

The Prince George's Post



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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: NASA GODDARD/CHRIS GUNN

Kenneth Harris II works in the clean room at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

NASA Engineer Named in Forbes 30 Under 30 List of Innovators

By ROB GUTRO
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Kenneth Harris II, a senior engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, has been named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 Class of 2020.

Forbes' 30 Under 30 list is a selection of young, creative and bold minds the magazine's experts consider revolutionaries, changing the course of business and society. Forbes evaluated more than 20,000 nominees to decide on 600 business and industry figures, with 30 selected in each of 20 industries.

"As I reflect on my story, beginning in 2008, I am truly grateful for both the successes and failures," Harris said. "Receiving this award, I would be remiss to ignore the infinite amount of guidance I've received along this journey. Each mentor played a pivotal role in my career to present day."

"As engineers and scientists it

is my belief that we have the responsibility to make ourselves open to the unexpected. Allowing our curiosity to fuel thoughtful questions and impactful research, that will enable the next generation of explorers to go even further than us. I am humbled to be acknowledged by Forbes and hope that this award serves as a confirmation to someone relentlessly pursuing their goals."

Harris, 27, lives in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Forbes selected him in the Science category for his work on NASA's James Webb Space Telescope mission. He has worked on five different satellite missions since he started working at NASA at age 16, including the Magnetic Multiscale Mission or MMS satellite and the Global Precipitation Measurement mission (GPM) satellite, a joint mission between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Kenny also worked on the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) J1 and J2 missions, a joint

project between NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA).

In 2017, he led a team to successfully integrate the Integrated Science Instrument Module, the main science component of the Webb Telescope. This structure houses four instruments that will detect the light from stars billions of light-years away. "This mission holds such a special place in my heart because I was only 24 years old when we completed the ISIM integration," Harris said.

At 16 years old, Harris volunteered as a counselor at a NASA Goddard space camp. He then served as an intern in the High School Internship Program, beginning his affiliation with NASA. This initial internship was the beginning of semester long immersion in NASA projects and culture.

In addition to his work as an engineer, Harris is a strong pro-

See ENGINEER Page A3

Greater Washington Anti-DUI Group Urges Safety on Super Bowl Sunday

Nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths on game day involve drunk drivers

By TAMMY WAN
WRAP

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (Jan. 22, 2020)—While the teams, site and time have been finalized, a local anti-drunk driving organization is urging the public to also develop a game plan to prevent drunk driving during this year's "Super Bowl Sunday."

During Super Bowl Sunday 2017, nearly half (48%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities involved alcohol-impaired drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (see NHTSA chart below).

"With nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths being caused by drunk drivers during Super Bowl Sunday, it's important to have a game-plan to defeat this opponent," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, President of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), a 38-year-old public-private partnership combating drunk driving.

The Falls Church-based organization has issued a number of "safe celebrating" tips (below) to prevent drunk driving during "Super Bowl Sunday," scheduled for February 2, 2020. However, the nonprofit emphasizes that even those not drinking during the game can help deter drunk driving

by both reporting suspected drunk drivers as well as by wearing their seatbelts.

"Even if you have every confidence in your own ability to not drive impaired, that confidence doesn't extend to the next driver," said Erickson. "Motorists in Greater Washington whom suspect that they are sharing a roadway with an impaired driver should report such by safely dialing 911 in the District of Columbia or Maryland and #77 in Virginia."

"And while you often hear that wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver, the true bottom-line is that the routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries." In addition, and for those hosting or attending Super Bowl parties, WRAP's tips to prevent drunk driving include:

- Planning ahead and designating a sober driver if you're celebrating with alcohol.
- Using alternative transportation like ride-sharing services, taxi cabs or public transportation.
- Being a responsible host by:
 - Never serving anyone who appears to be impaired.
 - Closing the bar at least an hour before the event's end.
 - Designating a sober bar-

tender. (Don't let guests mix their own drinks.)

- Serving food with alcohol (high protein foods like meats and cheeses stay in the stomach longer thereby slowing the body's alcohol absorption rate).
- Using a non-carbonated base in alcoholic punches (the body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonation).
- Serving non-alcoholic beverages as an option.
- Never serving minors.
- And never allowing impaired guest to get behind the wheel.

While the DUI penalties differ in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia for first-time offenders, such range from fines up to \$2,500, jail terms up to one year and driver's license suspension periods also up to one year.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at www.wrap.org.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs, and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER

From L to R: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter President Benita Swindell, high school student volunteer Kristiana Mateo, and vice president Cassandra Jones sort items at MLK day of service in Greenbelt, Md.

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Supports Vulnerable Communities in Greenbelt, Bowie, and Laurel On MLK Day of Service

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

GREENBELT, Md. (Jan. 21, 2020)—In observance of the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Day of Service, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter held its "Back to Basics: Meeting the Needs of Our Community" event. More than 200 members of the sorority worked side by side with local students and community members sorting and packaging canned goods, hygiene products, and clothing for those living with homelessness and food insecurity.

"The primary focus of this day is to uplift the theme of 'A day on, not a day off' and to serve together as a community," said Benita Swindell, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter President. "Alpha Kappa Alpha's motto is supreme service to all mankind and it's important that we begin by serving in our local communities."

Hundreds of canned goods and healthy food items, hygiene products, and men's and women's clothing will be distributed to three local organizations: Oakland Elementary School, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service

Warm Nights in Laurel, and Bowie Interface Pantry. Volunteers ranged in age and included high school students.

"I volunteered today because I wanted to help my community and do something good to start off my year," said Kristiana Mateo, an 18-year-old high school student.

One student hoped her participation would help break down stereotypes about teenagers.

"People from older generations think we are self-absorbed, and I feel like that's not true. I believe that any way you can make a difference and honor the memory of Dr. King, you should, and I just wanted to act on that," said, Damaris Moore, a 16-year-old high school student.

This event supports two of Alpha Kappa Alpha's global programs: "Operation AKA Assist" which focuses on supporting populations in need and its "Nutrition and Wellness" initiative which highlights healthy lifestyles.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in the communities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Maryland.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System Data Fatalities in Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes for February 5, 2017–February 6, 2017 and the Highest BAC in the Crash

Date	Alcohol-Impaired BAC= .08+	Alcohol-Impaired BAC= .08-.14	Alcohol-Impaired BAC= .15+	*Total Fatalities
6 a.m. February 5, 2017–5:59 a.m. February 6, 2017	Number: 48 Percent: 48%	Number: 11 Percent: 10%	Number: 38 Percent: 37%	Number: 101 Percent: 100%

*Total fatalities include unknown numbers of fatalities in crash.

INSIDE

Former NASA Astronaut to Visit PGCPS for Community STEM Program

"STEM education is a valuable investment that Prince George's County Public Schools is committed to furthering through this great opportunity," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer.

Community, Page A3

Statements from Governor Larry Hogan and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer on the Passing of Coach Morgan Wootten

Governor Hogan: Coach Wootten had an immeasurable impact not only on my life, but on the lives of his players, students, and the community.

Commentary, Page A4

Aaron Robertson Named Agency Manager at Western & Southern Life in Washington, D.C.

"Aaron's wealth of experience in sales and leadership make him a valuable resource," said Joshua Swogger, divisional vice president.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Celebration! Black History Month 2020: Highlighted Events from the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

From performances to history lessons to festivals, there are plenty of exciting M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events and activities planned throughout Prince George's County.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are environmentalists so scared of Donald Trump winning a second term?

—Jay W., Modesto, CA

Features, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Surratt House reflects on Black History with a life story and a bus trip

"The Road to Freedom: From Maryland Slavery to Queen Victoria's Court" is all about what happened to Josiah Henson. You are invited to the Surratt House to hear Edna Troiano, PhD, discuss the life of Henson from his birth into slavery in Charles County, his flight to freedom in Canada, participating in the Underground Railroad, and his invitation to meet the Queen of England.

This interesting presentation will be on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. and it's free. However, there is limited seating, so arrive early. The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. Info: 301-868-1121.

Black History on Wheels

Take a bus from the Surratt House into Montgomery County to explore sites related to enslavement and freedom, from the Sandy Spring Slave Museum to Boyd's Negro School. Lunch will be at Bassett's Restaurant in Poolesville. The bus departs from the Surratt House.

The tour will be on Saturday, Feb. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$80 and advanced registration is required. For information, call the Surratt House at 301-868-1121.

Neighbors and other good people

John Bailey is president of the Camp Springs Civic Assn. Other officers are Candis Stretcher, vice president; Arlene Wilson, treasurer; Monique Taylor, recording secretary; and Carolyn Fleming, corresponding secretary. Tammy Jones is the Newsletter editor.

Knightline, the official newsletter of the Knights of Columbus in Forestville, lists monthly honorees: Robert White was the Knight of the Month for November, Richard Peluzzo for December. The Weiler Family was Family of the Month for November, the Dockery Family for December.

For years I'd lost track of my friend June Hall who once lived at the end of Clayton Lane in Skyline. Now I've learned she died six years ago, Jan. 3, 2014, in Jacksonville, Fla. She was a deeply religious woman and a volunteer

with the Laubach Literacy Council. Her husband Edwin Hall predeceased her. Survivors included daughters Barbara Drayson and Mandy Hall, and grandchildren through great-great-grands.

Science Fair winners at St. Philip's

In Chemistry: 1st McKenzie T., 2nd Alexander B., 3rd Selah S., honorable mention, Cameron M. In Physics: 1st Wesley M., 2nd Peyton P., 3rd Kori L. In Biology/Behavior Science: 1st Lia G., 2nd Dean S., 3rd Adrien S. Last names are not listed, but that Wesley M. is my great-grandson.

