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Riverdale Native Serves Aboard Navy Warship in Norfolk

By MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ
Navy Office of Community Outreach

NORFOLK, Va. (Feb. 15, 2022)—Petty Officer 3rd Class Ebot Ngeoe, a native of Riverdale, Maryland, serves the U.S. Navy aboard U.S. Navy warship operating out of Norfolk.

Ngeoe joined the Navy one year ago. Today, Ngeoe serves as a personnel specialist aboard USS Truxtun.

"I graduated college and wanted to get out of my comfort zone and become more confident and comfortable with myself," said Ngeoe. "I was a barista at a coffee shop for five years and I was bored with my life. I didn't want to stay where I was and simply be comfortable. The Navy has been challenging, but I would do it all over again."

Growing up in Riverdale, Ngeoe attended Parkdale High School and graduated in 2013. Today, Ngeoe relies upon skills and values similar to those found in Riverdale to succeed in the military.

"I learned to stay true to myself and have perseverance," said Ngeoe. "Leaving home motivated me to keep on going and move forward."

These lessons have helped Ngeoe while serving aboard USS Truxtun.

A Navy destroyer is a multi-mission ship that can operate independently or as part of a larger group of ships at sea. The ship is equipped with tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, guns and a phalanx close-in weapons system.

Destroyers like USS Truxtun are taking part in an initiative called Task Group Greyhound (TGG). It is designed to provide the fleet with additional continuously ready, fully certified warships prepared to accomplish a full range of on-demand missions. TGG assigns Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers homeported at Mayport, Florida and Norfolk, Virginia to be at-the-ready to fill fleet commander requirements and to counter Russian naval threats to the homeland. A growing priority, the destroyer's activities also support the need to maintain an undersea warfare competitive edge over Russian submarines off the East Coast.

Serving in the Navy means Ngeoe is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy patrols the oceans to make sure our nation stays safe and respected," said Ngeoe. "And there are humanitarian efforts also."

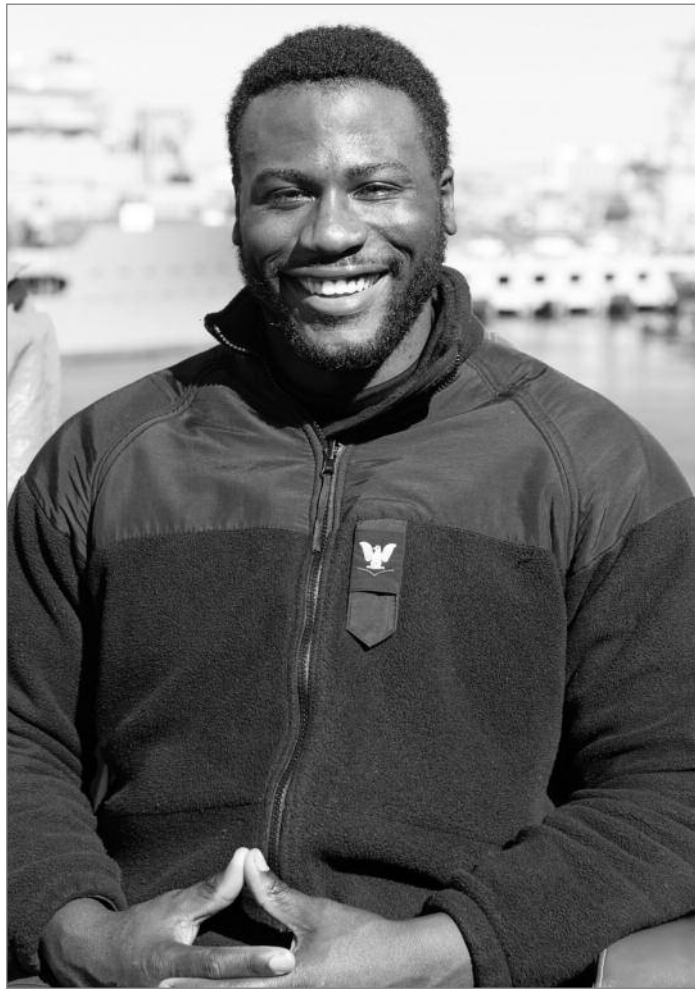


PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS CHRISTINE MONTGOMERY

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through underwater fiber optic, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

The Surface Force is responding to the realities of the modern security environment, and their efforts are critical in preserving freedom of the seas, deterring aggression, and winning wars.

See **SERVES** Page A3

District Eight Council Member Burroughs Sworn Into Office

Edward Burroughs, III, Fills Vacant District 8 Seat

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County
Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 15, 2022)—The newest member of the Prince George's County Council, Edward Burroughs, III, (D)—District 8, was administered the Oath of Office today by District Court of Maryland Associate Judge LaKeeicia Allen, during a swearing-in ceremony in the Council Hearing Room in Largo.

Council Member Burroughs won a Special Election to fill the District 8 Council seat left vacant in November 2021. In remarks to a contingency of family and supporters, Council Member Burroughs thanked his parents, crediting them for motivating him to work hard and serve. "I would like to thank my family and parents, who are with me today. My father is here, and I believe he is the hardest working person I know, so that is something I learned from him. There are not enough words for me to properly express my love and appreciation for all of you, so I will say thank you for all you have done and continue to do for me."

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who Council Member Burroughs described as a mentor and friend, attended the swearing-in, offering words of encouragement. "I am pleased to be here, joining all of you in celebrating a young man of extraor-

dinary worth who has shown himself to be someone who listens and acts for the people."

Council Member Burroughs reaffirmed his strong commitment to improving Prince George's County communities and supporting its young people. "I believe with all my heart that if we properly invest and take care of our youth, we will see a major transformation in Prince George's County and the world. Young people can have an enormous impact not only on our future, but on our present. We have to give them the support and opportunities for success."

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the County Council convened, with Council Member Burroughs participating in his first County Council session.

A lifelong Prince George's County resident, Council Member Burroughs is a graduate of Crossland High School and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Most recently, Council Member Burroughs served as Director of Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Prince George's County State's Attorney. Council Member Burroughs also served over 10 years on the Prince George's County Board of Education.

District 8 constituent areas include Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Glass Manor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill, and Temple Hills.

Library Celebrates Black History and Culture With Two New Exhibits

By NICHOLAS BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 18, 2022)—This Black History Month, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) opens two new exhibits that offer Prince Georgians an opportunity to engage with Black history and culture through the spring and summer. The Library celebrates and honors Black and intersectional cultural identities year-round with programs, curated collections, and educational resources. Expanding these efforts to include history and art exhibitions advances the implementation of the PGCMLS Strategic Framework 2021–2024, which focuses the Library's work to support inclusion, literacy and learning, and creativity. The two exhibits opening this February are "In Freedom's Name" and "Black and Proud+."

"In Freedom's Name"

"In Freedom's Name" is a touring exhibit that celebrates the military service and sacrifice of Black Marylanders throughout U.S. history. The exhibit opens at the Laurel Branch Library on Tuesday, February 22 at 12 pm and will tour four other branch libraries through July. Developed by the Maryland Military Historical Society, in partnership with Stevenson University's Department of Public History & Humanities, the exhibition at PGCMLS is sponsored by Warren Builds and County Council Member-at-Large Mel Franklin. The exhibit features 38 panels that include 63 major stories and 245 photographs and images. It explores the stories of Marylanders and Prince Georgians whose courage and service are an inspiration for young people and adults alike. "In Freedom's Name" was previously displayed at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library, the



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, and public libraries in Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Howard counties.

