products, most of them starting before age 21. This new law aims to protect the 255,000 Marylanders between ages 18 to 20 from developing a nicotine addiction.

Nationally, from 2017 to 2018, use of tobacco products grew by nearly 40 percent among U.S. high school students, with the use of electronic smoking devices increasing by 78 percent. This increase equates to an additional 1.5 million tobacco users nationwide.

"Maryland data show that electronic smoking devices are by far the most commonly used product among our high school students," said Dawn Berkowitz, director of MDH's Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control. "Most of these popular

candy- and fruit-flavored products that are attractive to youth contain high levels of nicotine. In addition to addiction, the nicotine in these products leads to reduced impulse control, attention deficit, and other learning and mood disorders in youth and young adults. It's troubling that we often hear of older high school students supplying these tobacco products to their younger peers."

Raising the minimum legal sales age to 21 will help counter this problem in Maryland, as it joins 12 other states and more than 450 cities and towns, including neighboring Washington D.C., Virginia and Delaware. Implementing Tobacco 21 in Chicago resulted in a decline of more than 30 percent in cigarette and electronic smoking device use among 18- to 20-year-olds.

Laura Hale, State Government Relations Director at the American Heart Association, said: "Raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco from 18 to 21 is a major step in protecting young people in Maryland from the harms of tobacco, including e-cigarettes and vapes. We thank Governor Hogan for recognizing the importance of protecting Maryland's future generations from a lifetime of addiction and tobacco-related death and disease."

MDH is currently updating all resources to support retailers in complying with the new law and over the next several months will mail information and signage directly to licensed tobacco retailers across the state. Resources will also be posted on MDH's Responsible Tobacco Retailer Program website, www.NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.com.

To assist Marylanders wanting to quit tobacco products, MDH operates the free Maryland Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW), offering confidential phone/web/text counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides nicotine replacement therapy (patch and gum) for residents 18 and older. The Quitline also offers specialized services for youth ages 13 to 17. More information can be found at www.SmokingStopsHere.com.

The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement.

Robocall Update: AMAC Warns of More Social Security Phone Scams

By JOHN GRIMALDI
AMAC

WASHINGTON, DC, (May 17, 2019)—Robocall Social Security Administration scams are on the rise. The Federal Trade Commission [FTC] says SSA telephone shakedowns specifically targeting senior citizens now surpass phony IRS calls, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

For the past few years fake IRS calls topped the list of complaints received by the FTC. "But the new SSA scam is trending in the same direction—with a vengeance. People filed over 76,000 reports about Social Security imposters in the past 12 months, with reported losses of \$19 million," according to the FTC.

AMAC president Dan Weber notes that at its peak, between October 2015 and September 2016, losses from IRS scams

reached \$17 million. Meanwhile, in just two months, February and March of this year, the FTC received some 36,000 complaints from individuals who received Social Security calls. And, \$6.7 million in reported losses were logged.

Weber says that "these con men are 'phishing' for Social Security numbers that can be used to commit all kinds of online crime. They can use stolen SS accounts to take out loans in your name, leaving you holding the bag. In addition, while they are at it, they often try to extort money from you. Meanwhile, the solution is quite simple—just hang up."

In addition, AMAC advises that if you get such a phone call don't fall for the scam even if your caller ID shows that the Social Security Administration is calling you. The SSA does not make threats. In fact, you should never give out your SS number,

your bank account number or any such sensitive personal information to anyone who calls you out of the blue—especially if the voice on the other end of the line is a recording.

Dan Weber also recommends that you simply hang up on such callers and then call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to report the incident. He says the Social Security Administration has issued a procedure notification for those who might receive scam calls, which can be accessed on the Internet at this address [<https://www.identitytheft.gov/SSA>].

"Robocall scams are fast becoming the methodology of choice for tech-savvy crooks. And, while we are each responsible for protecting ourselves from these criminals, the government has a responsibility, too. To that end, there is legislation in Congress that seeks to address robocall stings."

The Prince George's Post



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Email the editor at pgpost@gmail.com

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

What Social Security Benefit Will My Wife Get If I Die?

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

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 and have been holding off on collecting my Social Security payment until I'm 70 on the assumption that my wife would collect my benefit if I died first. My thought was that she would collect the monthly benefit I will earn at age 70 in the event of my death. Now a Social Security employee is telling me she would only be entitled to what my benefit would have been at age 66 (my full retirement age). That is about an \$800 drop in monthly benefits from what I thought it would be. My wife is a year younger than me, much healthier than I am, has mostly worked part time and she started collecting her SS at age 62 and gets about \$700 a month. So, is the Social Security employee correct? **Signed: Concerned Husband**

Dear Concerned: The Social Security employee you spoke with might have misunderstood your question. It sounds like the answer you were given pertained to the benefit your wife is entitled to as your spouse while you are living, which is based upon your "primary insurance amount," or "PIA" (your PIA is the amount you were due at your full retirement age, or "FRA").