St. Philip the Apostle School is in Camp Springs. All seven of my children graduated 8th grade there, went on to further education, good jobs and good lives. St. Philip's turns 60 this year and continues to provide an excellent education. It has grades from PreK 3 through 8. They are currently accepting students for the new semester. To learn more about the school, call 301-423-4740.

Too many pills?

If you need to discard unneeded pills, there's a Medication Disposal box next to the pharmacy at CVS in Clinton.

Coming up

Morningsiders meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. for their monthly Town Meeting.

Skyline Citizens gather at the Morningside Firehouse on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. for their quarterly meeting. If you have news for the Skyline Newsletter, call me.

Suitland Civic Association meets Monday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. at the Water Tower, 4211 Suitland Road.

Morningside Memories: the '50s

Did you live in Morningside back in the 1950s? Did you get your hair cut at Johnson's Barber Shop (Suitland Rd.) or Eleanor's Beauty Shop (305 Larkspur Rd)? Did you go to E.H. Webster (7 Pickett) to have your watch repaired? Buy Avon from Alvina Beardmore (221 Woodland Rd)?

Did you shop at Skyline Market (5995 Suitland Rd), Morningside Variety Shop (5993 Suitland Rd), or G.I.

Market (6220 Suitland Rd)? Buy beer and wine at G.I. Liquors or drop by for cocktail hour at Skyline Restaurant (previously, Skyline Tavern) (5989 Suitland Rd)?

Did you gas up at Morningside Esso (6000 Suitland Rd) or Morningside Texaco (6221 Suitland Rd)? Did proprietor Jerry Bond sharpen your saw at the Morningside Lawn Mower Shop (6120 Suitland Rd)?

Were you a member of the I-C-E Club (6119 Suitland Rd)? Visit Helen B Hooper, Notary Public (313 Boxwood Dr)? Attend Mrs. Smith's Morningside Co-operative Kindergarten at the Morningside Town Hall (corner of Forest and Woodland Roads)? Pray at Morningside Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Winfield?

Did you tune in to WPGC, 1580 on your dial, the "Morningside of Things?"

Joseph Kiely, his name's on the Wall of Honor

Col. Joseph H. Kiely, Jr., 96, retired, who served for a time in the Inspector General's Office at Andrews and whose name is inscribed on the National Air and Space Museum's Wall of Honor in recognition of his contributions to aviation and space exploration heritage, died in Annapolis on July 10, 2019. His funeral was at Fort Myer on Jan. 10 with burial to follow at Arlington.

Scott Lark, retired Marine

Maj. Scott E. Lark, retired USMC, 96, of Clinton, died Nov. 8. Jane, his wife of nearly 50 years, predeceased him. Survivors include three children, grand- and great-grands. Burial will be at Arlington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; Skyline Citizen's President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; Adam Cook, Feb. 5; Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7.

Happy 70th wedding anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on Feb. 4.

Will the Groundhog see his shadow on February 2?

Around the County

WSSC Water Hosts Public Hearings On Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Public Invited to Attend and Provide Comments Meeting Live Streamed on Facebook

LAUREL, Md. (Jan. 24, 2020)—WSSC Water will host two public hearings for interested customers and stakeholders to provide feedback on its Preliminary Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital and Operating budget. WSSC Water staff will provide a presentation and overview on the nearly \$1.5 billion proposed budget (Capital: \$606.7 million, Operating: \$856.2 million), and then receive public comments. Interested citizens can visit wsscwater.com/fin to find complete budget details.

The FY21 preliminary proposed budget includes a seven percent average rate increase. With the proposed increase, a typical customer with a family of three, using 55 gallons of water per person, per day, would see a quarterly increase of \$13.26 in their bill. The proposed rate increase follows limits set by both Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils when they approved WSSC Water's Spending Affordability Guidelines.

The proposed rate increase will help support WSSC Water's continued investment in replacing aging infrastructure in support of a 102-year-long tradition of providing safe, clean water that has always met strict federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Prince George's County

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.
Department of the Environment Building, Conference Room 140
1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774

Inclement Weather Date

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.
WSSC Water Headquarters
14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

Customers will have the opportunity to provide a maximum of three minutes of testimony during the public hearings. Attendees interested in speaking are strongly encouraged to sign up in advance at wsscwater.com/fin, or by calling 301-206-8110, and leaving your name and contact information, no later than Noon on the day of the hearing. Those unable to attend can watch via livestream on WSSC Water's Facebook page.

Written comments can be submitted electronically to BudgetGroup@wsscwater.com or mailed to Budget Division Manager, WSSC Water, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 until February 17, 2020.

Individuals requiring accommodations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact WSSC Water at 301-206-8110. Customers with service or billing-related questions should call 301-206-4001.

—Luis Maya, WSSC Water

County Council Annual Retreat

The Prince George's County Council held our 2020 Annual Retreat on January 21 and January 22, at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. During the two-day retreat, Council Members, County leaders, invited guests and staff received updates on the County Budget and fiscal outlook; Council grants; the Comprehensive Housing Opportunities for All Strategy Workgroup, and Census 2020. For a copy of the Agenda and presentations, visit <https://pgccouncil.us/468/County-Council-Retreats>

—4th District -January E-News from Council Chair Todd M. Turner

Prince George's Soil Conservation District—Monthly Board Meetings

"The Prince George's Soil Conservation District hosts public, monthly board meetings at its headquarters office located at 5301 Marlboro Race Track Rd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, starting at 6:30pm. Please call the District at 301-574-5162 ext. 3 prior to each meeting to confirm its date and time."

—Katie Bliley, Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Local Students Honored

Cory Simmons Named to Dean's List at Anderson University

ANDERSON, S.C. (Jan. 24, 2020)—Cory Simmons of Bowie was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the fall semester, 2019. In order to be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

—Andrew J. Beckner, Anderson University

Mercer University Announces Fall 2019 Dean's List

MACON, Ga. (Jan. 22, 2020)—Mercer University recently announced the Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester. Inclusion on this list requires students to meet rigorous grade-point-average standards specific to the college or school within the University.

The following area students earned a place on the list:

Upper Marlboro, MD: Jamari Blagmon, freshman, Townsend School of Music, Dean's List

—Kyle Sears, Mercer University

Local Resident Named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 22, 2020)—Delharty Manson from Ft. Washington, MD was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2019 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

—Claudette Brooks, College of William & Mary

Local Students Earn Degrees from University of Northern Colorado

GREELEY, Colo. (Jan. 21, 2020)—The following local students were among those who received degrees from the University of Northern Colorado during fall 2019 commencement ceremonies Dec. 13–14.

The students, degrees, areas of study, honors and hometowns are:

Greenbelt, MD: Haley Hilliard, Bachelor of Science in Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences

For more information about fall commencement ceremonies and a profile of the class of fall 2019, visit <https://www.unco.edu/news/articles/commencement-fall19.aspx>.

—Katie-Leigh Corder, University of Northern Colorado

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HOT SOUP AND SANDWICH DAY

On behalf of Rev. Constance Smith and Christ United Methodist Church Outreach Ministry, we cordially invite you to join us on Saturday, March 14, 2020 for our Soup and Sandwich Day from 12–3:30 p.m. We will be delivering meals to the community Sick and Shut-In and Seniors. If you can attend, please bring your appetite and one can goods to support the Baden-CSSI Food Bank.

We are looking forward to having a great time. Come to fellowship and be a blessing to others. Please share this with family and friends. Phyllis Slater-Chairperson CUMC Outreach, Ministry. For more details you may contact 301-653-7345.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Super Bowl LIV Party will be hosted by American Legion Post 227 February 2, 2020, 6–9 p.m. The American Legion Post is located at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-782-7371.

There will be appetizers, snacks, beverages, the works, two 50/50s, 1st drawn at half time, 2nd one at the end of the game. If you're on one of the pools, there is \$\$ to win as well. Join us and see who takes home the big trophy.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

A Mardi Gras Celebration hosted by Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 12–6 p.m. The address is 15800 Croom Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. This will be a fun day celebrating the Mardi Gras Season. There will be King Cakes and Beads, a Food Truck and Live Music. Wear your favorite Mardi Gras mask and colors.

SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

Applications are being accepted until February 28, 2020 for the SYEP. The Program will run from June 29 to August 7. Apply online at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/598/YouthWork-SYEP. To be eligible, youth must be ages 14 to 22 as of July 1st of the program year. Youth must be a permanent resident of Prince George's County. Legally able

to work in the United States. Able to work the entire six-week employment period.

Ages 14–15 work 24 hours per week at \$9.80 per hour. Ages 16–17 work 32 hours per week at \$9.80 per hour. Ages 18–22 work 40 hours per week at \$11.50 per hour.

SOUL FEST

A "SOUL FEST" will be held Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Ushers of Nottingham Myers UMC of the New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish. There will be food, entertainment, door prizes, fellowship and Black History. Donation is \$25. The address is Nottingham Myers Family Life Center, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Tickets are available now. Telephone number is 301-888-2171. Rev. Coni Smith, Pastor.

BLACK EXCELLENCE KICK BOXING

"Let's get our hearts pumping in celebration of Black Excellence Kick Boxing. A powerful workout for all levels ages 12 & up. Pump it up. February is American Heart month. Howard Harrison, Fitness Expert of 25 years will be on hand to provide information on caring for your heart, nutrition tips, gift drawing and much more Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 3 p.m.

The address is Westphalia Fellowship Hall, 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. The Children's Corner will be open for anyone who needs Child Care. Phone number is 301-735-9373. Visit their website: www.westphaliaum.org or send an email: info@westphaliaum.org.