PGCMLS Tour Schedule for "In Freedom's Name"

Laurel Branch Library February 22–March 22, 2022
New Carrollton Branch Library March 24–April 26, 2022
South Bowie Branch Library April

28–May 24, 2022
Spauldings Branch Library May 26–June 28, 2022
Oxon Hill Branch Library Thursday, June 30–Tuesday, July 26, 2022

"Black and Proud+"

"Black and Proud+" is a community art exhibit curated by the PGCMLS Black History and Culture Team and LGBTQ+ Team. Opening at the Oxon Hill Branch Library on Monday, February 28 at 10

am, it features work by Black and LGBTQ+ artists who call Prince George's County and the metropolitan Washington, DC area home. Works range from poetry to portraits that celebrate the strength and courage of Black Americans. The exhibit will be on display at Oxon Hill through March 2022. Featured artists include: Ny'Lah Green (Student, Suitland High

See **EXHIBITS** Page A7

Governor Hogan Encourages Marylanders to Celebrate Harriet Tubman's 200th Birthday

Weekend of Events Planned Next Month at Underground Railroad State Park

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 21, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Harriet

Tubman and the 5th anniversary of its opening, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center will host a series of free, family-friendly programs during the weekend of March 12 to 13.

"Harriet Tubman dedicated her life in selfless

service to others and the cause of freedom," said Governor Hogan. "This year, as we celebrate her 200th birthday, we hope that even more Marylanders and visitors from across the country will take time to learn about the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad and her years-long

struggle to lead countless slaves to their freedom."

Located near Harriet Tubman's birthplace in Dorchester County, the park is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and houses an exhibit hall, immersive displays, a museum store, and an information desk. Throughout this celebration weekend and the rest of the year, the park's expert staff, known as "Team Tubman," are hosting special programs to honor the life and legacy of the abolitionist and suffragist.

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New Book Release Benefits Homeless Men, Women and Children

50th Anniversary Marvin Gaye Tribute Concert

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ChildWatch:
Sidney Poitier: "Press On For Our Children's Future"

"...why, after all these years and all our efforts, do we still need a Children's Defense Fund?..."

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Promising Pioneers: Transforming Your Business Idea Into Reality

Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Announces Vice President of Development

Business and Finance, Page A5

Maryland State Police, Department of Labor Warn of Rise in Unemployment Insurance Scams

The Department of Labor is coordinating with Maryland State Police to alert the public about these ongoing and evolving fraud scams.

Business and Finance, Page A6

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Edward Burroughs, youngest Prince George's Council member, sworn in

Edward Burroughs III was sworn in Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. as District 8 County Council Member. He is of particular interest to me because I live in District 8. And because he came by, knocked on my door, and asked me to vote for him and told me why. I did.

He is only 29! Now making history in Prince George's as the county's youngest council member ever. Working with youth, he says, will be one of his top priorities.

He previously served the residents of District 8 on the County Board of Education and was Legislative Affairs Director to Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy. He is a lifelong resident of Prince George's County, the son of civil servants and the first in his family to earn a four-year college degree. He attended Bowie State and graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Most important around here, he graduated from Crossland. So, he knows us.

You might ask, "Where is District 8 in Prince George's?" It includes Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Glass Manor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill and Temple Hills. It also includes Skyline.

It does not include Morningside, which is in District 7.

District 7 includes: Capitol Heights, District Heights, Hillcrest Heights, Marlow Heights, Seat Pleasant, Morningside, Suitland, Temple Hills and portions of Forestville and Oxon Hill.

Edward Burroughs made a lot of campaign promises, including "No Property Tax increases," "Innovative Education Strategies," "Local Job Creation," and "Clean Communities."

As he knows, we'll all be watching.

Mike Trimboli, wrestled at Suitland High

Michael V. Trimboli, 77, longtime resident of Morningside and a Norfolk Southern Railroad retiree, died at his home on Morgan Road on Jan. 21.

Mike graduated in 1963 from Suitland High School where he was a gymnast and member of the wrestling team.

He was an avid collector of coins and a generous donator to many charities.

Survivors include two grandchildren. Services were at Advent Funeral Home in Falls Church.

The interesting thing about the home where he died: the Morningside Directory of January 1955 lists that house, 418 Mor-

gan Road, as the residence of Michael and Phyllis Trimboli. They were Mike's parents.

Olin Malone, who loved to build model airplanes

Olin Ashby Malone, Jr., 76, of Camp Springs, whose hobby was building and flying his model airplanes, died Jan. 16 in Waldorf.

"Hot Rod," as he was known by some, was the son of Olin Sr. and Rosalie Malone, and a lifelong resident of Camp Springs. He graduated from Mount St. Mary's College with a degree in History.

He was predeceased by his parents. Survivors include his children, Olin III, Jeffrey, Courtney and James; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Neighbors & other good people

The artwork of Nicaeya Florentino, a sixth grader at St. Columba School in Oxon Hill, is featured in the Feb. 17 Catholic Standard newspaper in commemoration of Black History Month. Included is her self-portrait next to a drawing of Rosa Parks seated on the bus. "I admire Rosa Parks," she writes, "because she was a strong, independent and brave woman of color."

Father James Isidore Dixon, 90, pastor of Most Holy Rosary Parish in Rosaryville (Upper Marlboro), from 1993 until retirement in 2007, died Dec. 30. He grew up in Charles County, was ordained a priest on April 5, 1964, in Rome. Among his several assignments was as chaplain at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington.

Town of Morningside Memories: February 1983

Thirty-nine years ago this month, Harry Carnes was reelected president of the Morningside Senior Citizens. Other officers were Josephine Cunningham, Helen Jurney and Mae Jurney. The Seniors met the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at the Town Hall. Harry Carnes, by the way, had been nominated the JC's Senior of the Year.

Register your kids at St. Philip's

St. Philip the Apostle School, in Camp Springs, is accepting applications for the upcoming year. Grades are preK through 8th grade. For information, call 301-423-4740 or go to www.stpamd.org.

All seven McHale children graduated from St. Philip's, and they've done well. Daughter Kathleen Shearer was a member

of the first graduating class, back in 1965.

Rosa, Martin and Commander

Two bald eagles on a nest along the Dulles corridor have been named in honor of civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. following a contest by kids in Loudoun County public schools.

Commander is not necessarily a football player. He could be the new First Dog. In December, President Biden announced that he and First Lady Jill Biden have a new puppy and they've named him Commander. They have also adopted a First Cat, named Willow.

Changing landscape

A Grand Opening is being held Feb. 24 for a new Aldi grocery, located at 1741 Ritchie Station Court, Capitol Heights. This brings the number of Aldis in the DC region to two dozen. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Sunday.

Joint Base Andrews held a groundbreaking ceremony on the base Feb. 2 for the newly upgraded Consolidated Communication Center. The \$15 million dollar building will support the missions of both the 89th and 744th communication squadrons.

Mary's COVID-19 report: 26 Marylanders die

Through 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, there were 994,577 cases of the virus. Of those, 23,402 were new. Also, 13,965 Marylanders have died of COVID-19; 26 deaths were new.

In this corner of Prince George's County, masks are generally worn; they don't seem to be an issue.

Milestones: no Feb. 29

Happy birthday in Heaven to Gerald "Gerry" Joliffe because there is no February 29 on earth this year. He was born Feb. 29, 1952, and grew up District Heights, son of George and Agnes "Jean" Joliffe. He died Feb. 21, 2014. Gerry is the only person I've ever known born on Leap Day.

Happy birthday to Angela Hutchinson, Thomas "TJ" Flaherty and Terrence Flaherty, Feb. 28; Winifred Lanehart, March 1; Karen (Elborne) Stern and Harold Titus, March 2; Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor and Matthew Flaherty, March 4.