When you claim your increased benefit at age 70 your wife can apply for her spousal benefit, which will be based on your FRA benefit amount (not the increased amount you'll get by waiting until age 70 to claim). She gets that spousal benefit if it is more than she is receiving on her own work record, which from what you've told me it will be. What actually happens is that she will continue to get her own benefit and she will also get a supplemental amount to make her total Social Security benefit equal to what she is entitled to as your spouse. That amount will be a bit less than half of your FRA benefit because she took her own benefit at age 62 (claiming Social Security early doesn't only affect one's own benefit, it affects their spousal benefit also). The spousal benefit your wife gets when you claim at age 70 will continue for as long as you are living.

But the Social Security benefit rules are different for your wife as your widow and your survivor. If you predecease your wife, her spousal benefit from your work record, as described above, will discontinue and she will be switched to her survivor's benefit. That survivor's benefit will be 100% of the benefit amount you were receiving at your death, instead of the lower amount she was receiving as your spouse when you were living. So, your original assumption is correct—as your widow your wife will get 100% of the increased benefit you were receiving when you pass. The Social Security employee was incorrect by telling you that, if you pass, your wife will only get what you were due at your full retirement age; instead she'll get the full amount of your current Social Security benefit (your full age 70 benefit, plus any COLA adjustments made after your claim).

The 2 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>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssad-visitor@amacfoundation.org.

Maryland's Consumer Advocates Push For New Debt Collection Laws

By BROOKS DUBOSE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 17, 2019)—Jailing a person for an unpaid debt has been illegal for almost two centuries in the United States.

But in Maryland, through a roundabout court procedure, hundreds of people every year are jailed for essentially just that: Owning money.

In debt collection cases, a creditor can file a judgment—or a claim that a debt is owed—to compel a debtor to appear in court to answer questions about their assets. Many of these cases result in garnishment—the legal collection of a portion of a debtor's wages, property or bank accounts to pay back a debt.

In 2016, more than 76,000 debt collection cases resulted in garnishment statewide, according to a comprehensive report published in June by the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition.

About two-thirds of debtors had their wages garnished, the rest had some sort of property garnished, the report found.

Several hundred body attachments—the term for an arrest warrant for an individual who fails to appear in court—are issued each year and about 20 percent of all debt collection cases result in an arrest.

In Baltimore County, more than 10,000 residents had their wages garnished in 2016, the most in the state. The four most populous jurisdictions in the state, Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City—about 57 percent of Maryland's 6 million residents—account for more than 70 percent of all garnishment cases.

The other 20 counties averaged just less than 1,200 garnishment cases during the same time period.

The debts owed in these areas averaged to about \$4,400, though other costs like interest and attorneys fees can push totals even higher. In Maryland, private debts less than \$5,000 are considered small claims settled in Maryland District Courts. A review by the consumer rights coalition found that about three quarters of all debt collection cases between 2015 and 2017 were for judgments less than \$5,000.

'A very punitive view of debtors'

In 1988, the average monthly rent for an occupied housing unit in Maryland was less than \$500, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Both the federal and Maryland state minimum wages were \$3.35 an hour.

That same year, the Maryland General Assembly passed a law setting the state's wage garnishment practices, which stated that if a person owed a debt, 25 percent of their wages could be garnished. In other words, about \$105 of the roughly \$134 per week a person working minimum wage in 1988 was protected.

More than three decades later, the same

law—and the same percentages—remain in place. The federal minimum wage is now \$7.25 per hour; Maryland's is \$10.10 hourly and is set to increase to \$15 by 2026.

As of 2017, the average monthly rent for an occupied housing unit in Maryland

News Service in January. "I think they have a very punitive view of debtors without a more robust understanding of the strain that working people, especially low-wage workers, face every day in terms of trying to balance needs."

'Completely different language'

The vast majority of debtors in Maryland do not appear in court with a lawyer. The consumer rights coalition report found that 2 percent of debtors statewide have legal representation.

Meanwhile creditors statewide have representation about 98 percent of the time, White found.

Hennen is one of a handful of attorneys in Maryland who instruct consumers on how to meet their debt obligations in a way that doesn't push them further into poverty. She holds a weekly consumer protection clinic at the District Court of Maryland in Baltimore.

"With debt collection, they think of it as a financial issue and they don't think of it as a legal issue," she said. "So that, of course, creates a problem in that people—defendants in these cases—don't know that they should seek legal help."

Another attorney who has done pro-bono legal work with debtors in Baltimore City is Lydie Glynn, one of four or five volunteer lawyers who represent people in Baltimore City District Court for small claims cases—usually involving landlord-tenant disputes, unpaid debts and disputes with bail bondsmen, she said.

"It's a completely different language and a different culture," Glynn said of the court system. She described a client receiving a letter from their landlord notifying them they would be evicted for not paying rent. Instead of seeking professional legal advice, Glynn's clients start preparing to move out.

"These people freak out and start getting storage places and taking time off work to pack up and do all of this stuff because they think ... if they don't leave by that date then the sheriff's going to come and evict them," Glynn said. "In order to evict you, the creditor needs to do a lot."

On a typical day in the District Court—dockets are held twice a week—there are about 100 to 150 cases on the docket. Only about 22 percent of defendants in those cases appear in court, according to associate Judge Mark Scurti with the District Court of Baltimore City.