TEEN NIGHTS

Prince George's Best Dance Crew Competition features young, talented, energetic dancers who compete for cash and other prizes Friday, March 13, 2020, 7 p.m. Tickets (General Admission): \$5 per person. Buy your tickets early so you can support your favorite dance crew. For information about participating in the competition, please go to arts.pgpc.org or call 301-446-3259. The location is Publick Playhouse 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Winter Weather Isn't an Excuse For Winter Inactivity

For many people, winter can seem a difficult time to stay physically active. Cold weather, gray skies and shorter days all make it more tempting to settle into that recliner by the TV, rather than heading outdoors or finding some other way to stay active.

That's too bad. Numerous studies have shown that keeping physically active and fit provides a variety of benefits. Not only does regular exercise help with weight control and how you look and feel, it's also an important contributor to good mental health, especially in terms of fighting stress.

So yes, warm weather may offer more opportunities for activities like long walks or working in the garden. But cold weather doesn't mean you have to hibernate. You're a person, not a bear, and you're probably a person who owns warm clothing that can make an energetic walk on even very cold days feel pretty comfortable.

Or, to enjoy the winter weather even more, consider the various winter sports available in most places. Skiing, ice skating, or just taking the kids for some sledding on a local hillside are all ways to be more active despite the temperature.

Regardless of where you reside and whatever the outdoor weather, you should still consider indoor activities that will contribute to being more physically active. Yes, your local YMCA or other gym is always a good resource for being more active. Whether you like to work out on your own, with a trainer, or in a fitness class of some sort, they're all activities that will have you feeling better, will help keep those extra winter pounds from showing up and will contribute to feeling sharper and more relaxed.

And yes, if a gym or organized workouts isn't a good fit for you, there's nothing wrong with going solo. Try checking out some of the online programs of exercise videos that will help keep you motivated and working out safely at home.

Anything that gets you up and moving is something that's important to try in order to fight the inactivity that winter weather just naturally seems to bring. It's important in so many ways to stay physically active.

Doing so this time of the year just might require working a bit harder to find the motivation to get moving, the positive physical and mental health benefits that you will gain makes it well worth the effort.

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.

Engineer from A1

ponent of education in STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math). A product of the Prince George's County School system, he hopes to give back to his community by making himself available to students considering STEM careers. He is also an ambassador with the NASA education department and looks to use his growing platform as a launchpad to reach students globally.

"Social media is a huge vehicle I use to drive my involvement in STEM," Harris said. "I feel it is one of the most efficient ways to reach the next generation. My vision for the future is to continually use my platform to elevate the need for the next generation of STEM students and ultimately what each of us can do to help them be successful."

In April 2018, Harris gave a TED Talk called "The Power of Mentorship (at NASA and Beyond)." You can see that talk at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP7JNRZ069g>



PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS: NASA GODDARD/
TAYLOR MICKAL
Kenneth Harris II

Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala
Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.
The Hotel at the University of Maryland
College Park

This year's theme, "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky," will take guests to the Italian countryside filled with gardens, groves and vineyards. The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing. The gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The nonprofit is celebrating its 40th year of serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as grief support in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact
Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or
mawton@hospicechesapeake.org.

Former NASA Astronaut to Visit PGCPS For Community STEM Program

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 24, 2020)—With funding from L3Harris Technologies, the Space Foundation will present its Space in the Community (SITC) program at six schools on Jan. 29 to Jan 31. The Space Foundation program will bring former NASA astronaut Col. Paul S. Lockhart, USAF (Ret.), to schools to share with students his experiences in space. Lockhart's inspirational presentation will inform students about the connection between education and exciting future career opportunities.

SITC is an immersive program for students, parents, teachers and community members to reinforce the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) studies in preparing for the careers of the future.

A goal of the L3Harris collaboration with the Space Foundation is to interest students in considering STEM careers and taking courses in high school that will position them to successfully pursue STEM studies in college.

"STEM education is a valuable investment that Prince George's County Public Schools is committed to furthering through this great

opportunity," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "We know that getting our students engaged in STEM subjects will play a vital role in developing future scientists, engineers and mathematicians for our innovative workforce. For this reason, we are excited to help our students and staff find inspiration and build new skills."

"STEM grants provided by L3Harris enable students across the country to learn more about and be inspired by space," said Ed Zoiss, President, Space and Airborne Systems, L3Harris. "In the past 10 years, we've dedicated more than \$22 million to support STEM education projects and we're looking forward to continuing this initiative in the future."

The schools chosen for the presentations are:

- Indian Queen Elementary School
- Oxon Hill Middle School
- DuVal High School
- Thomas Johnson Middle School



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Paul S. Lockhart

- Glenn Dale Elementary School
- Oxon Hill High School

In addition to the astronaut presentations, Space Foundation educators will lead students through hands-on STEM activities, such as basic rocketry. The program will also include a community night at Oxon Hill High School on Jan. 31 open to the public and professional development training for educators.

The Space Foundation is working with its members, partners, and support-

ers to build the next generation of space explorers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. These efforts include enhancing the overall quality of education through teacher, student, and community programs that use space themes to increase students' interest and skills in STEM disciplines.

Learn more about the Space Foundation's STEM education outreach and Space in the Community at www.discoverspace.org/education.

Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter Offers Free Care Consultations For People With Dementia, Families and Caregivers

Appointments available in Chapter's Prince George's County office

By PRESS OFFICER
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (Jan. 24, 2020)—Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia is a life-encompassing experience that spans generations. Everyone has a role: spouses, siblings, children of all ages, and friends each play a part on the care team. It requires thought, strategy and, most importantly, a plan.

"There is no one-size-fits all formula when it comes to Alzheimer's and dementia care," said Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communications and marketing with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Needs change at different stages of the disease, and each situation is unique. People with the disease, their fami-

lies and care partners often need assistance in planning for and managing all aspects of the disease experience. The Alzheimer's Association is here to help."

Care consultations are a free Chapter service that offers in-depth, personalized care planning, education and support. A consultation is more than just a meeting with a dementia expert. Highly trained staff help to develop a road map to navigate through the thoughts, emotions and questions that family members, care partners and the diagnosed person may have, including:

- Assessment of the functional status of the person with dementia
- Navigating difficult caregiving decisions and role changes in the family
- Information and resources to assist with legal and financial matters

- Available community resources
- Partnering with the physician and/or health care provider
- Safety concerns

"Care consultations are available at any time during the disease journey—from a new diagnosis to end-of-life," said Schelhorn. "As the disease progresses, many people schedule follow-up consultations to address new concerns. We are here with them along the way."

The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter offers free care consultations at their offices in Lanham and Rockville, Md. and in McLean, Va. For more information and to schedule a consultation, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

National Veterans Program Renews Level 5 Status For Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Jan. 21, 2020)—The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization recently announced that Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans program has once again been named a Level 5 partner. It is one of only 36 hospices in the nation and continues to be the only partner in Maryland to earn this level of excellence.

Hospice of the Chesapeake first earned the program's highest level in the beginning of 2019 for its commitment to providing specialized care to veterans facing a life-limiting illness. Aside from existing partner requirements, Level 5 partners place a greater emphasis on staff education and caring for Vietnam-era and combat Veterans. Additionally, Level 5 partners take on the role of regional mentor to other WHV partners working to enhance their programs. The designation is

not a one-time honor: Partner organizations must annually demonstrate they are meeting the program's stringent standards to qualify

"When we set out to create the Level 5 program, we knew that it had to be different to truly showcase the efforts needed to go above and beyond," said NHPCO President and CEO Edo Banach in a statement to the Level 5 honorees. "Not only have you demonstrated your commitment, but you have helped shape the program and have continued as an example of what all hospice partners should strive to be."

NHPCO and the Department of Veterans Affairs launched We Honor Veterans in 2010 to address the growing need for Veteran-centered care, especially as Veterans are aging and need access to palliative and hospice care. Hospice of the Chesapeake has been a partner since the program's inception. On any given day, the organization's staff and volunteers care for more than 125 veterans in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. Its We

Honor Veterans program supports veterans and their families with Honor Salutes, the Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer program; veterans celebrations, educational programs and partnerships with the U. S. Naval Academy, Fort George G. Meade, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and more.

Director of Advancement and Volunteer Services Chris Wilson, who leads the organization's WHV program, said that it is not only the hard work of team members and volunteers that make this program a success but also the veterans themselves and their families. "We hear story after story about the powerful impact of visits with our Veteran-to-Veteran volunteers and how Honor Salutes bring healing to a Veteran in their final days," Wilson said. "It is affirmation that we are doing right by these men and women and we are excited that we can continue to serve as mentors to help bring this program to more hospices across this region."

To learn more about the national program, visit www.wehonorveterans.org. For details on Hospice of the Chesapeake's program, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/hospice-supportive-care/care-for-veterans.

State Fire Marshal Issues Warning About New Social Media "Challenge"

STATEWIDE (Jan. 23, 2020)—State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci would like to warn parents of a new viral teen video, which may result in fire incidents and cause serious injury. While the Office of the State Fire Marshal has received no reported incidents within Maryland thus far, the agency has been notified by authorities of two incidents in Massachusetts.

The "challenge" seen on the popular video app, TikTok, involves using the plug part of a phone charger, partially inserting it into the wall outlet, and then sliding a penny down the wall onto the exposed prongs. The result is sparks, electrical system damage, and in some cases, fire. These videos are a concern and similar to past viral videos that encourage unsafe behavior. State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci stated: "We are alerting parents to this challenge, and advise them to not only look for signs of fire play like scorched outlets but to have conversations about fire and electrical safety with tweens and teenagers."

