

# The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY GRACE TOOHEY

President Obama hosts the first-ever White House Demo Day

## The Next Big Idea: Supporting Startups Across America

By DIANA DOUKAS  
Director of the White House Business Council

Whether it's a garage, a basement, a dorm room, or—if you're like me—a kitchen, a great idea can ignite just about anywhere. In America, those small sparks of innovation have defined who we are as people—creators, risk-takers, and boundary-breakers who know our unwavering commitment to a

single dream can significantly reshape our reality.

In America, anyone with a good idea can grow into a successful entrepreneur. And it's so important that they do, because it is their small businesses that create jobs and drive our economy. However, when it comes to starting a business in America, we are currently ranked 46th in the world. It's time to change that.

Today, high-growth companies across the country are con-

necting with their Members of Congress in the third annual Startup Day Across America.

This event, championed by Congressman Jared Polis of Colorado, gives Members and entrepreneurs a chance to discuss the challenges small businesses face, and to identify ways that Congress can support the startup economy.

Startup Day shows that both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue understand the importance of

innovation and entrepreneurship to the country's economy. President Obama has made supporting entrepreneurship a top priority—and under his leadership, we've worked to make sure every American innovator has the chance to get good ideas off the ground.

Earlier this month, we hosted the first-ever White

See **STARTUPS** Page A5

## IAFC "Safety Officer of the Year" - PGFD Battalion Chief Sayshan L. Conver-White

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department is proud to announce that one of our members has been selected by the International Associations of Fire Chiefs to receive one of the organization's top awards.

Battalion Chief Sayshan L. Conver-White will be presented with the "Safety Officer of the Year Award," at the IAFC's annual convention, Fire-Rescue International (FRI). The event will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 26–29.

Assistant Fire Chief Erroll George, Manager of the Department's Safety and Risk Management Office, nominated Conver-White for this prestigious award.

In his nomination letter, Chief George stated; In 2007, Sayshan became the Department's first on duty Safety Officer. Her passion for firefighter safety led the Department to establish an Operational Safety office that now includes both a career and volunteer safety officers around the clock. Sayshan developed a safety program incorporating the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's (NFFF) 16 Life Safety Initiatives, which are now incorporated into nearly every phase of our daily operations. This program has been viewed by surrounding jurisdictions as a model for their Safety programs.



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS  
PGFD Battalion Chief Sayshan L. Conver-White

She has developed a Departmental Safety Officer training program to ensure a succession plan for the Operational Safety office. She also initiated use of the Near Miss program to members of the Department. Several incidents have been submitted to improve firefighter safety nationwide. Her passion for firefighter safety has dramatically changed the safety culture within the Department. In fact, since 2013, the number of firefighter injuries has been reduced by 16 percent.

Sayshan's passion for firefighter safety goes far beyond her own Department. She chaired the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Safety and Health Committee from 2008–2015, and co-chaired the Maryland

See **PGFD** Page A3

## Rushern L. Baker, III Announces Increase in County Jobs and Employment Numbers

First Major Increase in Total Jobs Since 2003

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro, MD—August 18, 2015, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III was joined by David Iannucci, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure, Jim Coleman, President and CEO,

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, and Desiree Callender, President of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS, Inc. at "Downtown Largo's" newest residential development—Tapestry Largo Station—to announce the first major increase in County-

See **JOBS** Page A2

## What's New in PGCPS For the 2015–2016 School Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students and their families will see a number of new initiatives and changes when they return to school in August.

**Start Date and Systemic Orientation**

PGCPS will kick off the school year with a system-wide orientation day on Monday, Au-

gust 24, for students entering prekindergarten and kindergarten, middle, and high school. For details, check with your child's school. The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, August 25. To view the 2015–2016 School Calendar, Visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/calendar/>.

**New Prices for School Meals**  
To address the growing costs of providing school meals, the

See **SCHOOL** Page A3

## Laurel History & STEM Combine in Diven's Den

New Exhibit Space Opens August 30

By PRESS OFFICER  
Laurel Historical Society

Laurel, Maryland—Explore, Create, Play. That's the mantra of the newly redesigned Diven's Den at the Laurel Museum. The new exhibit space in the museum's lower level encourages visitors to explore Laurel's mill history, while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles. It opens to the public August 30 with a reception from 1:30-3:30.

Different areas of Diven's Den are dedicated to mill life, home life, and how the mill itself functioned. Each section has hands-on activities intended to bring visitors together as they Explore, Create and Play.

Sections of the exhibit incorporate simple machines. Simple machines are things which use one thing to accomplish something faster or better. There are six basic simple machines: the lever, the wheel and axle, the inclined plane, the wedge, the pulley, and the screw. Many of these were part of the mill world, and mill life.

In the exhibit's mill section, gears, (wheel and axle) and pulleys, reveal how parts of the

cotton mill operated. Visitors can explore how these and other simple tools work, and how they could be used to power a mill. They can also create their—a complex creation that incorporates several simple machines

The home life section asks visitors to identify herbs and spices by scent and provides a space for free play using historic objects and reproductions. Dressing in the museum's historic costumes is encouraged, but not required!