White said many of the clients she works with cannot make time to appear in court because of a job they don't get paid leave from or a childcare issue.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT BROOKS DUBOSE/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Some of Maryland's debt collection laws haven't been updated since the Reagan administration. Lawmakers and consumer advocates are trying to update the law to protect low-income Marylanders from collection tactics like body attachments.

was around \$1,300, according to the U.S. Census.

In 1988, that meant the state retained \$29 per week.

Today, the maximum sum the state can garnish has nearly tripled, to almost \$75 per week, "an immense amount of money" for the working poor, according to Amy Hennen, the managing attorney of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, a Baltimore-based non-profit legal service.

The remaining wages protected by law are less than \$11,000 per year—about \$850 per month—well below the federal poverty line of \$12,490 annually for one individual.

"One of the clients that my office has been assisting with recently has five children living in their home and is earning above minimum wage," Hennen said. "But with the household size, it's really like she's not earning minimum wage and it's incredibly challenging for her."

Over the last quarter century, the debt burden for many Marylanders has increased through a combination of rising housing, healthcare and tuition costs coupled with stagnant wage growth.

Maryland's poverty rate has increased from 8.3 percent in 1990 to about 9.9 percent in 2016, a rise of 19 percent, according to the Maryland Alliance for the Poor.

The state's population has increased by about 25 percent during that same time, and now about one in 10 of Maryland's 6 million residents live in poverty. The state's poverty rate is still below the federal rate of 12.7 percent.

Meanwhile, Maryland's debt collection laws have not kept up with growing income inequality, according to Marceline White, the executive director of the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition.

"I would declare Maryland's debt collection laws en masse as antiquated," White said in an interview with Capital

See DEBT COLLECTION Page A8

SBA Proposes Certification Rule For Women-Owned Small Businesses

Seeking Comments by July 15

By JACK SPIRAKES, MPA
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (May 14, 2019)—Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration published a proposed rule that will provide a free online application process for women-owned small businesses to be certified and eligible to participate in the SBA's Women-Owned Small Business Program or access contracts as a Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) or Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB). The SBA is seeking public comments on the proposed rule by July 15, 2019. To submit comments, visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/14/2019-09684/women-owned-small-business-and-economically-disadvantaged-women-owned-small-business-certification>.

The following proposals are included in the new rule:

- Allow participation from an expanded list of federal and state entities with existing certification programs, and confirm the continued participation of approved third-party certifiers.
- Eliminate the self-certification option consistent with the Small Business Act as amended within

the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Public Law 113-291, and require approved third-party certifiers to notify applicants of its fees and the option to use SBA's free online certification process.

- Adopt a \$750,000 net worth standard when assessing economic disadvantage for EDWOSBs and continuing eligibility for the 8(a) Business Development Program.

The proposed rule will bolster the number of federal contract awards to WOSB and EDWOSB-certified businesses and better empower agencies to meet the 5% federal contracting goal for women-owned small businesses. Currently, contracting officers must review a contract awardee's documentation to verify an applicant's WOSB and EDWOSB eligibility. By establishing a transparent, centralized, and free certification process, the SBA aims to provide contracting officers with reassurance that firms participating in the WOSB Program are eligible for awards and encourage them to set aside contracts for women-owned small businesses.

To learn more about how the SBA supports women entrepreneurs, visit www.sba.gov/wosb.

CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of District Heights proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2019, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 6% from \$397,333,893 to \$421,052,324.
2. If the City of District Heights maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8175 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 6% resulting in \$193,898 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7714, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.79 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.4% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$78,315 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 6, 2019 at the E. Michael Roll Municipal Building, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-1402 for further information.

OUT on the TOWN

PHOTO CREDIT MORGUEFILE BIGAL101



World War I Commemorated Memorial Day Weekend

At the B&O Railroad Museum—A Weekend of Gratitude!

By DANA KIRN
B&O Railroad Museum

BALTIMORE, Md. (May 14, 2019)—Memorial Day weekend, May 24–27, visitors to the B&O Railroad Museum will experience the opening of a new temporary WWI exhibit showcasing the role of B&O Railroad employees, plus several programs and activities for all ages during this weekend of Gratitude!

ALL MILITARY receive FREE ADMISSION on Memorial Day; Blue Star Families receive FREE ADMISSION Memorial Day–Labor Day!

Friday, May 24:

See the one and only **Maryland Merci Car**, one of 49 wooden boxcars that made up the Merci Train, exhibited in the center of the B&O's Roundhouse turntable. The Merci Train was a big thank you from France after WWII for all the gifts and donations that Americans gave to France for their liberation.

Watch the power of one person move the Maryland Merci Car via a Roundhouse turntable demonstration at 12 Noon.

Explore First to Fight: Railroaders in WWI, a new temporary exhibit depicting WWI through the gaze of the railroaders who were instrumental in an allied victory.

Saturday, May 25:

Help support **Operation Gratitude's "Socks for Soldiers"** from May 25–July 14 (Bastille Day). Soldiers need new, black crew length socks, single packs of sanitary wipes, 1 oz. sunscreen packs, and individual bags of beef jerky. Visitors and supporters of the B&O may donate these needed items to the "Socks for Soldiers" campaign. The B&O will place all collected items and display them inside the Maryland Merci Car, where visitors can see how their efforts will help the basic needs of our military. The goal is to fill the gratitude car one more time—this time for American troops!