As a reminder, please follow the electrical fire safety tips:

- Insert plugs fully into sockets

- If you have young children, install tamper-resistant electrical outlets
- Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit tightly, or show signs of damage
- Do not overload outlets
- Never force a three-pronged plug into a two-slot outlet

In addition to electrical fire safety, the Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to remind parents and children to discuss the dangers of particular online "challenges" and recognizing the dangerous activity on the internet.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY
MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL



COMMENTARY

Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland



Statement on the Passing of Coach Morgan Wootten

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 22, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan issued the following statement on the passing of Hall of Fame high school basketball coach Morgan Wootten:

"I consider two people to be personal heroes of mine: my father, and legendary DeMatha Catholic High School basketball coach, Morgan Wootten. I am absolutely heartbroken to learn that Coach Wootten passed away yesterday.

In his 46 years at DeMatha,

Coach Wootten taught history, coached varsity football, and took his men's basketball teams to an incredible overall 1274-192 record. In 2000, he was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, becoming just the third high school coach to achieve that honor.

More important than his coaching accolades is Morgan Wootten's legacy of molding the hearts and minds of countless young people. After learning I would be the 62nd governor of

Maryland, I asked him to share his perspective on leadership, the importance of communication, and working together toward a shared goal with the team I was putting together in Annapolis.

Coach Wootten had an immeasurable impact not only on my life, but on the lives of his players, students, and the community. He will be dearly missed, and the First Lady and I are praying for all who knew and loved him."

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Statement on the Passing of Coach Morgan Wootten

WASHINGTON (Jan. 22, 2020)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement on the passing of Coach Morgan Wootten, who coached basketball at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville for 46 years:

"I was deeply saddened to

learn of the passing of Coach Morgan Wootten, one of the greatest high school basketball coaches of all time. Coach Wootten inspired thousands of students at DeMatha Catholic High School and around the state of Maryland, and he will be sorely missed.

"My thoughts and prayers are with Coach Wootten's family and friends during this difficult time. His contributions to Prince George's County, his community, and the sport of basketball will be remembered for many years to come."

Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



Brown, Cisneros, Escobar, Sherrill And 27 Lawmakers Demand Answers On Diverted Military Funds for Border Wall Construction

WASHINGTON (Jan. 21, 2020)—House Armed Services Committee Vice Chair Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), Congressman Gill Cisneros (CA-39), Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16), Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) and 27 lawmakers sent a letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper about the administration's plan to divert billions of dollars in military funds to the construction of additional fencing and barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Last year, a bipartisan, bicameral coalition of more than 300 Senators and Representatives voted to terminate the Administration's unjustified national emergency declaration. Available data and Department of Defense officials both confirm that there is no significant national security threat at America's southwest border. Congress has met the President's request for additional funds by appropriating \$4.5 billion for barriers and fencing. Nevertheless, the Administration diverted \$6.1 billion of Department of Defense funding for border wall construction and is reportedly redirecting an additional \$7.2 billion.

"Despite the significant resources appropriated by Congress for border security, the Administration still decided to circumvent Congress," the lawmakers wrote. "The military construction projects being delayed or cancelled will only add to the over \$116 billion maintenance backlog of projects, directly impacting our military readiness and the well-being of our military families."

Many of the projects impacted by this decision would have improved the quality of life for military service members and their families. Updating classrooms, clinics and other facilities used by troops and their loved ones is important to both morale and safety. The lawmakers asked the Department of Defense to reconsider its decision which would cause lasting harm to the United States' ability to build and sustain readiness, meet the security challenges and honor the sacrifices

of our armed forces and their families.

"Military families are paying the price for President Trump's ineffective vanity project," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "In cancelling hundreds of projects across the country, like improvements to on-base child care centers, the Trump Administration is failing to live up to the promises we have made to our troops and their families. This is no way to support our service members or properly invest in the infrastructure and facilities that keep us safe."

"It's outrageous that the President is stealing money from our troops and military families, again, for his ineffective, wasteful wall. We currently face a diverse array of threats around the world and, as a former Navy supply officer, I know that our military commanders are fighting for this funding in order to face those threats. We cannot take money away from our military leaders to pay for a vanity project that does nothing for our security," said Congressman Gil Cisneros. "Despite Congress having the power of the purse, the Administration has continued to turn a blind eye to the roles and responsibilities laid out in our Constitution. Their actions only jeopardize our military readiness and take resources away from our troops serving our nation."

"As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked closely and carefully with military leaders to ensure appropriate resourcing for our military. It is simply unacceptable that the President would then rob these resources for a second time to carry out a campaign promise, particularly from funds allocated for critical military construction projects that would improve conditions for military families at bases around the country and abroad, said Congresswoman Veronica Escobar. "Military families deserve better from their Commander in Chief."

See **MILITARY FUNDS** Page A8

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

You Can't Segregate God's Creation

I offer a prayer for all child advocates in this very challenging time for children and families and all of us when a half century of struggle for a more inclusive and just nation is at risk. Racial, religious and gender intolerance are mushrooming out of control and all who care about children and the future must fight back with all our might. No matter the political climate we need to remain steadfast in our stewardship of future generations and our determination to shield children from harm.

Hang in there, all of you who love children. Never give up.

You Can't Segregate God's Creation

God's family is big and inclusive and everybody belongs.

God is not a Catholic, Methodist, or Baptist—Southern, National, American, or Progressive.

God is not a Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Evangelical, Pentacostal, Mormon, Greek or Russian Orthodox.

God is not a Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or Baha'.

God is all these and far, far more.

God is not republican or democrat, socialist or communist, liberal or conservative, or radical or moderate.

God is all these and far, far more.

God is not Black, Brown, Red, White, or Yellow but all these and all the blends in between.

God is not rich, middle-class, or poor; straight or gay; young, old, or middle-aged.

God is all these and far, far more.

God is not pretty, ugly, skinny, fat, short, tall, able-bodied or disabled.

God is all these and so much more.

God is no respecter of certain persons but the Creator of all persons made in God's image with their own DNA.

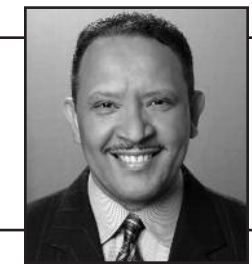
God is not only in the sunshine or in the moonlight or in the seas or in the mountains or in the deserts or in the rain.

God is in all these things and in so much more.

Thank You, God, for Your presence and gifts everywhere in everyone in everything in life.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

New Jersey Does the Right Thing For Diverse Communities

"When districts with prisons receive enhanced representation, every other district in the state without a prison sees its votes diluted. And this vote dilution is even larger in the districts with the highest incarceration rates. Thus, the communities that bear the most direct costs of crime are therefore the communities that are the biggest victims of prison-based gerrymandering. The Census Bureau's decision to count incarcerated people in the wrong place interferes with equal representation in virtually every state."

—Prison Policy Initiative, The Prison Gerrymandering Project

The Census is one of the most powerful tools the African American community has to claim our rightful voice in the political, legislative and social institutions of our nation.

Unfortunately, it also is one of the most abused.

One of the ways the Census is abused is prison gerrymandering. Our mass incarceration crisis has thrust 2.3 million Americans into correctional facilities—nearly one in 100. Black people are incarcerated at five times the rate of whites, so more than half of the incarcerated are Black, most from urban communities. Most of these prisons are located in overwhelmingly white, rural communities. And when it comes to the Census, Black, urban Americans who are incarcerated—and who can't vote—are counted as residents of those white rural communities rather than the diverse urban communities where they live.

Hundreds of prison communities around the country counties have a 10-to-1 ratio of racial overrepresentation—in other words, the portion of the prison that is Black—and can't vote—is at least 10 times larger than the Black portion of the surrounding county.

This siphoning of Black urban political power into white, rural communities is the modern-day version of the Three-Fifths Compromise, and violates the principle of One Person, One Vote.

Some states are rejecting this relic of the racist past, and I'm pleased to congratulate New Jersey for becoming the latest to reject prison gerrymandering. Governor Phil Murphy this week signed a bill requiring incarcerated persons to be counted in their home districts when legislative boundaries are redrawn. Congratulations also to the bill's co-sponsors, Senators Sandra Cunningham and Nilsa Cruz-Perez

and Assembly members Shavonda Sumter, Raj Mukherji, and Annette Quijano.

According to the Newark Star-Ledger, more New Jersey inmates come from Essex than any other county, but most of the state's correctional facilities are located in counties to the south. That meant more than 1,600 Camden residents were counted as residents of other counties.

The problem is even worse in other states. According to the Prison Gerrymandering Project, 60% of Illinois' prisoners are from Cook County (Chicago), yet 99% of them are counted outside the county. In Texas, one rural district's population is almost 12% prisoners. Eighty-eight residents from that district, then, are represented in the State House as if they were 100 residents from urban Houston or Dallas.

New Jersey is the 7th state to end prison gerrymandering—the other states are New York, California, Maryland, Delaware, Nevada, and Washington. More than one in four Americans now live in a jurisdiction that has ended prison gerrymandering.

State action, while vitally important, won't solve the problem at the federal level, or affect the unfair allocation of federal resources that results from unfair Census practices, but it is a step closer to the ideal of One Person, One Vote.

Every state should follow the New Jersey's lead and end prison gerrymandering to ensure equal representation for every American.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

We Took Benefits Early; Can We Get More Now?