In the general life section, visitors can create their own clothespin dolls, potholders, and more; just as mill workers would have in years past. Interactive cubes that draw all of the areas together are available to play with, encouraging visitors to explore the space and find historic objects that had unique uses and are examples of simple machines.

Each section, while incorporating STEM principles in historic interpretation, is designed to also to encourage visitors to explore, create, and play. The history and activities engage visitors of all ages, but children especially will find Diven's Den a fun place to discover both his-



PHOTO COURTESY THE LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jaci Molina (L) and Noel Motley(R) explore gears in the mill section of the new Diven's Den at the Laurel Museum. As they learn about how the Laurel Cotton Mill was powered, they are learning about wheels and axles, simple machines. The new exhibit brings science and STEM principles into a history setting, while offering visitors the chance to explore, create and play. Elda Molina, mother of Jaci, is in rear, center.

tory and its connection to science, technology, engineering and math.

"Our hope is that Diven's Den is a space where visitors can learn together, taking the time to create new experiences in our museum. Piloting efforts have shown that families will return and stay in Diven's Den exploring, creating, and playing. This

is exactly our goal and we hope to share the experience with even more of Laurel," stated Laurel Historical Society Executive Director Lindsey Baker.

Laurel, Maryland was Prince George's County's only factory town. The Laurel Museum is lo-

See **LAUREL** Page A6

### INSIDE

#### Prince George's County Earns National Achievement Award for Employment and Training for County Residents

NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, "The National Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more effective ways to serve their constituents.

Community, Page A3

#### Remembering a Giant Among Giants

Bond was first and foremost an activist for equal rights. In addition to his political career and his work as a civil rights leader, Bond was an accomplished writer, he was a lecturer and a professor, a television show host and he narrated "Eyes on the Prize," an iconic documentary on the civil rights movement.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Maryland Lottery and Casinos Contribute \$1.012 Billion to the State in Fiscal Year 2015

"The lottery continues to be a revenue generator for the state, and the presence of the casinos has created thousands of jobs, boosted local economies and added significant new funding for education," said Governor Larry Hogan.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "Ted 2"

The story eventually has Ted and his human pal John going to court to prove Ted's personhood so that he can legally marry his girlfriend, Tami-Lynn. But first there are tangents related to obtaining a sperm donor (Ted, lacking genitals, is infertile), and somehow Tom Brady is dragged into it.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

How is that being around trees and other plants can help us feel good?

— Amy Mola,  
Greenville, SC

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will not run this week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### FALL YARD SALE

Clinton United Methodist Women's Fall Yard Sale will be September 5, 2015. Rain date is September 19, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Set up time 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM at Clinton United Methodist Church, 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Pastor Dorothea Belt Stroman, Mia C. Kerrick C.U.M.W President.

Come and enjoy a community event, by either shopping or selling your product. All tables and spaces are \$15.00, if you bring your own table it's still \$15.00 per table or per 6ft space. You are invited to come enjoy food, people and have fun. Please bring and drop off a school item to assist less fortunate children in our very own community. All proceeds from the yard sale go towards helping the women, children and youth in our community. To reserve a table/space or if you have any questions please call (301) 868-1288. Leave your contact information and your call will be returned.

#### HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMUNITY DAY

Union United Methodist Church, 14418 Old Marlboro

Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland is holding a Health and Wellness Community Day, Saturday, August 29, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Church website is [www.uumchurch.com](http://www.uumchurch.com). The public is invited.

#### PRAYER BREAKFAST MEETING

The United Methodist Men Washington East District is holding their Prayer Breakfast Meeting on September 19, 2015 at Asbury UMC. The church is located at 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. The donation is \$10.00. Please RSVP by calling Washington East District President, Cary Montgomery, (301) 627-0028 or email [cman77all@verizon.net](mailto:cman77all@verizon.net).

#### CHILI COOK-OFF & SILENT AUCTION

New Hope Fellowship-Nottingham Myers Campus will have a chili cook off and silent auction September 26, 2015 Noon-3:00 PM. There is a \$20 entry fee for Chili, \$10 Admission for General Public (\$5 for children 12 & under).

General admission price includes chili tasting, 1 people's

choice vote and participation in the Silent Auction. If you have any questions e-mail Kim Montgomery at [Nehopeevent@gmail.com](mailto:Nehopeevent@gmail.com). Entry fee is due by August 29, 2015.

#### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

A breakout empowerment session for girls in grades 7-12 will be held September 19, 2015 from 8:00 AM-3:30 PM. For registration information, by form, or online, visit the website by September 4th. The conference will be held at the Comfort Inn Conference Center Hotel at 4500 Crain Highway Bowie, Maryland 20774.