Swing Dance demonstration at 12:30 p.m. by Mobtown Ballroom dance instructors and performers. For one-hour visitors can watch or learn how to swing dance, a type of dancing that became popular during the war.

Victory Garden kits that kids can plant and take home. Victory Gardens were encouraged by the U.S. government to help increase with food production during the war and were frequently planted along railroad corridors.

Sofi's Crepes will be serving from 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. six different varieties of delicious French crepes!

First to Fight: Railroaders in WWI

Sunday, May 26:

Operation Gratitude "Socks for Soldiers" campaign to help fill the Maryland Merci Car!

Victory Garden kits that kids can plant and take home.

First to Fight: Railroaders in WWI

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27—the B&O Museum is OPEN:

Meet **Camden, WBAL TV's Puppy with a Purpose**, 10 a.m.–11 a.m. Camden has been training to serve a military veteran and will soon meet her goal. Don't miss meeting Camden as we honor military service on this special morning.

First to Fight: Railroaders in WWI

FREE ADMISSION for all active and inactive military personnel. Blue Star Families receive free admission Memorial Day through Labor Day.

B&O Railroad Museum, 901 W. Pratt St. Baltimore, MD 21223
www.borail.org / 410-752-2490

Admission: \$20 adults, \$17 seniors (60+), \$12 children (ages 2–12)

Free Admission for all military personnel on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019.

Blue Star Families receive free admission Memorial Day through Labor Day, May 27–September 2, 2019

The B&O Railroad Museum™, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.borail.org.

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK Movie Review

Little

Little
Grade: C
Rated PG-13, some innuendo,
mild profanity.
1 hr., 48 min.

Here's an amusing coincidence. "Little," which is a reversal of the Tom Hanks classic "Big," was written by Tina Gordon Chism, who also wrote "What Men Want," a reversal of "What Women Want." Chism's niche, apparently, is mediocre rewrites of fantasy comedies where the premise is reversed and the main characters are black women. All of which is fine except for the "mediocre" part.

"Little" (which Chism also directed) begins with sweet 13-year-old Jordan Sanders (Marsai Martin) being bullied in middle school but reassured by her parents that her intelligence will be an asset when she grows up. She'll be the head of a company someday, and nobody bullies the boss.

In the present day, adult Jordan (Regina Hall) has taken that sentiment to heart. She runs a booming Atlanta tech company, has more money than she knows what to do with, and is a total bitch to everyone she meets. She's demanding, like "tell the housekeeper to put my slippers

exactly 53 centimeters from my bed" demanding. It's shades of "The Devil Wears Prada" when her employees sound the alarm and scatter for cover when she arrives at the office. She's especially mean and unreasonable with her timid assistant, April (Issa Rae), a wilting flower who doesn't stand up for herself with anyone, let alone Jordan.

After being rude to a little girl who then waves a pretend magic wand and curses Jordan to be a kid again, Jordan does indeed wake up as her bespectacled, bushy-haired, 13-year-old self. A nosy neighbor sees a kid in Jordan's penthouse apartment and calls Child Protective Services (in the form of Rachel Dratch), so next thing you know Jordan is back in middle school—the very same middle school she was bullied at 26 years ago.

Meanwhile, April has to go to the office and fill in for Jordan (who's said to be out sick). Her lack of confidence initially makes her a doormat, but soon

the employees start responding positively to her friendlier, less terror-based managerial style.

Most of the comedy (such as it is) is centered on the dynamic between April and Jordan. Jordan is still the boss, but out in the world April has to take control and act like the girl's "auntie." When Jordan's regular hookup, Trevor (Luke James), comes a-calling, Jordan and April scramble like flustered idiots to concoct a cover story before landing on young Jordan being other Jordan's daughter, heretofore kept hidden from Trevor because Jordan is secretive.

"Flustered idiots" describes their behavior much of the time. As is often the case with feeble comedies about people pretending to be something they're not, this one reaches for laughs by having Jordan continually forget that people are seeing a 13-year-old girl and not a 39-year-old woman. So somebody asks what she's doing in this luxurious apartment, for example, and she indignantly answers something to the effect of, "It's MY apartment! I bought it with my money because I'm a rich boss lady!" Then she catches herself, hems and haws, and sputters out a suitable lie. She does this CONSTANTLY. Every 30 seconds or so her memory resets and she forgets she's a little girl now. It's grating, lazy humor. (In her defense, everyone she encounters is too dumb to realize anything is amiss.)

I'll say this, though. Chism's screenplay may be pale and tired, but 14-year-old Marsai Martin (from TV's "Black-ish") is a firecracker. She's convincing as a supercilious woman in an awkward teen's body and easily holds her own in every scene. She's actually better than Issa Rae, who can't do much with her weak, mousy character. Give Martin something other than bland piffle to perform and I bet she kills it.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Marsai Martin (TV's Black-ish) stars in and executive produces Universal Pictures' LITTLE, a comedy from producer Will Packer (Girls Trip, Ride Along and Think Like a Man series) based on an idea the young actress pitched. Directed by Tina Gordon (Peeples), the film tells the story of a woman who-when the pressures of adulthood become too much to bear-gets the chance to relive the carefree life of her younger self.