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

Dear Rusty:

My birth date is 1947. My wife is 1950. We both took our Social Security years ago at age 62 due to health concerns because we questioned if we would live to age 78 to equalize the extra payout if we would have waited to age 66. Taking early at 62 may have been a mistake and I am wondering if there are any options available to maximize my and/or my wife's monthly payment with a restricted application or any other available options? My gross monthly is \$946.60, and my wife's is \$543.60 before the deduction for Medicare. Together our gross monthly is about equal to the per person individual average monthly payment of \$1479. **Signed: Regretful we took SS early**

Dear Regretful: I'm afraid the options for either you or your wife increasing your benefit at this point are extremely limited. You cannot file the restricted application you mentioned because that can only be done by someone applying for the first time (and who was born before 1/2/1954), and only by someone who has not yet reached age 70. Neither can you suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) because DRCs are only earned up to age 70. Your wife has a very small window until she reaches 70 in March during which she could suspend her benefits, and by doing so immediately she could perhaps earn, at most, an additional 1% in DRCs (about \$5 more per month). That leaves only two other things which could increase your benefits: 1) Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) granted each year depending upon inflation, and 2) returning to work and having substantial current earnings which may replace the earnings in a lower-earning year in your lifetime work record (SS uses the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime to compute your benefit amount).

If you have some years in that 35-year history with no or very low earnings, working now could replace one or more of those years. I have no way of determining whether that is a possibility; you would need to get your lifetime earnings record from Social Security and see if that is possible by examining your earnings for each year over your lifetime. But remember, all early years of earnings are adjusted for inflation, so for example, \$10,000 earned in 1990 would be equal to about \$25,000 in today's dollars, and you'd need to earn more than the higher amount to have any effect on your benefit.

I wish I had better news for you, but the unfortunate reality is that once someone claims their Social Security, the benefit amount is quite fixed. Although it's possible to withdraw an application within 12 months of initial filing, and it's also possible to suspend benefits once FRA is reached, neither of those is available to you. And your wife only has a very short window to suspend her benefits, which will reach maximum when she reaches 70 in March. So, except for the COLA increases and returning to work options I've discussed above, I'm afraid you have no other opportunity to increase your Social Security benefit amounts.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Orientation to MWBC—Prince George's County

Date and Time: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 9:30–11 a.m.
Description: By Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC). Introduction to Entrepreneurship and MWBC is the first workshop in our "Plan and Start Your Business" series. To learn more about all of the classes in this series visit <https://mdwbc.eccenterdirect.com/events/787611> for more details and registration information.

Becoming a successful entrepreneur requires hard work and thorough planning. During this workshop we will: Examine the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs; Clarify some of the myths and realities of small business ownership; Start a self-assessment to determine your readiness to become a small business owner; Set a plan of action to complete your self-assessments by seeking feedback from stakeholders, such as family, friends, and potential customers; Describe the services provided by the Maryland Women's Business Center that can aid you in starting and growing your business. If you are just starting your entrepreneurial journey, we recommended that you take this workshop first.

Register early to guarantee a seat. Women and men are invited to attend our training workshops.

Inclement weather: For this workshop, MWBC Prince George's County will follow Bowie State University delays and closings.

Cost: Free
Intended Audience: pre-venture
Location: Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Rd,
Bowie Business Innovation Center, Room 2312,
Bowie, MD 20715

Aaron Robertson Named Agency Manager At Western & Southern Life in Washington, D.C.

By SHEILA VEITS BERDING
Western & Southern Life

WASHINGTON (Jan. 23, 2020)—Aaron Robertson has been named agency manager at The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company (Western & Southern Life) to lead business development and operations for the company's Washington, D.C., Agency.

As agency manager, Robertson is responsible for driving profitable sales growth and training, coaching, and developing current and future sales associates in the region.

"Aaron's wealth of experience in sales and leadership make him a valuable resource," said Joshua Swogger, divisional vice president. "He will be a key addition to our Washington, D.C., team providing middle-market consumers with solutions to their financial needs."

Prior to joining Western & Southern Life, Robertson served in the U.S. Army for 20 years where he acquired experience in personnel management and strategic warfare operations. Robertson also held leadership positions with MassMutual in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. He holds FINRA Series 6 and is life and variable licensed in Maryland.

Robertson will work from Western & Southern Life's office at 9658 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 200, College Park, MD 20740. Contact him at aaron.robertson@wslife.com or 240-695-0070 for information about Western & Southern Life products and services or career opportunities. Products offered include life insurance, variable annuities, mutual funds and retire-

ment services from Western & Southern Life and various member companies of its parent, Western & Southern Financial Group based in Cincinnati. Securities offered through W&S Brokerage Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.

Robertson resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, with his wife, Regina, and daughter, Gabrielle.

The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, and its wholly owned subsidiary Western-Southern Life Assurance Company (both known as Western & Southern Life), are members of Western & Southern Financial Group (Western & Southern) and offer life insurance, interest-sensitive life insurance, fixed annuities, retirement strategies and personalized needs analysis for individuals, families and businesses in the middle-income market. It serves customers through more than 100 field offices nationwide, plus WSLife.com and a call center known as the Client Relationship Center at the company's headquarters in Cincinnati. The company is a Top 100 Military Friendly® Employer and Military Friendly® Spouse Employer. For financial tools, career opportunities and product information, visit WSLife.com.

Founded in Cincinnati in 1888 as The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Western & Southern Financial Group, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, is the parent company of a group of diversified financial services businesses. Its assets owned (\$57 billion) and managed (\$26 billion) totaled \$83 billion as of Sept. 30, 2019. Western & Southern is one of the strongest life insurance groups in the



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WESTERN & SOUTHERN LIFE

Aaron Robertson

world. Its seven life insurance subsidiaries (The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Western-Southern Life Assurance Company, Columbus Life Insurance Company, Gerber Life Insurance Company, Integrity Life Insurance Company, The Lafayette Life Insurance Company, and National Integrity Life Insurance Company) maintain very strong financial ratings. Other member companies include Eagle Realty Group, LLC; Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.;¹ IFS Financial Services, Inc.; Touchstone Advisors, Inc.;¹ Touchstone Securities, Inc.;² W&S Brokerage Services, Inc.;^{1,2} and W&S Financial Group Distributors, Inc. Western & Southern is the title sponsor of six major community events every year, including the Western & Southern Open, a premier event in the U.S. Open Series played each August by the world's top-ranked professional male and female tennis players.

¹ A registered investment advisor.

² A registered broker-dealer and member FINRA/SIPC.

NASA Administrator Names Director for Center in Maryland

By BETTINA INCLÁN
NASA Headquarters

GREENBELT, Md. (Jan. 23, 2020)—NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine has named Dennis Andrucyk director of its Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, effective immediately. Andrucyk has been serving as the acting director of Goddard since Dec. 31.

"I look forward to working with fellow Terp Dennis Andrucyk in his new role as the director of the Goddard Space Flight Center. We are glad to have him back in Greenbelt," said Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland. "Strong, thoughtful leadership at Goddard is essential for its 10,000-strong workforce of employees and contractors, who play such an important role in the exploration projects that are at the heart of NASA."

Prior to becoming Goddard's acting center director, Andrucyk was the deputy associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate at the agency's headquarters in Washington. In this role, he created innovative, inclusive and diverse teams in pursuit of the nation's science goals in astrophysics, heliophysics, Earth science and planetary exploration. Specifically, he focused on fostering new partnerships with other government agencies, academia, industry and international organizations.

"I'm pleased to join in announcing the appointment of Dennis Andrucyk to serve as the next Director of NASA Goddard. Dennis has the vision and the experience to lead the dedicated men and women at NASA Goddard and to continue building upon their successes. Goddard has been a pillar of scientific excellence, and I will keep working to ensure that it has the resources it needs to

maintain and expand its vital mission," said Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

Andrucyk also focused on streamlining policies and procedures and reducing the overhead required for achieving the agency's scientific goals. Through working hands-on with his colleagues across the agency, he has created new processes for lower cost missions that ultimately have increased NASA's scientific return on investment.

"I join in congratulating Dennis Andrucyk on his appointment to serve as Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. His support for the many varied missions carried out by the dedicated scientists and staff at Goddard is critically important for the success of the Center," said Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD-05). "I am confident his lengthy experience, including previous time spent working at Goddard, will be an asset to the institution. I look forward to working closely with Director Andrucyk to support the thousands of hardworking federal employees and contractors who work at Goddard."

Prior to joining the Science Mission Directorate, he served as NASA's acting chief technologist and as deputy associate administrator for the Space Technology Mission Directorate, as well as holding several positions at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, including the director of engineering, chief technologist, and chief of several of the Goddard engineering divisions.

"Dennis brings leadership skills to this job that are critical as NASA enters a new era of exploration," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine. "His experience in NASA's science and technology spheres and his continual pursuit of excellence will serve Goddard and the agency well as we work together to return America to the Moon and



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: NASA

Dennis Andrucyk

then to Mars."

Before joining NASA in 1988, Andrucyk served at the National Security Agency, Naval Research Laboratory, Westinghouse, Northrop, and General Electric. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland and has twice earned the Senior Executive Service Meritorious Presidential Rank Award. He has been awarded the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Goddard Outstanding Leadership Honor Award, and the Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award in Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity. Andrucyk actively champions efforts to develop a more diverse and inclusive workforce that encourages collaboration and partnership across NASA Science.

For information about NASA's missions, programs, and activities, visit: <https://www.nasa.gov>

Hispanic Heritage Foundation's Antonio Tijerino Joins the University System of Maryland Foundation Board

BALTIMORE, Md. [CapitalWirePR] (Jan. 23, 2020)—The University System of Maryland Foundation has announced that Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) President and CEO Antonio Tijerino has been appointed to its Board of Directors along with Christine Chandler, Frank Islam, Sang Oh, and David Vahos.