Happy anniversaries to Clifford and Nancy Lantz on Feb. 26; Freda and Michael McDonald, their 42nd on Feb. 28; and Tom and Sarah Shipman, their 63rd on March 4.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CELEBRATING BLACK EDUCATORS

Happy Black History Month. We have so much to celebrate as a parish about how God got us over, and this month we take time to reflect on the blessings that God gave our ancestors. At the core of our history as Historically Black Congregations, we are creative, we are familial, and we are loving. In addition to those things, we hold a core value of desiring justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). And so, this month we are going to explore what justice looks like in the Kingdom of God." Reverend Shemaiah Strickland.

Rudell Jones recalls his path into the academic arena. "As a child in Cambridge, Maryland, I was exposed to two types of jobs in the Black Community. The people I saw on a daily basis were either factory workers or teachers. After seeing the long hours my father and others worked on their jobs in the local factories, I knew that type of career was not for me, so I decided to become a teacher. After graduating from Bowie State College (now Bowie State University) in 1977, I was hired by the Talbot County Public School System as an intermediate math teacher at St. Michaels Elementary School in St. Michaels, Maryland".

It was the love of music that led Gwendolyn Deville to pursuing an academic career. "She stated, when I went to high school, the class I enjoyed most was music, especially the choir under the direction of Mr. Earl Walter Pearson. I always wanted to go to college after graduating from high school, but I could not decide which career I wanted to pursue. I came to the conclusion, that if I liked music, why not major in music. I went to Morgan State College (now Morgan State University) and majored in music. Upon graduating from college, I was able to get a job in Prince George's County Public Schools as a music teacher at Frederick Douglass High School. If I had to do it all over again, I would choose the same career path. I have had so many blessings by trying to bless others."

Alberta Butler, a long-time former educator, shares her perspective on mentorship. "Finding Hope. Do you believe you can learn something from everyone? Seeds are being planted all the time and will grow out of the field of possi-

bility. We have the power to decide what kinds of seeds we allow in our own personal garden. Since the dawn of time, people have been inspired by the words and actions of others. We can learn something from everyone. The greatest way to learn something is to learn it as though you are going to teach it to someone else. Being able to share with someone else can help form our own decisions. Think of positive role models who may be in your life and whether or not you appreciate them."

Rudell and Gwendolyn continue to share their wisdom and experiences with others. Rudell advises Black educators of today to "establish a positive rapport with the families of your most challenging students, make an extra effort to implement strategies needed for their success, and encourage and motivate all students to exceed their potential. Also, I would tell Black Educators to be lifelong learners, get a degree higher than a bachelor's degree, and apply for administrative positions. Our Black students need to see people who look like them working in all levels at their schools."

"While Gwendolyn remarks "To Black Educators, I would say our children need you, it is not an easy career and it can be frustrating, but the rewards of helping a child or adult make it through some difficult situations will be a blessing to you and the child/adult. You can't put a price on it, and you will be rewarded knowing you made a difference in their lives." Information received from The Messenger February 2022 Nottingham Myers and Christ United Methodist Churches Cooperative Parish Newsletter. Joyce Lee and Brown/Reverend Shemaiah Strickland.

MASKS IN MD SCHOOLS

On Thursday, February 10, 2022, Gov. Larry Hogan called on the Maryland State Board of Education to rescind its school mask policy. "We have seen the harmful effects of prolonged school closures on the education, health, and emotional well-being of Maryland students," Hogan said. "The consequences include failing grades, regressed social development, and increased mental health challenges. If these trends are not reversed quickly, we face the unthinkable prospect of a generation left behind, both academically and socially." (Maryland Governor's Press Office).

Around the County

Expungement Fair in Forest Heights—February 26

Join State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy and Forest Heights Mayor Calvin Washington for the State's Attorney's Office's first expungement fair of 2022. The event will be held on Saturday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration is strongly encouraged but not required. If you would like to attend, please register via eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pgsao-expungement-fair-in-forest-heights-tickets-259692095047?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

ShopRite and Price Rite Marketplaces to Participate in Job Fair February 26

Full- and Part-Time Positions Available in Stores Across Six States KEASBEY, NJ (Feb. 16, 2022)—ShopRite and Price Rite Marketplace will host job fairs Feb. 26 to fill a variety of positions at their grocery stores. Candidates looking to jump start their careers and gain valuable experience in retail, management, customer service and business are encouraged to visit any store on Saturday, Feb. 26 to speak with a hiring manager on the spot.

The walk-up job fairs are taking place from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at nearly all Price Rite locations and most ShopRite locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Maryland. Interested candidates can visit the location of their choice and speak with a hiring manager for an immediate interview. Full-time, part-time and management positions are available, depending on location.

ShopRite and Price Rite Marketplace, registered trademarks of the supermarket cooperative Wakefern Food Corp., will join Wakefern in a cooperative-wide hiring fair at all Wakefern supermarket banners on Feb. 26.

Marietta House Museum's Women's History Month Presentation: "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All"

Join Marietta House Museum, Thursday, March 10, 6:30–7:30 p.m. for a Women's History Month talk with Dr. Martha Jones, history professor from Johns Hopkins University.

This virtual presentation on Microsoft Teams features Dr. Jones speaking about her award-winning book "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All".

In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most black women. Securing the vote for black women required a movement of their own. Dr. Jones researched the accounts of Black women in America who collaborated, took risks, and defied the odds to give voice to a massive group of silenced people in all the United States. Dr. Jones recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the right to vote. And in the process, Black women wielded political power to work towards securing the equality and dignity of all persons.

Dr. Jones is a historian, writer, and commentator, based at Johns Hopkins University, who focuses on Black Americans' roles in shaping American democracy. She has received numerous awards and in 2010 was selected as a Distinguished Lecturer with the Organization of American Historians.

Thank you to the Prince George's Historical Society for their support for this program.

Ages 10 and older. To register for this program, please email stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com or visit Parks Direct. \$5/person.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

—Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum

MSU Awards Prestigious Provost Scholarships

STARKVILLE, Miss. (Feb. 16, 2022)—Thirteen first-year students at Mississippi State are receiving the university's seventh annual Provost Scholarships.

One of two preeminent awards offered by MSU's Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College, Provost Scholarships enable student growth in a variety of areas, from academics to research. Opportunities for study abroad, creative discovery and conference travel also are part of the award.

This year's group was selected from more than 700 qualified applicants, who were required to have a minimum 30 ACT and 3.75 high school GPA (based on a 4.0 scale).

Anastasia D. Elder, program mentor and the honors college's associate dean, said Provost Scholars are part of a community in which they share their intellectual interests, are mutually supportive of each other and receive encouragement for their engagement in research endeavors.

"Provost Scholars are distinguished by their curiosity and passion for understanding," said Elder, a professor in the College of Education's Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Foundations. "Of course, Provost Scholars excel academically, but they are also students who become our future research leaders. They mentor fellow scholars and inspire in others their same drive for exploring the world around them."

The 2021–22 Provost Scholars class includes (by hometown):

UPPER MARLBORO, Md.—Jennifer R. Greer, a chemistry major.

Learn more about MSU's Shackouls Honors College and its Prestigious Scholars program at www.honors.msstate.edu.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu.

—MSU Office of Public Affairs

Carlos Carter Graduates From Vermilion Community College

ELY, Minn. (Feb. 15, 2022)—Carlos Carter of Upper Marlboro, MD is among the 2021 Fall Semester graduates of Vermilion Community College, located in Ely, MN. Carter graduated with AA: Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Vermilion Community College is a member of the Minnesota State system and is an equal opportunity educator / employer. Upon request, this information is available in alternative formats.

—Jeff Nelson, Vermilion Community College

COMMUNITY

Introducing a New Book Release “Friendship The Journey” Benefitting Homeless Men, Women and Children

By PRESS OFFICER
Something to Think About Podcast

ELKRIDGE, Md. (Feb. 16, 2022)—A powerful new book of poetry entitled “Friendship The Journey”, has recently been released by Go To Publish publishing, with offices in London, England and Atlanta, Georgia.