Memorial Day Events / Schedule / Info

Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR Set to Support Veterans at Rolling Thunder Open House May 25, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Have you ever wondered about your family's genealogy? Do you know of, or suspect there is a Revolutionary War veteran in your family and need help learning more about them? The members of the Harmony Hall Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have volunteer genealogists and resources available to help you discover your family's stories.

Harley-Davidson Dealership in Fort Washington, 9407 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

—Deanna Lutz, Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR

Bowie Memorial Day Parade—May 25, 11 a.m.

Bowie's annual parade in salute to those who serve, steps off from the Bowie High School Annex (3021 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715) at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 25. Participants will march along Belair Drive to Sussex Lane, then to Stonybrook Drive to Sage Lane. The reviewing stand, along with concession stands and restrooms, will be located in Acorn Hill Park on Stonybrook Drive. For more information, visit www.cityof-bowie.org/parade or call 301-809-3078.

Bowie's annual parade is held on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. This parade is a celebration of hometown Bowie with floats, marching bands, dancers, and lots of marchers representing local organizations.

Parking is available at Bowie Marketplace or on side streets along the parade route.

—City of Bowie

May 25 Memorial Day Weekend Celebration at Robin Hill

Join us in raising a glass to all who have and do serve. We'll have live music by Short Cut Sunny from 1:30–5:30 p.m. and food from New Orleans By Myra from 12–6 p.m. No tickets needed, event is open to the public.

May 25, 2019 / 12 p.m. • Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards, 15800 Croom Rd, Brandywine, MD 20613

—www.farmpgc.com/events/

Department of Parks and Recreation Holiday Schedule for Memorial Day 2019

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 14, 2019)—The Department of Parks and Recreation facilities will operate on the following schedule this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019:

Indoor Pool ComplexesOPEN
Outdoor Pool ComplexesOPEN (Beginning 5/25)
Regional Parks.....OPEN
Historic Sites/RentalsOPEN (RENTALS ONLY)
Community Centers and Arts Centers ..CLOSED
Senior Activity Centers.....CLOSED
Sports FacilitiesOPEN

For more details, see the full Holiday Schedule at <http://www.pgparcs.com/1341/Holiday-Schedule>

—Kira Calm Lewis and Iyana Moore, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Military Families—Free Admission May 18–Sept 1!

Calling all active duty military! If you are looking for summer family vacation ideas or you have recently been transferred to this area, you can visit our Museums through the Blue Star Museums program! This program offers FREE admission to active duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019, through Labor Day, September 2, 2019. Several historic sites and museums in Prince George's County are participating in the Blue Star Program, including:

- Darnall's Chance House Museum, Upper Marlboro
- Marietta House Museum, Glenn Dale
- Montpelier Mansion Historic Site, Laurel
- Riversdale House Museum, Riverdale
- Surratt House Museum, Clinton
- College Park Aviation Museum, College Park

Visit <http://history.pgparcs.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=418> to download a Blue Star Museums flyer to share with your military network!

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

—<http://history.pgparcs.com>

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Part of the National Park Service, **Oxon Cove Park** is a historic district with buildings dating back to the early 1800's and a living farm museum. Learn about the property's evolution from a plantation to a hospital farm, to the park it is today and explore the history of Maryland and farming through the park's variety of hand-on activities, including living history programs. The park, including **Oxon Hill Farm**, is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except on January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25). The Visitor Barn is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 7 days a week. Admission and activities are free, though groups of 5 or more require a reservation for participating in programs. Make sure that you wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Closed-toe shoes are recommended, sneakers or comfortable boots are best.

Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm: Bald Eagle Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745 • 301-839-1176 • <https://www.nps.gov/oxhi/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

May 23–May 29, 2019

Explore Opossums

Date and Time: Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10–11 a.m.
Description: Come learn why this often misunderstood animal is actually great for human health, sanitation, and the environment. Discover its distinctive adaptations and meet the center's live Opossum ambassador.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4. PARKS DIRECT
Ages: 8 and older
Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

The Farmer's Table: Let's Talk Food

Date and Time: Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10–11 a.m.
Description: Come and join us to talk about everything food, from growing and cooking it, to eating it! Let's discuss our love of food and what it means to our health. Together we'll learn about food systems and how they impact us as consumers. Make a healthy choice and learn about the natural benefits of eating from the earth!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Contact: 929-274-0380; TTY 301-699-2544

Leonard, Coleman & Blunt

Date and Time: Saturday, May 25, 2019, 8 p.m.
Description: Leonard, Coleman & Blunt is the culmination of a musical journey that began in 1970 with a group called True Reflection. Three of the four members of that group Glenn Leonard, Joe Coleman, and Joe Blunt, went on to perform with three of the premier vocal groups of all time, The Temptations, The Platters, and The Drifters, respectively. After many years traveling the world with these groups, the three have come together to form Leonard, Coleman & Blunt. They perform many of the great hits from their respective groups, songs like "My Girl," "Only You," "Under the Boardwalk," and many more great hits.
Cost: \$40/person (General Admission); \$35/person (Seniors or Students) 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