Tijerino, who lives in Maryland, graduated from the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and currently serves on the UMD Smith School of Business Advisory Board, and UMD Center for the History of the New America, along with other local and national Boards.

"The USM Foundation is thrilled to have five new members on our Board of Directors whose diversity of experience makes them excellent additions to an already robust and dedicated board," said USM Foundation President and CEO Leonard Raley. "Antonio Tijerino is a passionate Terrapin who has first-hand experience with the transformative qualities of higher education in the state of Maryland. We are proud to have him on our Board and we believe his life experience, perspective, and community connections will greatly enhance our mission."

Tijerino has led the national nonprofit HHF for 18 years, which

focuses on education, workforce, leadership, and culture through service and innovation. Under Tijerino, HHF is recognized as a creative, agile, impact-focused organization boasting a vast network of Latinx leadership mobilized in the tech and STEM fields, entrepreneurship, finance, media, advocacy and other priorities for America. Tijerino also serves as executive producer of the star-studded Hispanic Heritage Awards at the Kennedy Center, which are broadcast on PBS stations. HHF's dynamic programs have been recognized by The White House, US Congress, Fortune 500 companies, other nonprofits, and the Government of Mexico. HHF is headquartered in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles, with satellite workspaces in New York, Silicon Valley, San Antonio, and Miami (Visit www.HispanicHeritage.org).

Prior to HHF, Tijerino worked at Fannie Mae Foundation, Nike, and Burson-Marsteller and Cohn & Wolfe under the Young & Rubicam umbrella.

The USM Foundation and its Board advocates and supports the advancement of public higher education in Maryland through visionary leadership in philanthropy, asset management, and stewardship.

OUT on the TOWN

CELEBRATION! BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020: Highlighted Events from the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

By KIRA CALM LEWIS

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 21, 2020)—From performances to history lessons to festivals, there are plenty of exciting M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events and activities planned throughout Prince George's County. For the latest information on Black History Month happenings, visit us online at blackhistory.pgparcs.com

Panel Discussion:

Music and the Black Vote

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 1–2:30 p.m.
Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd Laurel, MD 20708

Cost: Free

Explore the times and history of the Black Vote in America and how music was influenced by its many challenges from the Black Codes to the 15th Amendment and today's events. Three experts—a musician, social scientist, and historian—will take you on this musical and educational journey. This event is in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA).

Book and Film Discussion:

"Their Eyes Were Watching God"

Tuesday, February 4 and Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7–9 p.m.

Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd Laurel, MD 20708

Cost: Free

Zora Neale Hurston, an evocative writer of the Harlem Renaissance and fierce advocate of her people's culture, has left a rich heritage of story and artistic creation for us to cherish and enjoy. "Their Eyes Were Watching God" as novel and film will be the focus for two evenings as we consider Hurston's place in American literature and discuss her depiction of African-Americans' ordinary lives and use of Black dialect which set many in her community of artists and thinkers on edge. Zora Neale Hurston continues to be a force to be reckoned with on her own terms. Come join us!

*These discussions will be led by Dr. Karen Arnold, former poet-in-residence at Montpelier Arts Center and discussion moderator for multiple literature groups in Baltimore.

Archaeology Lab Experience

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, 16801 Mount Calvert Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Cost: Free—**RSVP required!**

Audience: Ages 8 & up

Reach out and touch history! Join the Archaeology Program for this rare opportunity to process real artifacts discovered in the Mount Calvert Slave Quarter excavation. In the summer of 2019, we excavated the area where a community of enslaved men, women, and children lived in the decades before emancipation and found nails and bricks from the buildings, along with animal bones and oyster shells discarded after meals, fragments of plates and bottles, and personal items like buttons, keys, and tobacco pipes. Come prepared to get your hands dirty during this immersive experience!



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Mount Calvert mansion

Expressions of a People

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 1–6 p.m.
Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Rd, Fort Washington 20744

Cost: Free

The 2020 Black History Month theme is "African Americans and the Vote." You and your family are invited to this year's Black History celebration featuring exhibitions, musical performances, workshops, entertainment, and children's activities, including face painting, a caricaturist, a make-and-take pottery workshop, and a voter registration drive.



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Chronicles of the African American Journey Through Fiber Arts exhibit

February Opening Art Receptions

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 3–5 p.m.
Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd Laurel, MD 20708

Cost: Free

Join us for the opening reception of two art exhibitions, *Chronicles of the African American Journey Through Fiber Arts* and *Bygones* by Andrew Flanders. Celebrate Black History Month by witnessing the stories and experiences of African American lives. This exhibition culminates from a national call for fiber arts that include quilts, felt, sewing, and beading. *Bygones* is a selection of new freestanding and wall hanging sculptures by Baltimore based artist Andrew Flanders. The exhibition of objects, assemblages, furniture, and vessels examine the masculine flaws of craft pedagogy, critiquing toxic social behavior in the older fragile mindset of trades like woodworking and carpentry. Tiptoeing between off-kilter and traditional approaches to craft and construction, followed by blemished finish and paint, the resulting forms drift between too specific and too broad in regard to function.



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Andrew Flanders: Bygones

Valentine's Harlem Night Masquerade

Friday, February 14, 2020, 6–10 p.m.
Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Rd, Landover, MD 20785

Cost: \$25/Resident \$33/Non-Resident; **Pre-registration required by February 7.**

Audience: Ages 17 & up

Spend your Valentine's Day with us and the one you love! Enjoy a night out of dancing, mixing and mingling, and a live performance. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Road to Freedom:

From Maryland Slavery to Queen Victoria's Court

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 4–6 p.m.

Surratt House Museum, 9118 Brandywine Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

Cost: Free

Author Edna Troiano, Ph.D., follows the life of Josiah Henson from his birth into slavery in Charles County, Md, to his flight to freedom in Canada, to trips along the Underground Railroad to free others, and culminating with his interview with Harriet Beecher Stowe. This led to her inspiration for "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and ultimately to Henson's invitation to meet the Queen of England.



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Surratt House Museum

Voices from the Past: Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges—

The Black Mozart

Sunday, February 16, 2020, 4–5:30 p.m.
Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd Laurel, MD 20708

Cost: Free

Enjoy the extraordinary, lesser-known violin music of Le Chevalier de Saint Georges as narrator Neville Ottley and a violinist explore his life and compositions. In 1769, the Parisian public was amazed to see Guadeloupe born Joseph Le Chevalier Saint-Georges, playing as a classical musician and composer. His work is thought to have influenced Mozart and he himself is often considered the Black Mozart. This event is in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA).

Women of Freedom:

Black History Presentation

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 1–2 PM
Trinity Church Hall, 14515 Church St, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Cost: Free

Watch an interactive, costumed performance of "Women of Freedom" by Janice the Griot as she tells the stories of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Phillis Wheatley, and other courageous women of African descent. Learn about the Underground Railroad, sit on the bus next to Rosa Parks, and sing Negro spirituals and freedom songs. Performance to be held at Trinity Church Hall in Upper Marlboro. **Space is limited; reservations required** by calling 301-952-8010. Additional Contact: Damall's Chance House, darnallschance@pgparcs.com

History Moves to the Beat of the Drum

Saturday, February 29, 2020, Noon–1 p.m.
Palmer Park Community Center, 7720 Barlow Rd, Landover, MD 20785

Cost: \$5/Resident \$6/Non-Resident

Audience: **Registration required** for ages 3 & up

Delve into African American history by providing education and entertainment through music. The origin of African American music started to the beat of the drum. Join us for Uncle Devin's interactive concert incorporation African American History/Music/Instrumentation. Children will have an opportunity to hear, see and play some of the percussion instruments. A parent or guardian must accompany all children.

For more information on 2020 Black History Month events and to view brochure, visit <http://www.pgparcs.com/1378/Black-History>.

Spotlight: Music, Dance, and Love

Internationally Acclaimed Pianist Brian Ganz Continues His "Extreme Chopin" Quest with "Chopin: The Growth of Genius"

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8 p.m.

Description: Internationally acclaimed pianist Brian Ganz celebrates a decade into his sojourn of performing the complete works of Frédéric Chopin.

Cost: \$29–\$79, free for young people age 7–17. College students \$10. 25% discount for military and veterans.

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852

Contact: www.nationalphilharmonic.org, 301-581-5100

Steel Pannist Victor Provost in ALCHEMY: Improvisations in Dance and Beat

Date and Time: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8 p.m.; Sunday, February 9, 2020, 4 p.m.

Description: Provost, widely regarded as one of the world's leading voices on the unique steel drum, collaborates with area artists to present a concert of Afro-Caribbean-inspired improvised beats and movement.

Cost: \$20.00 advance, \$25 at door, \$17 for seniors and students, \$12 16 and under. www.joesmovement.org

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD, 20712

Contact: 301-699-1819

Valentine's Day Concert Featuring Christie Dashiell

Date and Time: Thursday, February 13, 2020, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Description: Get your tickets online, or call 301-277-1710. Known for her soulful jazz-centric style, Billboard-charting jazz vocalist Christie Dashiell and her quartet present a special Valentine's Day performance. Music will include songs from her critically acclaimed debut album "Time All Mine."

Cost: \$10/person. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

Valentine's Day Concert:

A Tribute to the Music of Teddy Pendergrass

Date and Time: Friday, February 14, 2020, 8–10 p.m.

Get your tickets online, or call 301-277-1710.