The Author, Janice A. Euell, is a passionate writer and avid community service advocate. She has combined her love of poetry and the compassion she feels for her fellow man to benefit homeless women, men, and children. “The sale of this book of poetry according to Euell “enables us to provide gifts of love to homeless women, men and children in the form of form of Agape Gift that contain 10–15 new items for those in or going into homeless situations to give them the sense that someone loves and cares about them.

As founder and president of two community outreach centers for over two (2) decades, Euell invites her readers to share the journeys

of those who were victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment, to take a walk in their shoes. Through encouragement, inspiration and motivation in poems like “Turn the Page,” “Wings,” and “Who Am I,?” readers can also feel their wounds heal and transform them from homelessness to hopefulness and ultimately to self-respect and dignity.

Experience the journey of a homeless single mom going from homelessness with four (4) small children to a home of her own, a car, college, a great job and most of all her self-respect and dignity.

“These are not just poems, they are personal journeys telling real life stories through the cadence of poetry,” said Euell.

Please visit www.gotopublish.com to purchase copies.

For more information contact: Pastor John McCain, Marketing/Promotion at 301-648-2175.

The Center for Performing Arts at Prince George’s Community College Presents a 50th Anniversary Marvin Gaye Tribute Concert

April 1 Musical Tribute By Raheem Devaughn and Friends Celebrates the Life and Legacy of the R&B Pioneer

By SONJI JOYNER
PGCC

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 16, 2022)—A 50th Anniversary Tribute to Marvin Gaye will be held on April 1, 8–10 p.m., in the Grand Theater at the Center for Performing Arts, located on the Largo campus of Prince George’s Community College.

National recording artist Raheem Devaughn will star in the musical tribute to Gaye, who helped shape the sound of Motown music in the 1960s. The concert will be held on the eve of what would have been Gaye’s 83rd birthday and on the 38th anniversary of his untimely death.

“I’ve been working on a special project involving the icon Marvin Gaye,” said Raheem DeVaughn. “To perform his songs as of late brings me much excitement because I know the tribute album to Marvin is coming in the near future.”

Marvin Gaye, known as the “Prince of Motown,” was born and raised in Washington, D.C. As a solo artist and songwriter, his music topped the charts and reflected the themes and challenges of the times. “What’s Going On” was released in 1971 when Americans were upset about the Vietnam War, high unemployment, and police brutality. The song’s relevance continues today, and it can still be heard at protests and demonstrations around the globe.

“It is sobering to realize that the same concerns Marvin Gaye voiced in this monumental album are still present 50 years later,” said Andre Mazelin, senior manager, Center for the Performing Arts. “This concert will be a joyous celebration of his legacy, but it also serves as a reminder that there is still much work to be done.”

The Raheem DeVaughn and Friends performances will pay tribute to Marvin Gaye and other Motown artists of the times, The Temptations, Four Tops, Dells, Smokey

Robinson, and Stevie Wonder. Special guests “The Voices” will be featured. “The Voices” tribute to Motown is composed of multi-talented musicians and world class entertainers performing favorite classic hits of Motown. Be prepared for a magical night in entertainment and an unforgettable experience! Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions, LLC will co-produce the event.

Tickets may be purchased online <https://www.pgcc.edu/about/pgcc/events/event-details/whats-going-on-50th-anniversary-celebration.php> or at the box office, and plenty of free parking is available. The box office phone line and in-person sales are open from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Phone sales are not permissible. Plan your visit and get details about the 173,000 square-foot Center for Performing Arts, along with directions and maps. Prince George’s Community College is located at 301 Largo Rd., Largo, Maryland 20774.

Serves from A1

According to Commander Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, “The Surface Force will continue to meet the challenge of strategic competition and respond to the realities of the modern security environment. Our efforts are critical to preserve freedom of the seas, deter aggression and win wars.”

Ngoe and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

“One of my biggest accomplishments was learning how to swim,” said Ngoe. “When I

was a child, I nearly died from drowning. I was always hesitant to be around water after that. It took me 32 attempts, in boot camp, for me to jump off the tower and pass the swim qualification. I am proud to be the first person in my family to learn how to swim.”

As Ngoe and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

“Serving means a lot to me,” added Ngoe. “I’m the first person in my family to join the armed forces. I grew up in a very successful family, so there’s a lot of pressure when it

comes to carving my own path. I feel good doing something for my country and myself. I have learned I’m stronger than I once thought and I can do anything I set my mind to.”

USS Truxtun is part of the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group ramping up for a fleet exercise that will integrate multi-level faceted training that will prepare them for future deployments. The ship’s crew has successfully completed all basic phase training and is making outstanding progress to be prepared to operate in a complex seamanship environment.



Heart care to changeUP your life.

Heart disease in our community runs higher than state and national averages.

But, here is some good news:

The University of Maryland Capital Region Health Heart and Vascular Institute is changing up heart health in our region.

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UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
CAPITAL REGION HEALTH

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Sidney Poitier: "Press On For Our Children's Future"

When beloved icon Sidney Poitier passed away just weeks short of what would have been his 95th birthday on February 20, the world mourned a trailblazer who was not just a groundbreaking artist but an activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "a man of great depth, a man of great social concern, a man who is dedicated to human rights and freedom." His steadfast public advocacy during the Civil Rights Movement, when he raised and personally delivered bail money for civil rights workers and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Mississippi, attended the March on Washington, and came to Resurrection City to stand with the Poor People's Campaign, was just one chapter in a lifetime of fighting for equality on and offstage. I am especially grateful for his long legacy as a champion for children.

He was always determined to help young peo-

ple overcome the odds stacked against them, and some fans who only saw his regal elegance and confident bearing as an adult may not even have realized how many odds he had overcome early in his own life, starting from birth as a poor, premature baby. He was the youngest of seven children and was born two months early in Miami, Florida when his parents, tomato farmers from the Bahamas, were in the United States for what had been intended as a short trip to sell crops. At less than three pounds he was not expected to survive, and his father even bought a tiny casket. But his mother, refusing to give up hope, consulted a soothsayer, who told her that her baby would live and would walk with kings and carry her name around the world.

He spent his childhood on a rural part of Cat Island in the Bahamas without indoor plumbing,

electricity, or formal education. He didn't attend school regularly until his family moved to Nassau when he was ten, and two years later had to drop out to start working to help earn money for his family, still barely able to read. When he was 15, he and several friends were jailed overnight for stealing ears of corn. His parents responded by sending him to live with an older brother in Miami in hopes of keeping him out of more trouble. As he later remembered, his father pressed three dollars into his hand and said goodbye at the boat dock. After being confronted and stifled by the unfamiliar Jim Crow racism of the American South, at 16 he left and moved alone to New York City, where he slept in train stations and bathroom stalls and was jailed again, this time for vagrancy. Poor, homeless, separated from family, poorly educated and pushed out of school early: how many other young people in similar circumstances with so many strikes against them, especially other children of color, never escape? But Sidney Poitier's life ultimately fulfilled the soothsayer's prophecy to his mother, and he never forgot what he had overcome or the individuals who helped along the way.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) was honored to be one of the organizations his family chose to honor his legacy and deeply grateful that he was a faithful friend and supporter of CDF's work on behalf of children throughout his life. He participated in a number of CDF events, including CDF's 35th anniversary in 2008. In a video message he said: "I'm very happy to be here with you tonight, but sad in a way too. Sad, because I ask

myself, why, after all these years and all our efforts, do we still need a Children's Defense Fund? It's been 35 years since Marian first sounded the call. Nearly 45 years since Lyndon Johnson astonishingly told Congress 'we shall overcome' when he proposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And yet, our children remain at risk. As a nation, we have failed them in our schools. We have failed them in their right to even adequate health coverage. Too often, we have failed them by putting so many children born poor, Black, Latino, in a pipeline to prison. That is why we needed and why we still need the Children's Defense Fund. Unless and until America hears our children calling, it's up to all of us to do what it takes—with our checkbooks, with our mentoring, with our pressure at the voting booths—to save America's future."