Campfire Program: May 1970 MD National Guard vs. University of MD Protestors

Date and Time: Saturday, May 25, 2019, 8:30 p.m.
Description: The smell of tear gas in the grass. Where were you in May 1970? Tear gas and more was deployed on campus by National Guard and Police in quelling the riot and protest of Maryland students over the invasion of Cambodia. Fortunately the outcome at the University of Maryland was not the same as Kent State University. Hear of different experiences during riots that occupied the college and closed U.S. Route 1 in College Park. Meet at Campfire Circle in B-Loop in our campground.
Cost: Free
Ages: 8 and above
Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Contact: 301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

Hurley School Feis 2019: 6th Annual Hurley Feis Irish Dance Competition

Date and Time: Sunday, May 26, 2019, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Event hours are 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Description: Over 1,000 dancers from around the region will be registered to perform.
Cost: Free for spectators
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The Show Place Arena & Equestrian Center, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: <http://feis.hurleyirishdancers.com/>

Sunday Sunset Concert Series—through Labor Day weekend

Date and Time: Begins May 26, 2019, 7–8 p.m. Description: Enjoy jazz by the US Navy Band Commodores. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Robert V. Setera Amphitheater at Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Dr., Bowie, MD 20716
Contact: 301-809-3078, www.cityofbowie.org/concerts

'Looking Up at the Stars' Astronomy program

Date and Time: Sunday, May 26, 2019, 8:15 p.m.
Description: No reservations required! Equipment provided by the Clinton Astronomy Club. Join a Park Ranger and the Clinton Astronomy Club for a night of stargazing. Learn about the viewable planets, constellations and their notable stars, and distant galaxies. Come see the stars for as far as the eye can see—and beyond! In case of cloudy weather, notice of cancellation will be given on the PG Parks Nature Facebook page.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Tucker Road Athletic Complex, 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Contact: 301-248-4404; TTY 301-699-2544

Community in the Courthouse

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 6–8 p.m.
Description: Community in the Courthouse is a monthly event where members of the community can come to the courthouse and learn firsthand about the justice system in the County. May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Please join State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy for a special edition of Community in the Courthouse, where we will focus on mental health issues and awareness and much more. Guest presenter: David Heard
Cost: Free. Register at eventbrite.
Ages: Adults
Location: Prince George's County Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Room M0421, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: For more information, contact: Thelmetria Michaelides at 240-508-2018 or tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us.
<http://sao.mypgc.us>,
<http://twitter.com/PGSAONEWS>

GET READY FOR JUNE!

Bowiefest

Date and Time: Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Description: Bowiefest is a long-standing tradition in the City celebrating its 42 year. Bowiefest brings the best of Bowie's civic organizations, entertainers, and businesses together in one place. It features local bands, games, rides, an arts and crafts fair, a variety of food selections, and a Home Expo inside the Ice Arena.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Dr., Bowie, MD 20716
Contact: 301-809-3011, www.cityofbowie.org

The Color of New Orleans Musical Extravaganza

Date and Time: Saturday, June 1, 2019, 4–6 p.m.
Description: In celebration of more than 300 years of the history and tradition of New Orleans, this musical extravaganza showcases the music, dance, language, and culture of that beloved city. Join us as we go from the Mardi Gras to the French Quarter Festival, while celebrating classical musicians of New Orleans. Held in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts and Opera Créole, an opera company founded in New Orleans.
Cost: \$15/person, Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710

Artful Afternoon

Date and Time: Sunday, June 2, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: 1–3 p.m.: Make a tambourine! Workshop with Rachel

Cross, Artist in Residence. **Reservations recommended: Sign up online for this workshop.** 3 p.m.: Beyond the Nose: Meet the new Circus Camp director Mike Funt through a program of stories and sketches exploring how people around the world come together through laughter. 1–4 p.m.: Studio Open House and Artist Market.
Cost: Free!
Ages: All ages welcome.
Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Contact: 301-397-2208

Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society Spring Lecture Series: African American Women in Music, The Music of Aretha Franklin

Date and Time: Saturday, June 8, 2019, 1 p.m.
Description: Dubbed the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin, 1942–2018, was the first female artist to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. In 2008, she won her 18th Grammy Award, making her one of the most honored artists in Grammy history. Aretha Franklin performed at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She performed at the presidential inaugurations of Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. In 1994, she received both a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Kennedy Center Honor, (she was the youngest to receive the award). In 2005 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
Light refreshments will be served following the program.
Cost: \$5/person **Call 301-464-5291 for more information and to reserve your seat!**
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291

MPT Announces New Location For Annual Chesapeake Collectibles Series Taping Weekend in August

Public invited to register to participate in event at University of Maryland

By HEATHER FRETZ for MPT

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (May 6, 2019)—Maryland Public Television's (MPT) flagship original series Chesapeake Collectibles is accepting registrations for its 10th annual taping weekend. The event, during which an entire season of content for the series is recorded, takes place August 3 and 4 at a new location—the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center on the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park.

Collectors are invited to complete their reservations by visiting mpt.org/programs/chesapeakecollectibles/register.