Description: This Valentine's Day, come and enjoy the sounds of Teddy Pendergrass in "A Tribute to the Music of Teddy Pendergrass" at the Publick Playhouse. Don't miss the sensational R&B Recording Artist Andre Jackson and the Sudden M-PAC Band as they perform some of Teddy's greatest hits like "Love TKO," "Turn off the Lights," "Close the Door," and "You're My Latest, Greatest Inspiration."

Cost: \$30/person; \$25/person: seniors (60 & better), students (18 and younger), and groups of 20 or more. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

A Night of Gospel Music & Dance

Date and Time: Saturday, February 15, 2020, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Description: Come out for a night of great singing and dance! Local high school choirs, M-NCPPC teens, members of the First Baptist Church of North Brentwood Inc., and residents of the Town of North Brentwood will show their talents in a joyful gospel showcase! There will be a variety of old and new gospel musical selections. Light refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: North Brentwood Community Center, 4012 Webster St., North Brentwood, MD 20722

Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Publick Playhouse

PHOTO COURTESY CINEMATREASURES.ORG

Known for its comfortable, inviting space and great acoustics, the **Publick Playhouse** is one of the best performing arts venues in the greater Washington, DC area. Since 1947, the richly historic Playhouse continues to serve as a popular venue for music and modern dance, musical theater, historical drama, educational programs and monthly events for seniors. With its ornate sky scene and plush seating for 494, the theatre is one of the two surviving Art Deco theatres in Prince George's County. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and two hours before every performance. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket, including children on parents' lap. Tickets may be ordered over the phone by calling the Box Office at 301-277-1710. The Publick Playhouse is owned and operated by the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Prince George's Publick Playhouse: 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784 • 301-277-1710, TTY: 301-699-2544
• <http://arts.pgparcs.com>

National Harbor's Restaurant Week, February 1–8

Indulge at one of the DMV's hottest entertainment and restaurant locations

By VICKI BENDURE
for National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 21, 2020)—National Harbor's annual Restaurant Week will take place February 1–8 with 18 participating restaurants. Dinner menus available for \$38, lunch menus for \$20. The elevated Restaurant Week includes entertainment options as well. The Capital Wheel, National Harbor's iconic 180-foot observation wheel will offer a \$10 ticket plus tax when mentioning Restaurant Week at the ticket booth. Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar will offer free cover with a Restaurant Week receipt (Offer valid only

during restaurant week.) Topgolf National Harbor will also offer a \$10 off coupon at select National Harbor Restaurant Week participants.

Participating restaurants include not only some of the best eateries in the Washington D.C. metro area, but also the entire country—celebrity chef and TV personality Edward Lee's popular Succotash, The Walrus Oyster and Ale House, and Bond 45, to name a few.

"Restaurant Week is a great opportunity to sample some amazing food available from the many restaurants we have at National Harbor," said Deborah Topcik, director of marketing for National Harbor, "We

are excited to host restaurant week again this year with participants including some of MGM National Harbor's restaurants—Ginger, Voltaggio Brothers Steak House, and Osteria Costa; as well as restaurants throughout the Waterfront District at National Harbor and Gaylord National Resort's highly acclaimed Old Hickory Steakhouse."

"Each of our restaurants provide a unique experience for our guests, there is truly something for everyone," Topcik added. Restaurant Week provides an opportunity to experience National Harbor with its many restaurants, unique shops and boutiques.

For more information visit www.nationalharbor.com/dine/restaurantweek/.

Calendar of Events

January 30–February 13, 2020

Xtreme Teens: Basketball Games

Date and Time: Friday, January 31, 2020, 6–9 p.m.
Description: It's the start of the NBA season and fans all over are making the atmosphere in arenas electric! Come join our "fans" tonight with all night fun and basketball!
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Berwyn Heights School Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

Black Gospel Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 5–7 p.m.
Description: Join us as we celebrate gospel music's contributions to black history, with performances from local church choirs and dancers. Refreshments will be served.
Cost: Free!
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center, 2300 Oxon Run Drive, Hillcrest Heights, MD 20748
Contact: 301-505-0896; TTY 301-699-2544

Butterfly Fashion Show

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 6:30–10 p.m. Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Description: Known for his creative direction for the WizzolX Brand, Dan'te B presents: The Butterfly Fashion Show. This is the 10th anniversary to celebrate his debut—and the only show you're promised to get a full night of his very own designs! Come out and support this local artist!
Cost: \$65 Reserved VIP; \$35 Reserved General Seating. \$2 Facility Fee added to each ticket. Purchase tickets online at Ticketmaster.com or at The Show Place Arena Box Office.
Location: The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

Homeschool Day: Black History Month program

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Description: The Accokeek Foundation presents a program designed for homeschoolers! Learn about the struggles of the enslaved and how they communicated through spirituals when planning their escape to freedom, and honor their journey on the Underground Railroad.
Cost: \$20/Student (Adults and children under 3 are free) or \$12/Student for groups of four or more. (Email outreach@accokeek.org for group discount)
Location: Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
Contact: 301-283-2113; info@accokeek.org

Platinum Movie: "If Beale Street Could Talk" (2018)

Date and Time: Friday, February 7, 2020, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Description: Based on the book by James Baldwin, Director Barry Jenkins (Academy Award-winner for best picture for Moonlight), takes audiences back to 1970s Harlem where an engaged couple is ripped apart when one is wrongfully accused of a crime. While seeking justice for her fiancé, a girl relies on her Harlem community to make it through the storm.
Cost: Free! (ticket required, through PARKS DIRECT)
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

Film Screening: "Wax Print" (93 minutes)

Date and Time: Sunday, February 9, 2020, 2 p.m.
Description: In many African homes, fabrics lay unassuming and taken for granted. Surprised to learn that 'traditional' African wax-printed fabrics were a colonial invention made in the UK and Holland, filmmaker and fashion designer, Aiwan Obinyan, sets out on a journey across four continents to trace the 200 year history of this iconic textile that has come to visually represent Africa and Africans. Event also includes a textile pop-up with African textiles on view by local artisans. Trailer: <https://lewis-museum.org/event/film-screening-wax-print-93-minutes/>
Cost: Member: \$6; Non-member: \$8. Tickets online at <https://lewis-museum.org>
Location: Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, 830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Contact: 443-263-1800

Fairy Tale Fun

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 10–11 a.m.
Make new friends while enjoying stories, snacks and a craft!
Cost: Free. No reservations
Ages: 2–5 years old.
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089

National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum to Host Black History Month Program:

Rising in the Ranks: The ascent of African American law enforcement leaders and their impact on the community
Date and Time: Thursday, February 13, 2020, reception begins at 6 p.m.; panel discussion begins at 6:45 p.m.
Description: Hear this inspiring story recognizing the achievements of black law enforcement officers and the legacy of Sheriff Lucius D. Amerson. The late Sheriff Amerson was the first African American elected sheriff in the deep south since Reconstruction. Keynote presentation from Anthony Amerson, son of Sheriff Lucius Amerson. Panelists and speakers for this engaging panel discussion are slated to include:
• Thomas Bowen, Director, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs, Washington, DC
• Sheriff Paula Dance, First African American woman sheriff in the state of North Carolina (Pitt County)
• Frank Lee, Director, Emergency Management Agency, Macon County, Alabama
• Captain Sonia Pruitt, Montgomery County (MD) Police Department, Chairperson of the National Black Police Association
Cost: \$10 discounted admission. Seating is limited.
Location: National Law Enforcement Museum, 444 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
Contact: info@LawEnforcementMuseum.org, 202-737-3400

More Black History Events

Exhibit—Flying Towards Freedom: Migration Stories of Maryland Families
Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center, 4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, MD 20722, <https://pgaamcc.org/migrationstories/>

The late Toni Morrison's 1977 book *Song of Solomon* was a fictional tale about Macon "Milkman" Dead, an African American young man living a life of fruitless meandering until he begins the search to learn more about his family's history. In the book, Morrison's characters discuss political ideology reminiscent of the views of prominent Black leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. She also uses the metaphor of flying when describing the act of trying to and finally finding oneself through one's own family history. Inspired by this award-winning novel and the legacy of Toni Morrison who recently passed away in August 2019, curator Khadijah Z. Ali-Coleman develops an exhibit that uses Morrison's flying metaphor to present select migration stories of five Maryland families.

The exhibit focuses on the migration stories of five families who have moved from one part of the country to Prince George's County, MD as their final destination or a milestone moment within their family's migration history. From the uncovering of African American heritage by a white-identifying long-time county resident to the collage of memories chronicling a Prince George's county resident's family roots from the Gullah Islands to Temple Hills, Md., this exhibit presents scrapbook-styled imagery of a people's history told from their own perspective.

Still We Rise Film: Influential African Americans in Flight

Saturday, February 1, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 5, 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, February 13, 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, February 15, 10:45 a.m.
Digital Dome Theater, 5305 Piney Church Road, Waldorf, MD 20602

The film, *Still We Rise*, is a James E. Richmond Science Center show highlighting the influence of African Americans on aviation and flight. Celebrate major achievements and advancements by African Americans with original productions for audiences ages 9 and up; 301-934-7464. <https://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/schedule-coming-soon/>

Black History in Film: 4 Little Girls

Tuesday, February 4, 6–8 p.m.
Largo-Kettering Branch Library, 9601 Capital Lane, Largo, MD 20774

This American historical documentary film is about the September 15, 1963 case of four African-American girls (Addie May Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Rosamond Robertson) in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. Directed by Spike Lee, this film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary. Ages: Teens (13–18 yrs), Adults

Hidden Heroes: African Americans, NASA, & The Quest for the Final Frontier—Spring 2020 African History and Culture Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 4, 7–8:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Branch Library, Auditorium, 11 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770

Join us for our Spring 2020 African History and Culture Lecture Series. Historian C. R. Gibbs will present *Hidden Heroes: African Americans, NASA, & The Quest for the Final Frontier*. Ages: Adults

Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society's Black History Month Presentation: The Green Book, Travel in Prince George's County and Beyond

Saturday, February 8, 1 p.m.
Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769

Join historians Susan Pearl and Anne Bruder, as they discuss "The Green Book: Travel in Prince George's County and Beyond," which was published from 1936 to 1966. The book listed accommodations available to traveling African Americans in Prince George's County, Baltimore, and beyond. Light refreshments will be served following the program. \$5/person (ages 8 and up).