He continued: "The Children's Defense Fund has been one of the great causes of my life. I am so proud to have been a part of it . . . If I can quote another line from the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, 'we'll walk hand in hand, we will walk hand in hand someday.' You and I, Marian, and those after us willing to pick up the baton, must press on for our children's future. Don't make me come back here in 35 years to tell you all that our kids still need the Children's Defense Fund as much as they do today. We can do better." He closed by saying: "I believe in you."

We can do better. I am so grateful for Sidney Poitier's extraordinary example of overcoming the odds to achieve greatness—and his unwavering belief that we can and will change the odds for every child.

Prince George's County Students Deserve a Social and Emotional Recovery to Thrive

As president of a teachers' union, the stories I hear from compassionate educators about their struggling students would break anyone's heart. After a challenging year navigating through remote learning, students have returned to classrooms with some of their families in dire financial straits and others with relatives seriously ill or dying of COVID-19. Back in classes, students bring their traumas, struggles, insecurities, and fears to school along with their backpacks and homework.

The combination of disrupted education and trauma caused by the pandemic has hit the hardest of students from vulnerable and systemically neglected populations. At this moment, we have an urgent obligation to focus on the needs of these students with social and emotional support services. Prince George's County and the state of Maryland had not invested in these services adequately before the pandemic, and now the situation is more challenging than anything students have ever faced.

The pandemic rocked families across Prince George's County, where close to half of our student population is Black, a third is Hispanic, and about half of all students come from economically disad-

vantaged households. Historic opportunity and wealth gaps have put them in the bull's eye of the pandemic's effects, and our students desperately need and deserve our help.

We cannot afford to let the already wide gap in student opportunities worsen. We have to step up and provide the resources and supports necessary to ensure equitable opportunity for each child to recover and thrive.

Like before the pandemic, many economically disadvantaged children need wraparound services provided by district-employed mental health professionals and nurses in every school. When kids are grieving a loss, dealing with violence at home or in their neighborhoods, or suffering any form of trauma, they have trouble learning.

Students who are hungry, sick, or do not have clothes appropriate to the weather cannot concentrate on classroom instruction. Food pantries, donated clothes, and on-site health clinics are critical for families. Some students lost interest in school because they did not acclimate to remote learning. They lost at least a year of school and need extra assistance through tutoring, before- and after-school programs, and other enrichment.

We cannot afford to pay lip service to the importance of quality education and then turn around and ignore what it takes to give vulnerable students the programs and services they need. We cannot lose the sense of urgency we felt when educators pulled together to invent remote learning and more in a crisis. Our school communities need action, not words. Every day, we see how students are hurting, and we feel their need for mental health and social services now more than ever. Maryland cannot delay the delivery of these resources any longer.

The District and Board of Education can and should use the federal education funding from the American Rescue Plan and state funding from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to pay for these critical programs and services. These funding sources are intended for precisely the programs we need in our schools.

We have to invest in today's students, who are our nation's heroes of the next crisis, our future research scientists, grocery cashiers, emergency doctors, respiratory therapists, construction and maintenance engineers, home elder care providers, artists, HVAC experts, broadband installers and yes, even educators. When students are struggling, we need the resources to reassure them that their school communities will support their path of recovery.

Donna Christy is president of the Prince George's County Education Association.

Celebrate from A1

Throughout the month of March, the park will display numerous artifacts from Tubman's life—many in public for the first time—including the receipt from a midwife for Tubman's birth, Tubman's "runaway" advertisement, and items recovered from the site of her father Ben Ross' cabin, which was recently discovered and excavated by Maryland Department of Transportation archeologists.

Programs and events scheduled for the anniversary weekend include:

Friday, March 11:

7 p.m. — Virtual Premier of "Rooted Wisdom: Nature's Role in the Underground Railroad"

This film chronicles the experiences of freedom seekers' journeys through the wilderness. The documentary film will stream live on Friday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at naturesrole.org. The virtual event is free and open to all, though registration is encouraged at bit.ly/RootedWisdomPremiere. A panel discussion with historians and filmmakers will follow.

Following the premiere, the film will be shown in the multi-purpose room every hour at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. throughout the celebratory weekend.

Saturday, March 12:

10 a.m. — Opening ceremony featuring a living history interpretation by Millicent Sparks

11 a.m. — "The Discovery of the Ben Ross Homesite"

Hear from Dr. Julie Schablitsky of the Maryland Department of Transportation about the successful effort to locate and excavate the homesite of Ben Ross. The artifacts are on display for the first time at the Visitor Center for the entire month of March.

12 p.m. — "Foraging Freedom: Experiencing the Natural World of the Underground Railroad"

Join an interactive walking tour with historian Anthony Cohen through the Legacy Garden and adjacent Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Participants should expect to be on their feet and are encouraged to wear comfortable all-weather shoes.

1 p.m. — "Jubilee Voices at Harriet's House"

Hear the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices during the Tubman 200th festivities. Jubilee Voices is an ensemble that is committed to the preservation of African American history and traditions through songs and storytelling.

2 p.m. — "The Education of Harriet Ross Tubman"

Kate Clifford Larson, a Tubman biographer, discusses the free and enslaved people who helped raise, protect, nurture, and educate Minty to become the woman we know as Harriet Tubman.

3 p.m. — "Designing a New Place to Experience History: An Exploration of the Architects"

Listen to Chris Elcock, associate principal of the architecture firm GWWO Inc., as he explains the design process behind creating the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center

sign process behind creating the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center

Sunday, March 13:

10 a.m. — "Meet Harriet Tubman"

Living history interpreter Millicent Sparks performs as Tubman and shares her monumental life with audience members.

11 a.m. — "The Hidden Chesapeake Through Harriet Tubman's Eyes"

Kate Clifford Larson, a Tubman biographer, shares about some of the places around the Chesapeake Bay that bear witness to the histories, memories, and legacies of the Underground Railroad and its most famous conductor.

12 p.m. — "The Chronicles of Adam"

A powerful and inspirational first-person historical interpretation of an enslaved man by the name of Adam.

1 p.m. — "The Legacy Hour"

Hear from community members and enjoy musical selections from Renna McKinney as we honor the lives of Donald Pinder and Herschel Johnson. During the second half hour, become inspired by Tina Wyatt, great, great, great grandniece of Harriet Tubman as she shares "A Letter to Soph."

2 p.m. — "The Legacy of Slavery in Maryland"

Chris Haley of the Maryland

State Archives presents a general overview of slavery in Maryland, which will include examples of records specifically related to the state and to counties of the Eastern Shore and how both the enslaved and free were affected by the 'peculiar institution.'

3 p.m. — "Freedom Bound"

Join public historian and historical interpreter Marvin-Alonzo Greer in this family-friendly program with interactive songs and stories.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Commerce, National Park Service, and other federal, state, and local partners will continue to celebrate and highlight aspects of Tubman's story throughout the year.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, which has just reached its 5th 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.

Congressman Brown: Maryland Has to Lead on Gun Safety

"Ten years ago, [the Maryland General Assembly] was debating gun regulation in the aftermath of Sandy Hook, No other state around the country was able to do what Maryland did."

WASHINGTON (Feb. 16, 2022)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) testified before the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in support of legislation to ban ghost guns in Maryland. Congressman Brown shared with the committee his personal experience with ghost guns, emphasized their impact on the lives of Marylanders, highlighted efforts in Congress, and urged action at the state level.