Chesapeake Collectibles 10th anniversary season will premiere in January 2020. Rhea Feikin will return to serve as host of the popular series, as will many of viewers' favorite appraisers.

The two days of taping for the series' new season will take place during four sessions—Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon, respectively. As in previous years, registration is required for admission to all sessions. To facilitate traffic flow and ensure

timely evaluations of items, a limited number of registrations will be accepted for each session. Spots often fill quickly, so interested collectors are encouraged to register soon to secure their reservation before capacity is reached.

After staging the annual taping event in northern Howard County for several years, Chesapeake Collectibles' producers are excited to reach new collectors by conducting the event at the University of Maryland. With the series move inside the Capital Beltway, the event is more accessible to collectors from Washington, D.C., surrounding Maryland counties, and northern Virginia.

Each year, Chesapeake Collectibles appraisers evaluate unusual artifacts, rare heirlooms, and one-of-a-kind collections. Just a few highlights from the series' ninth season include a \$100,000 baseball signed by Babe Ruth and the entire 1928 New York Yankees team, a Star Trek episode script with handwritten edits by series creator Gene Roddenberry, memorabilia from a collector's sailing trip with John Lennon and his family, and a 7,000-item Hot Wheels toy collection worth more than \$1 million. Other highlights from recent seasons are Tibetan wine cups

saved from Mao Zedong's takeover of China, an authentic Shakespeare folio, and a collection of items from the U.S. Supreme Court signed by justices including Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall.

In addition to gaining insight into the history and value of their personal heirlooms, collectors who participate in the Chesapeake Collectibles taping weekend have the unique opportunity to experience the "show-behind-the-show." The production enlists dozens of crew members ranging from videographers to floor directors to makeup artists, among others. The "antique shop" main set boasts four cameras while roving camera units tape segments near the appraiser tables and film Rhea Feikin's introductions for the season's 13 episodes.

For more information, visit the series' website at mpt.org/programs/chesapeakecollectibles and the Chesapeake Collectibles Facebook page. Episodes from previous seasons of the series are available for viewing at video.mpt.tv.

Major funding for season 10 of Chesapeake Collectibles is provided by Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc.

Earth TALK™ Greener Boating: Enjoying the High Seas Without the Guilt

Dear EarthTalk:

I am in the market for a small motor boat to putter around in lakes near my home in Michigan but I don't want to contribute to water pollution. What are my options?

—Marlene Y., Merritt, MI

No doubt, boating can be an environmental nightmare given the spewing of petrochemicals and other pollutants into the waterways we love, and the toll it takes on marine wildlife and ecosystems. Spilling even a small amount of oil, diesel or gas can contaminate acres of water and poison shellfish beds.

Meanwhile, hull paints leach copper and other toxins into the water, while soaps and other cleaning solutions—not to mention the improper discharge of on-board sewage holding tanks—can be toxic to aquatic life as well.

But if you take proper precautions, boating doesn't have to be so bad. According to the non-profit Oceana, being careful not to spill during refueling seems trivial but could save the life of marine wildlife nearby. And if your boat has a two-stroke outboard engine, you can do a lot better for the environment by upgrading to a newer four-stroke engine. Due to the way they're designed, two-strokes lose up to 30 percent of their fuel right into the water, and are about a third less fuel efficient overall than newer, four-stroke counterparts.

Even better, get an emissions-free electric motor (inboard or outboard) from a company like Ray Electric, Aquawatt, Torqeedo, Elco or Pure Watercraft. The last few years have seen lots of innovation in the industry—including the development of high-capacity marine-grade lithium-ion or absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries which in some

cases can be charged up by on-board solar panels.

If you want to buy a new all-electric boat, Ray Electric and Aquawatt have several options—from fiberglass speedsters to pontoon party boats to wooden fishing boats. Another option is Duffy Boats, which makes 18- and 22-foot all-electric cruisers perfect for puttering around a harbor or lake at cocktail hour and entertaining friends. The company brags that its boats "do 5 mph better than anyone else!"

If you're just trying to be greener on an existing boat, take care to only use non-toxic cleaning products inside and out, and avoid conventional hull paint containing toxic heavy metals. Always hose off your boat right after you take it out of the water so you don't transport any marine species, invasive or otherwise, to your driveway or your next launch spot. Also, if your boat has a "head," make sure to get it pumped out properly so you don't release bacteria-laden human waste—often containing traces of antibiotics and medications that aren't good for marine wildlife—into the water column.

Of course, you could always just forego the worry, environmental footprint and expense of a motor boat and go green in a kayak or canoe. Self-powered boats don't emit any pollutants whatsoever and allow

you to get closer to wildlife which would otherwise be scared off by engine noise—and you can get a good workout as well. Likewise, you could get a small sailboat that doesn't need a motor—and pray for wind (or download a wind prediction app and time your outings accordingly).



PHOTO CREDIT: DUFFY BOATS.

Some newer boats, like this harbor cruiser from Seattle-based Duffy, are greener by virtue of the fact that they are powered by emissions-free all-electric motors.