Call 301-464-5291 for more information and to reserve your seat.

The African American Impact on Fashion

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30–8 p.m.
Oxon Hill Branch Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Rd, Oxon Hill, MD 20745 Ages: Adults

Join us for a discussion about the African American influence on fashion with fashion designer and entrepreneur Leighel Desiree. **Speak Your Truth! Oral History Project @ Oxon Hill Branch**

Celebrate and explore the historically African American incorporated towns of Prince George's County: Eagle Harbor, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden and North Brentwood. Speak, share and preserve your story as we record oral histories, share community stories and preserve family memories.

Have a story to share? Call the Sojourner Truth Room at Oxon Hill to schedule an oral history recording session: 301-839-2400x1779.

Celebrate Black History Month at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park

Weekends in February Offer Inspiring Programs

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 21, 2020)—In celebration of Black History Month, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center invites everyone to free, family-friendly programs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in February.

The park, located near Harriet Tubman's birthplace in Dorchester County, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and houses an exhibit hall, immersive displays, a gift store, and an information desk. Throughout the month, the park's expert staff known as "Team Tubman" will lead special programs to honor the life and legacy of the abolitionist and suffragette.

Each Friday—Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28—programs will begin at 10 a.m., noon, and 4 p.m. with a ranger-led introduction highlighting the symbolism of the park and visitor center. At 2 p.m., the program, "The Preponderance of Poverty," explores the causes of poverty and what can be done about it.

Each Saturday—Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29—everyone can join rangers for "Man-

cala! Mancala! Mancala!" at 11 a.m.—an opportunity to learn the board game that takes a minute to learn and a lifetime to master. Visitors can also create their own game board.

On two Saturdays—Feb. 15 and 29

the park will feature "Rap-tors and Reptiles of Dorchester County" at 2 p.m. Since Tubman's time in Dorchester County, the landscape has remained relatively unchanged; the department's Scales & Tales program will offer a lesson on the natural landscape and native wildlife she would have encountered.

Each Sunday—Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23—"Story Time with Mama Mary," at 11 a.m. explores the concept of self-liberation through engaging storytelling and self-reflection with Ranger "Mama Mary" Denard. Visitors will enjoy a moment of meditation—and come away with an awareness



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Photo of display at Harriet Tubman State Park Visitor Center.

of how far society has come since Tubman's time, and how far we still have to go.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, soon to begin its fourth year of operation, has hosted hundreds of thousands of visitors from 70 countries and territories and all 50 states. This state-of-the-art, green facility is managed in partnership with the National Park Service.

Earth TALK™ Trump Second Term = Bad News For Environment, Climate

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are environmentalists so scared of Donald Trump winning a second term?

—Jay W., Modesto, CA

When Donald Trump made good on his anti-environmental campaign promises within a year of taking office, no one was surprised. Environmental advocates had been holding out hope that he would listen to the likes of daughter Ivanka—and her climate-crusading friend Leonardo DiCaprio—and change his mind on the need to cut back environmental regulations. But cooler heads didn't prevail, and today we're left with the Affordable Clean Energy Rule instead of the Clean Power Plan (cuts U.S. power plant emissions by 1.5 percent instead of 32 percent), the consternation of the international community for pulling out of the Paris climate accord, and an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) so weakened as to be almost unrecognizable and patently ineffectual. According to Inside Climate News, these dramatic actions have taken place against the backdrop of ongoing administration efforts to promote unfettered oil, natural gas and coal extraction while undermining clean energy development and suppressing climate science.

Environmental supporters are bracing for what a second Trump term could bring. A top Trump priority in 2020 is to gut the Na-

tional Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a landmark environmental law enacted in 1970 that requires federal agencies to prepare environmental assessments or impact statements preceding any projects. The White House is pushing for climate change to be excluded from such analyses, and would also like to shorten and in some cases eliminate environmental reviews altogether under NEPA.

Beyond NEPA, many also worry that another four years of White House apathy on climate could condemn us all to a grim, warming-compromised future. We already lost valuable time in just three years as Trump rolled back the Obama administration's progress on climate mitigation. But four more years of Trump would, in the words of The Atlantic's Paul Starr, "put off a national commitment to decarbonization until at least the second half of the 2020s, while encouraging other countries to do nothing as well."

Starr points out that further delaying our response to the climate challenge makes our eventual response more economically and politically difficult, while compounding the problem. Global Carbon Project research shows that if decarbonization had begun globally in 2000, an emissions reduction of around two percent annually would have been sufficient to stay below what experts say is the tipping point of two degrees Celsius of warming. "Now it will need to be

approximately five percent a year," he says. "And if we wait another decade, it will be about nine percent." Whether or not our already brittle political system can bear such change when the time finally comes to make it happen is anybody's guess.

In the short term, environmentalists are working hard to get anyone but Trump into the White House in 2020. Luckily for eco-conscious voters, just about all the Democratic contenders are in favor of strengthening climate and environmental protections. Indeed, voting against Donald Trump in 2020 might be the most important act in favor of the environment that any of us can take this year.

CONTACTS: "Trump's NEPA ambitions hinge on his reelection," cenews.net/stories/1062022777; "Donald Trump's Record on Climate Change," <https://insideclimate-news.org/news/19122019/trump-climate-policy-record-rollback-fossil-energy-history-candidate-profile>; "Trump's Second Term," theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/05/trump-2020-second-term/585994/; Global Carbon Project, www.globalcarbonproject.org.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

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5018 Lakeland Road
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www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union
United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Kendrick D. Weaver,
Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

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Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
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Bowie Recognized as Most Caring City in Maryland

By KACIE SAXER-TAULBEE
Insurify

(Jan. 23, 2020)—Bowie is the recipient of the Insurify Most Caring Cities in Maryland Award.

Award winners were selected for having a commendable proportion of drivers working in altruistic fields including therapy, hospice work, healthcare, fire-fighting, teaching, social work, and more. To identify the city in each state with the highest percentage of inhabitants working in these selfless professions, Insurify analyzed car owners' occupation and place of residence information in 2 million

auto insurance applications.

"We at Insurify would like to congratulate the residents of these communities who work day in and day out to better the lives of their fellow citizens," said Snejina Zacharia, CEO of Insurify. "Their dedication to safety, health, and education define what it means to be a caring neighbor."

For a full list of the Most Caring Cities Award winners, visit <https://insurify.com/insights/most-caring-cities-awards/>.

Insurify lets drivers compare accurate car insurance quotes in one place for free at <https://www.insurify.com>.



IMAGE COURTESY INSURIFY

Peace Groups Sponsor Writing Contest For Maryland Middle School Students

(Jan. 25, 2020)—All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice.

The contest, which is sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Justice Center of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels. This is the 24th consecutive year the contest has been conducted.

Four cash prizes will be awarded: \$350 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. The winners will be honored at a special ceremony, although attendance is not required to receive an award.

To enter, students must submit an entry of up to 1,200 words on this topic:

Some students have engaged in school "walkouts" to express their views on an issue on which they have a strong opinion. The "climate strikes" proposed by 16-year old Greta Thunberg during her recent presentation to the United Nations calling attention to the challenges posed by climate change and the "March for Our Lives" advocating gun control are examples of this tactic. School officials have responded in different ways. Some have allowed it, some have "scripted" the actions with specific guidelines and limitations, and some have declined to permit it. You are asked by your principal to serve on a committee at your school to develop a policy governing student actions on important issues such as climate change and gun control. What would be your suggestions and why?

Entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet including the student's name, address and phone number or e-mail address; school's name, address and phone number; and the name of the teacher sponsor if applicable.

Entries and accompanying materials must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2020 and mailed to Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328.

Anne Arundel Peace Action and the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund are affiliated with Peace Action, the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization with approximately 100,000 members nationwide.

For more information, call 410-263-7409 or e-mail mjkeller@att.net.

Military Funds from A4

"I firmly believe we can secure our borders without stripping funds from programs critical to military readiness and military families," said Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill. "Congress passed record-level funding for border security in a bipartisan vote last year, and this plan to divert necessary military funding undermines the safety and mission of our armed forces."

Signers include; Reps. Don Beyer (VA-08), Salud Carbajal (CA-24), Tony Cardenas (CA-29), Andre Carson (IN-07), Joaquin Castro (TX-20), Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02), Ruben Gallego (AZ-07), Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Deb Haaland (NM-01), Jahana Hayes (CT-05), Chrissy Houlahan (PA-06), Rick Larsen (WA-02), Alan Lowenthal (CA-47), Ben Ray Lujan (NM-03), Elaine Luria (VA-02), James McGovern (MA-02), Seth Moulton (MA-06), Donald Norcross (NJ-01), Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-AL), Jamie Raskin (MD-08), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), Darren Soto (FL-09), Jackie Speier (CA-14), Lori Trahan (MA-03), Juan Vargas (CA-51), Filemon Vela (TX-34) and Peter Welch (VT-AL).

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