"If we're really going to make progress on gun safety. . . Maryland has to do what it always does, which is lead. Ten years ago, [the Maryland General Assembly] was debating gun

regulation in the aftermath of Sandy Hook," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "No other state around the country was able to do what Maryland did. We passed comprehensive background checks, required training and fingerprinting, banned assault weapons and large-capacity magazines."

Congressman Brown continued, "Is every gun violence death the result of an assault weapon—no. But taking them off the streets certainly helped. Is every gun-related death in Maryland going to be associated with a ghost gun—no. But taking them off the street is going to save at least one life. Maryland has

demonstrated the ability to lead. I'm here today simply to weigh in, in strong support of S.B. 387 and the House companion H.B. 425 and urge you to adopt and pass this bill in order to make our streets safer."

Congressman Brown co-sponsors two pieces of legislation to tackle the issue of ghost guns nationwide, to close the "ghost guns" loophole which allows purchasers to avoid federal background checks by buying unassembled firearms online and ensure that ghost guns, including firearms manufactured or completed using 3D printing, are subject to existing federal firearm regulation.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE



Promising Pioneers: Transforming Your Business Idea Into Reality

Sunday, March 6 at 1 p.m.

Do you or someone close to you have a great business idea or product? Are you or someone close to you struggling to take your promising small business to the next level? Join Psi Epsilon Omega chapter's Promising Pioneers: Transforming Your Business Idea Into Reality on Sunday, March 6 at 1 p.m. for an interactive discussion with successful entrepreneurs who have been in your shoes. FREE registration at Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: PEO Target 3: Building Your Economic Legacy "Small Business Workshop". After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting. This event will include valuable information and business resources followed by a great discussion with successful, small business owners.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/PromisingPioneers22>

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Swiss Immigrant Asks About Spouse Benefits

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

Dear Rusty: I am originally from Switzerland. I moved to the States, got married in 2012, and became a US Citizen in 2016. I never worked in the United States but have 44 years of Social Security contribution in Switzerland and have received a pension from there since I turned 62 (I'm now 64). Is it correct that I cannot apply for Social Security here in the States on my husband's account unless he is collecting his Social Security benefit? He will turn 62 this year but is still working and does not want to collect before 70.
Signed: Immigrant from Switzerland

Dear Immigrant: Yes, it is correct that you cannot collect U.S. Social Security spousal benefits from your husband until he starts collecting his own Social Security benefit. As soon as your husband's benefits start, you can apply for your benefit as his spouse, even though you aren't eligible for U.S. Social Security on your own. As a U.S. Citizen and current legal resident of the United States, you are eligible for U.S. spousal benefits from your husband even though you spent most of your life as a resident of Switzerland.

Since you mentioned your contributions to the Swiss social security program, I'd like to point out that there is a Social Security "totalization" agreement between the U.S. and Switzerland which permits using some of your Swiss credits to qualify for U.S. Social Security retirement benefits, but since you have never worked in the U.S. that bilateral agreement won't work for you. To use some of your Swiss credits to get U.S. Social Security on your own, you would need to have at least six (6) credits from working in the U.S. in a job which contributed to the U.S. Social Security program. Unless you have at least 6 U.S. Social Security credits, you cannot use the bilateral agreement with Switzerland to get your own SS retirement benefit, so you will need to wait until your husband claims his Social Security to start collecting spouse benefits from him. Assuming your spousal benefit from your husband will be higher than you would be eligible for on your own anyway, not getting your own Social Security retirement benefit using the bilateral totalization agreement is inconsequential.

You should be aware, too, that by your husband waiting until age 70 to claim his maximum SS benefit, and since you will have passed your own full retirement age by that time, the higher amount he gets at age 70 will be your survivor benefit if your husband should pass before you do. Upon his death you would get his full age 70 benefit instead of the smaller spousal benefit you will get while you are both living. Your benefit as his spouse while both of you are living will be 50% of the benefit your husband is entitled to at his full retirement age, but your benefit as his surviving widow will be 100% of the benefit he is receiving at his death.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Announces Vice President of Development

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (Feb. 14, 2022)—Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center is pleased to name Dawn Ridley as the new vice president, development. Ridley has more than 25 years' experience in program development, fundraising, marketing, business development and new product development. She most recently served as Assistant Vice President of Institutional Giving at Howard University.

"It is clear Dawn has the experience and expertise to lead our Foundation to great heights, including our current 2-year \$2.5M comprehensive campaign," said Deleen Richmond, president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. "Since the mission of Luminis Health is to enhance the health of the people and communities we serve, Dawn will play a pivotal role in making sure we continue to provide quality healthcare services for our family, friends, and neighbors."

"I am honored to live in Prince George's

County and now work for the premiere hospital in the region," said Dawn Ridley. "For more than thirty years, the Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Foundation has raised funds to support hospital programs and services. With the new behavioral health pavilion being built on campus, this is an exciting time to make a positive impact in this community."

Ridley shares a passion for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) initiatives. With its Health Equity and Anti-Racism Task (HEART) Force, Luminis Health has become a national model for eradicating inequities in health care. "I am proud to further the work of the HEART Force and I'm excited about the opportunity to increase health equity for our Prince George's community," said Ridley.

Ridley is on the faculty at Georgetown University and Howard University. She has held leadership roles with AARP, D.C. United, National Geographic Society, NFL Players Association, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and the Atlanta Braves baseball club. In addition, Ridley

served as the chair of the AARP Black Caucus Employee Resource Group.

Maryland-based Luminis Health is a nationally recognized health system comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center, Doctors Community Medical Center, J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center, Pathways, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise. Formed in 2019, Luminis Health serves residents in eight counties across the state and offers services in primary care, imaging, specialty care, emergency care, hospital care, as well as mental health and addiction care. With 771 licensed beds and 80+ sites of care, the health system has more than 6,600 employees, 1,900 medical staff, and more than 1,000 volunteers. Luminis Health generates \$1.1 billion in operating revenue and contributes \$80 million each year for the community's benefit. Luminis Health is committed to being a beacon of hope and healing for the region, while igniting new possibilities for how and where health care is delivered. Visit LuminisHealth.org and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

One Year Later: Mackenzie Scott's Impact With United Way of the National Capital Area

Scott's transformational gifts help 46 United Ways tackle crisis needs and systemic change

By PRESS OFFICERS
United Way NCA

WASHINGTON (Feb. 16, 2022)—One year after author and billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott used her Medium blog to launch a new brand of giving, United Way of the National Capital Area was one of 46 United Ways that joined forces to demonstrate the collective power of her gifts across the country.

In a Medium blog post titled "The United Way 46: One Year Later," the United Ways chronicle the impact of Scott's giving across their local communities, ranging from urban to suburban to rural. From providing basic needs and rebuilding supports in the aftermath of natural disasters to tackling systemic inequities by bolstering Black-led businesses and nonprofits and stabilizing vulnerable critical sectors such as child care, Scott is helping build stronger, more equitable communities, according to the blog post.

"Ms. Scott's investment allowed us to support strategic programmatic investments not otherwise funded by donor-restricted contributions and grants," said Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO, United Way of the National Capital Area. "The flexibility of Ms. Scott's gift has propelled your United Way NCA to expand community outreach and deepen community impact. In addition, it provides an expanded pool of resources to promote equity for everyone across our community, core to our mission."

Your United Way of the National Capital Area invested 100 percent of Scott's \$20 million transformational gift in its Strategic Mission Fund. As a result, the organization has already witnessed a tangible impact on the community, improving life for those facing the greatest need, in-

cluding ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and households in poverty. ALICE households represent the growing number of families struggling to make ends meet. A recent study shows these households were especially hard hit throughout the pandemic, losing employment income at a markedly higher rate than the middle class and high-income families.