CONTACTS: Oceana, oceana.org; Aquawatt, www.aquawatt.at; Torqeedo, www.torqeedo.com; Ray Electric Outboards, rayeo.com; Pure Watercraft, www.purewatercraft.com; Elco Motor Yachts, elcomotoryachts.com; Duffy Boats, www.duffyboats.com.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scher & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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Debt Collection from A5

"We're talking about people who have a very thin safety net or there are huge holes in it. There are lots of ways to do this to that would actually support the people that are really living at the economic margins. And we're doing it in the most punitive, Draconian way instead," White said, with wage garnishments and body attachments.

What's more, without an attorney, the defendant will not receive counseling on the consequences of their decision.

"My role is limited to advising the group about services available where they can seek help and get questions answered," Scurti said in an interview with Capital News Service. "We cannot explain to them the consequences of what may happen or may not happen because everybody's situation is different and unique and that's really outside of the court's authority."

The court does offer resources in its law library and provides dozens of videos on its website instructing debtors on topics like how to defend their case and where to seek legal advice.

According to data obtained by Capital News Service from the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, more than 7,200 body attachments have been issued in the state of Maryland between 2009 and 2018. An analysis found that the majority—61 percent—were for amounts less than \$5,000. The data did not show how many warrants ended in arrests, however, the coalition sampled a six-month period in 2014, which found that about 20 percent of cases—or 40 debtors—resulted in an arrest.

Those numbers have remained consistent—about 800 body attachments and 80 arrests statewide—year-to-year, Hennen said.

"Generally, about a hundred people or less get picked up every year, get actually arrested," she said. "Part of that is ... just because of bad addresses or bad information, the person's moved out of state, the person is deceased, something else has happened."

Hennen said part of the problem is that creditors often enter body attachments against people for whom they can't find wage or bank information, which can sometimes mean the person is unbanked or as she put it "existing outside of the normal economy."

"If they are in this situation, they may not be able to engage with a lawyer in order to try to get a resolution to the body attachment," she said. "Body attachments are a pox upon our society and need to be done away with entirely."

Legal and legislative fixes

For years, state Sen. Will Smith, a Democrat from Montgomery County, and consumer protection advocates like White, have sought to update the three-decade-old law, with little success.

Smith has introduced legislation seeking to update the law in each of the last two legislative sessions.

In the 2019 legislative session, Smith sponsored SB772, which sought to increase the wages protected from garnishment per pay period from 30 times the federal hourly minimum wage to 44 times the state's hourly minimum wage.

Under those new guidelines, the wages protected from garnishment would more than double from \$217 to about \$450 per week.

The bill was meant to "decouple" the state's wage garnishment laws from the federal minimum wage and "tagging it" to the state minimum wage instead, Smith said.

A similar bill passed in Washington, D.C., in December that exempts any wage garnishment for those making less than \$27,560 annually, the amount a minimum wage worker would make in a year there.

"In Maryland, we haven't adjusted some of our wage garnishment or debt collection laws in about 30 years," Smith said in an interview with Capital News Service in February. "It's something that definitely needs to change."

At a committee hearing for SB772 on March 15, representatives from credit lenders, debt buyers and housing associations in the state criticized the bill for "drastically" increasing the wages that would be protected. One letter written in opposition said the bill "would render courts' valid judgments unenforceable" and another argued it would hinder citizens' ability to obtain credit because creditors would avoid offering lines of credit in the state.

"It would create a whole class of people that would never have to pay a garnishment," David Schlee, an attorney and the president of the Maryland-DC Creditors Bar, said before the Senate Finance Committee, where the bill died when it did not receive a vote.

A House version of the bill—sponsored by Delegate Erek Barron, D-Prince George's, received an unfavorable report in the House Economic Matters Committee.

Nevertheless, White said, she was encouraged by what she called "a more robust discussion" than in previous sessions as well as support from legislators across the state.

"There are a lot of new members that have been newly elected who care about this," she said. "And you see people caring about it not simply in Baltimore City but you see people in Montgomery County, which has one of the highest cost of living, and in places like Saint Mary's and the Eastern Shore where people are really struggling in more rural areas."

For Smith, the key is to "ensure that yes these people still have access to credit and there's responsible lending but you're not able to garnish people into poverty and keep them in a cycle of poverty," he said.

Court of Appeals rule change

Maryland law states that an individual must be personally served a summons, however, the law includes a caveat, called substituted service, in which someone of "suitable age and discretion" may count if the defendant is not present.

"So that can be a 13-year-old child," Hennen said. "When you're talking about somebody's liberty being taken from them, really, due process requires that person be actually genuinely notified."

Some progress has been made to address the confusion around court summonses and a notice of service.

A judicial committee tasked with addressing and implementing rule changes has recently recommended that a court summons for an unpaid debt include a warning to a debtor that they may be arrested if they do not appear.

Previously, a summons only indicated that a person may be found in contempt of court, not that a body attachment may be issued.

The new rule would require the summons to include language of a potential arrest if an individual does not appear in court as well as be delivered directly to the debtor and not a family member or related party. The court system adopted the changed language on May 15.

"I still see that, especially creditors, believe that people owe these debts and if they can't find a way to get at these people that people need to be held to account, which I just genuinely disagree with," Hennen said. "If you can't find wages to garnish then your judgment isn't worth very much. And locking people up is not a solution to getting people to pay their debts."

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