What's more, with the cushion of Scott's significant financial support, United Way NCA could address the needs of ALICE households throughout the DMV. For example, 10 percent of the total funding supported United Way NCA's programmatic initiatives this year, such as Choose Healthy Life Black Clergy Action Plan (CHL) COVID-19 health expansion relief efforts. The funds also allowed United Way NCA to be agile in response to immediate community needs. For example, the organization partnered with the Virginia Department of Social Services to provide critical services to Afghan evacuee resettlement efforts as they made their way from Afghanistan to Virginia.

Looking ahead, 20 percent of the funding will continue to support United Way NCA's work across three core program areas of health, education, and economic opportunity in the coming year. Specifically, the organization will continue to:

- Provide equitable access to and distribution of COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and education and awareness through these efforts.
- Seed the expansion of new resource hubs as part of United Way NCA's place-based approach that included connecting neighboring churches to its community schools and Financial Empowerment Centers and expanding place-based testing services to communities in Prince

George's County, MD and Wards 7 and 8 in DC.

- Accelerate the development and implementation of a longitudinal analysis process to measure United Way NCA's programs' long-term impacts on low-to-middle income community members.

"We were humbled by the confidence Ms. Scott placed in us to achieve results and our team set out immediately to maximize this gift for local ALICE families for years to come," Allen-Herring said. "We invite others to follow Ms. Scott's lead and provide ALICE hope by investing for the common good."

In addition to the on-the-ground action, these United Ways took, Scott's gift also sparked a learning community among these 46 United Ways. Singled out by Scott for their strong leadership and results, this cohort has swapped insights and learnings as they put Scott's gift into action, Allen-Herring said.

"As Ms. Scott wrote, her gifts are already creating a value beyond what was initially imagined," Allen-Herring said. "And we're just getting started."

United Way of the National Capital Area works to improve the health, education and economic opportunity of every person in the National Capital community. United Way NCA has been improving lives by creating measurable impact in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties for nearly 50 years. In 2020, United Way NCA was among 384 organizations across the United States to receive a generous transformational investment from novelist and venture philanthropist, MacKenzie Scott. For more information about United Way of the National Capital Area, visit UnitedWayNCA.org.

2022 Grant Recipients of the Miller History Fund Announced

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Center for History and Culture

BALTIMORE (Feb. 9, 2022)—The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) is pleased to announce the 2022 awardees of the Miller History Fund, a competitive program that supports small historical organizations statewide. Eleven organizations representing four Maryland counties and Baltimore City will receive grants up to \$20,000 each to expand their capacity to steward and share state history.

This year's Miller History Fund award winners range from local historical societies to community development organizations. Projects include the preservation and digitization of collections, enhancements to exhibitions and programming, and the development of marketing and operational plans.

Grantees showcase the breadth and diversity of Maryland history and culture. In addition to four projects building the capacity of organizations to steward and interpret Black history, this year's grant cycle includes a collaborative project with the Pocomoke Indian Nation, and the Miller History Fund's first project exploring Maryland's rich Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage. The awards total \$200,000 in investment.

Awarded projects for fiscal year 2022 (beginning April 2022) include:

- **Prince George's County Historical Society**—The hiring of two archivists to assess the resources and collections of the historical society's Frederick S. DeMarr Library of County History and implement archival best practices to ensure the library's long-term viability and sustainability.

This year's award determinations were made by a group of third-party panelists of heritage experts working in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Delaware. MCHC staff facilitated the process but did not directly assign scores. Panelists reviewed 30 eligible applications requesting a total of nearly \$600,000 in support, demonstrating the great need for further investment in Maryland's historical sector.

"This was such a competitive cycle with so many worthy projects," said David Belw, MCHC Director of Grants & Government Affairs. "The Miller History Fund is the only grant program in Maryland that directly supports care of historical collections or marketing and development efforts for heritage organizations. We are only addressing a fraction of the need, but we are thrilled with the diversity of the initiatives and know that the funded projects will have a major impact on the future of these 11 organizations."

The fourth cycle of Miller History Fund grants for fiscal year 2023 is scheduled to open this coming fall 2022 with a series of applicant workshops. For more information as it becomes available, visit <https://www.mdhistory.org/about/miller-history-fund/>.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland State Police, Department of Labor Warn Of Rise in Unemployment Insurance Scams

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police Office of Communications

BALTIMORE (Feb. 16, 2022)—The Maryland State Police and the Maryland Department of Labor Unemployment Division are tracking and combating illegal schemes wherein fraudsters are impersonating the Division in email correspondence, text messages and phone calls with the intent of stealing unemployment insurance benefits.

The Department of Labor is coordinating with Maryland State Police to alert the public about these ongoing and evolving fraud scams.

- Unemployment Insurance fraud is a nationwide challenge that federal and state law enforcement agencies across the country are continuing to combat.
- The latest scheme is to ask legitimate claimants to enter their user ID and password onto fake websites wherein fraudsters then capture the data and use it to steal unemployment benefits.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Maryland Department of Labor has flagged nearly 1.8 million claimants—and 2.3 million total claims—as potentially fraudulent.

Recent Scam Alerts

Below are examples of sophisticated fraudulent text messages (SMS) reported to the Division by Maryland constituents. Text messages like these are designed by fraud scammers to grab a user's attention and lure them into clicking on a link to provide personal information. Again, one common scheme is to ask claimants to enter their User ID and Password, which the fraudsters then capture and use to divert benefit payments to their own bank accounts. If you receive an email or text message that appears to be from the Maryland Department of Labor DO NOT click on any links in the correspondence.

How to Protect Yourself From Unemployment Insurance Fraud Scams

To help you distinguish between legitimate assistance from Division staff and

fraudulent assistance from a potential scammer, please remember the following:

- Division does not provide assistance through text message and will not send any links asking a claimant to verify their account through text.
- Division will never request or require payment for assistance with unemployment insurance.
- Division staff will not provide assistance to claimants through direct message on social media.
- Do not provide any sensitive information related to your Maryland unemployment insurance claim by e-mail unless it is to a @maryland.gov e-mail address.

Report Fraud Scams

If you believe that your information has been used to fraudulently file an unemployment insurance claim, please contact the Maryland Department of Labor's Division of Unemployment Insurance by visiting MDunemployment.com or e-mailing ui.fraud@maryland.gov. Suspected unemployment insurance fraud should also be reported to the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General Hotline by visiting the website or calling 1-800-347-3756.

Identity Theft Protection and Resources

Follow these steps to protect your information from identity theft. If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft, please do the following:

- Contact your local Police Department or Maryland State Police Barrack in

your area to file a police report.

- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) online at www.IC3.gov.

For more information about identity theft, and how to protect yourself please visit:

- Commissioner of Financial Regulation Identity Theft Page
- Maryland Attorney General Identity Theft
- IdentityTheft.gov

What Else Can You Do

Review Your Account Statements and Order a Credit Report. We recommend that you regularly review account statements and order credit reports. Under Maryland and federal law, you are entitled to two FREE credit reports from each of the credit reporting agencies each year. Call 1-877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com to access your report through the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. You must contact each of the three credit reporting agencies individually to access your credit report under Maryland law:

- Equifax: 1-800-685-1111
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion: 1-888-909-8872

If you have questions or need additional information, contact us. Please know we will remain vigilant in our coordinated efforts to secure and protect your information. To receive updates and additional information about unemployment insurance programs in Maryland, visit MDunemployment.com.



IMAGE COURTESY MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Safer Headlights Coming As U.S. Traffic Fatalities Skyrocket

Lawmakers Vote for Change After AAA Research Illuminates Risk of Headlights Used on Most U.S. Vehicles

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA

WASHINGTON (Feb. 17, 2022)—Within the next few years, new cars will have safer headlights. Just [last] week, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced it will now allow adaptive driving beams on vehicles sold in the United States in an effort to reduce traffic crashes that happen at night. Seventy-five percent of pedestrian fatalities happen in the dark.

AAA research has demonstrated the inadequacy of headlights used on most U.S. vehicles and, given the compelling findings, federal lawmakers have now updated U.S. headlight standards for the first time in decades.

“Driving at night carries the highest fatality rate for both drivers and pedestrians,” says Ragina Ali, spokesperson for AAA Mid-Atlantic. “Given the sharp increase in fatalities on U.S. roadways—especially pedestrian fatalities—the updated headlight standards will literally be a lifesaving improvement.”

According to a NHTSA report released earlier this month, U.S. traffic fatalities were up 12% during the first nine months of 2021 compared to the same time period in 2020. That’s the highest number of fatalities during the first nine months of the year since 2006 and the highest year to year increase in NHTSA’s reporting history.

AAA Automotive Engineering research previously showed that the halogen headlights found on most U.S. vehicles failed to safely light unlit roadways at speeds above 40mph. These headlights do not give drivers enough time to see, react and brake to avoid a pedestrian or object in the roadway.

To the contrary, a study of the adaptive driving beam headlights (ADB) found on European vehicles determined that they were far better—increasing roadway lighting by as much as 86% when compared to the U.S. low beam headlights. The new headlights use switching technology to shine more light on areas in and around the road without reducing visibility for drivers in other vehicles.

As a result of AAA sharing these findings with lawmakers, the infrastructure bill recently signed into law included language requiring the federal government to update safety standards for headlamps, and allowing for the adaptive driving beam headlamps. NHTSA’s announcement this week allows automakers to install the adaptive driving beam headlights on new vehicles.

The successful push for updated headlight standards illustrates how AAA uses its automotive research to influence vehicle design and ultimately make driving safer.

LEAD Maryland Fellowship Program Welcomes Class XII

By LAURA WORMUTH
University of Maryland Extension

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) Signature Program, LEAD Maryland, welcomed its newest class of professionals, selected to develop leadership and skills to better serve and support the agricultural, natural resources, and rural sectors.

LEAD Class XII consists of 25 Fellowship recipients who are participating in the two-year program that teaches problem solving, communication, leadership skills, and public issues education related to public policy, resources, and opportunities. LEAD Fellows come from all over the state and from diverse backgrounds including rural and urban farmers, communications specialists, business owners, conservation technicians, organ-

ization managers, and more.

During the two year term of the Fellowship, the class will participate in a series of nine multi-day seminars and an international study experience, focused on affecting public policy, identifying resources, engaging and educating others, and becoming leaders within their communities, in rural Maryland, and within the agriculture industry.

“We are very excited to be working with this class. When the Fellows gathered for their first seminar last week, and we learned more about each person, it really impressed upon me what a strong and capable group this is—capable to do anything they might put their minds to doing,” said LEAD Maryland Foundation Executive Director Susan Harrison. “Each person brings experiences, knowledge, resources, and a passion for their

work and communities to the class. Their collective strength will allow them to serve and solve problems through leadership. The LEAD experience will help them grow as leaders and to discover many new people, places, and ideas. They are already learning from conversations with each other.”

The Fellowship Program is provided through UME and the LEAD Maryland Foundation, which is supported in part by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, the Rural Maryland Council through the Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Maryland Farm Bureau, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Campbell Foundation, the Northeast Agricultural Education Foundation (NAEF), the Maryland Nurs-



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

LEAD Class XII Fellows, five of whom are from Prince George’s County.

ery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA), Choptank Electric Trust, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF), and support from other organizations and individuals.

To learn more about the LEAD Maryland Fellowship program, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, and to find a full list of the Class XII participants, go to www.leadmaryland.org.

MONEY: Three Simple Steps to Help You Strengthen Your Finances

(StatePoint) Americans have been feeling the effects of the pandemic in their wallets, leading many consumers to start thinking differently about their finances.

According to Lincoln Financial Group’s Consumer Sentiment Tracker, 59% say they are planning to make permanent changes to the way they spend and save due to the crisis. The findings went on to show that consumers’ top three financial concerns in today’s market include emergency savings (41%), having enough income in retirement (40%) and inflation (39%).

“Our research found consumers are especially interested in protection during times of financial uncertainty, which reinforces the need for financial planning,” said Sharon Scanlon, senior vice president, Customer Experience, Producer Solutions and Retirement Operations for Lincoln Financial Group. “Everyone has competing priorities but making a few easy adjustments can help people achieve their financial goals.”

Here are three simple financial steps Lincoln

Financial recommends to help strengthen consumers’ financial outlooks:

1. Review finances holistically. Ensure you evaluate the big picture—not just where you are spending, but where you are saving and protecting your future too. A simple budget will help you differentiate between needs and wants, enabling you to find areas to cut back or eliminate to find money to meet your financial goals, like retirement or emergency savings. Maximize online budgeting tools, calculators and other financial wellness resources available through your employer too.

2. Prepare for the unexpected. Without the right protections in place, an unexpected event can derail retirement savings, disrupt your ability to provide for your family or drive you into additional debt. Look into coverages like disability, accident and life insurance that may be available through your employer or consider an individual life insurance policy. Also, commit to funding your emer-

gency savings account as part of your budget. And don’t forget to think about how you would fund the cost of care if you or a loved one had a long-term care event.

3. Plan for the future. Start with your employer-sponsored retirement plan and commit to save at least up to the match, if available. If you already meet the match, resolve to increase your retirement contributions each year, or with each increase in pay. You don’t just need a retirement plan, though—you need a plan for retirement! Consider diversifying your portfolio with an annuity. Also, in-plan guaranteed income options can serve as a powerful tool to protect savings during periods of market volatility, while still benefitting you when the market goes up.

In addition to these resolutions, also consider meeting with a trusted financial professional who can help you identify solutions that best meet your individual needs and situation. Visit www.lfg.com for more tools and resources.



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Exhibits from A1

School), Live'N'Tune (Artist, Upper Marlboro), MotherPat (Artist, Cheverly), Shaymar Higgs (Artist, Upper Marlboro), Leigh Marget (Artist and Former PGCPS Educator, Laurel), Jasmine Lee (Student, Suitland High School), and Rae Akino (Artist, Prince George's County Native).

Exhibit Hours

PGCMLS branch libraries are open Monday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday 12–8 p.m., Thursday-Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday (select branches) 1–5 p.m. Hours and locations. Both exhibits are open and viewable during branch hours. No registration required. Contact Ask a Librarian at 240-455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info with questions.

"I am grateful to Council Member Mel Franklin, Warren Builds, and PGCMLS staff for sharing these two important exhibits with the community," said PGCMLS CEO Roberta Phillips. "Visual expressions of history and creativity inspire discovery and curiosity that can be advanced using the Library's collections."

Visit the Sojourner Truth Room

The Library invites visitors to the "Black and Proud+" exhibit to also visit the Sojourner Truth Room at the Oxon Hill Branch Library. The branch was built on the site of the Sojourner Truth Elementary School in 1967, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. In response to the Civil Rights era's growing request for African American research materials, the Oxon Hill Branch Library's special collection located in the Sojourner Truth Room was created. Named for Sojourner Truth, the collection continues to honor one of this country's truly remarkable women and has become an outstanding regional resource. This comprehensive collection of reference materials on African American history and culture includes over 18,000 cataloged items (many are rare or out-of-print), periodicals, sheet music by African American composers, photographs, and posters. The pamphlet file contains pamphlets, clippings, and other reference sources. Explore the collection at pgcmls.info/sojourner-truth-room.

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