#### FAMILY CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

Join us for a Family Caregivers Conference September 24, 2015 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. The Conference will provide support, and resources for families who face the challenge of caring for an aging parent, relative, or friend. You must pre-register at 301-265-8432 if you plan to attend.

### Jobs from A1

based jobs and employment numbers in over a decade. Since July 2011, Prince George's County has seen an increase of over 4,600 jobs and reduction of the County's unemployment rate by 25%. This year's job growth is the highest increase for Prince George's County since 2003.

"When I took over as Prince George's County Executive in 2010, the County, like many places throughout the nation, was in an economic free fall of job losses," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, III. "I want to thank my outstanding economic

development team and the resilient business community of Prince George's County for creating over \$7 billion dollars in economic development in our pipeline while retaining and expanding County based businesses and attracting new companies to Prince George's County."

The Baker Administration has been focused on expanding the commercial tax base through efforts like the creation of the \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund, streamlining the permitting process with the creation of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), focusing on

strategic transit oriented development (TOD), and marketing and rebranding the County's image. The positive growth in jobs is a reflection that the County's improved services to business, ethical reform, as well as public safety and education improvements, are making a difference.

"The most important number to focus on is the 5,274 jobs that we increased between the fourth quarter of 2013 and the fourth quarter of 2014—which represents the most recent measured job growth for the County and what we have been waiting for,"

See **JOBS** Page A5

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on Proposal to Use Federal Workers to Pay for Highway Fund Extension

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement on a Senate Republican proposed change to federal employee retirement plans to fund a multi-year surface transportation bill:

"I am disappointed that Senate Republicans are considering changes and cuts to federal employee retirement plans to fund a multi-year extension of MAP-21 and the Highway Trust Fund," Edwards said. "There are more than 430,000 civilian federal employees in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. They ensure the safety of our food and airways, defend our homeland, provide health care to our nation's veterans, search for cures to devastating diseases, and provide vital support to our troops at home and abroad. Thus far, the federal workforce has already sacrificed \$159 billion in reduced pay and benefits towards deficit reduction through a 3-year pay freeze, furloughs, annual pay raises below the baseline, and increased retirement contributions for future hires. Additional cuts would further undermine the federal government's ability to recruit and hire a talented workforce and bring us no closer to a responsible approach to funding our nation's infrastructure needs.

"I strongly support a long-term and robust transportation bill that adheres to the use of user pays that will bring our roads, rails, and bridges into the 21st Century. That is why I, along with a number of my House Democratic colleagues, introduced the GROW AMERICA Act, which is a six-year, \$478 billion bill. We need to invest in our infrastructure in a way that puts American families back to work."

Under their proposal, Senate Republicans would change the way the interest rate for the G-Fund in the Thrift Savings Plan is calculated from a four-year average to a three-month average. It has been estimated that such a change would raise \$32 million over 10 years, though there is a concern that this would have a dramatic negative impact on employee savings for federal retirement. This idea was first included in the House Republican Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution earlier this year.

In the past two Congresses, Congresswoman Edwards has introduced the Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act, which would repeal the three-tier employee pension contribution system that makes new workers pay more out of pocket than those longer employed. Under current law, recently hired federal employees are forced by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 to raise their contribution amount to their own pensions from 0.8% to 4.4%. Congresswoman Edwards' legislation, H.R. 750, would restore the Federal Employee Pension contribution to their original 0.8%, and instead close corporate tax loopholes for companies that are incorporated overseas, but managed and controlled in the United States.

#### Fort Washington Medical Center Partners with Physicians Inpatient Care Specialists

OXON HILL, Md.—Fort Washington Medical Center



Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards

(FWMC) has partnered with MDICS - Physicians Inpatient Care Specialists to manage its hospitalist program. MDICS, Maryland's largest private hospitalist group, partners with health care systems, hospitals and post-acute centers to provide high-quality, cost-effective integrated medical solutions and services.

As part of the program, the MDICS physicians and physician assistants provide comprehensive quality inpatient medical care to Fort Washington Medical Center patients when hospitalized 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hospitalists also manage care coordination and are involved in all aspects of a patient's medical care from admission to discharge.

"In this ever-changing healthcare climate, it is vital that we continue to have a great inpatient care team to meet the high quality standards of a superior healthcare system," said FWMC Chief Medical Officer Victor Waters, M.D. "This partnership will enable us to maintain that level of care with the 45,000 patients we see each year in our emergency room," he added.

In addition to FWMC, MDICS provide customized programs and services to 14 Maryland hospitals and has been implementing quality initiatives to improve the patient care experience, decrease hospital costs, reduce readmissions and length of stay, and improve documentation and coding to lower hospital acquired conditions.

#### About Fort Washington Medical Center:

Fort Washington Medical Center (FWMC) is an acute care not-for-profit hospital located in Fort Washington, Maryland. FWMC, owned by Nexus Health Inc., provides 24-hour emergency medical care, laboratory services, general and outpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging, inpatient rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, and specialty services. For more information, visit [www.fortwashingtonmc.org](http://www.fortwashingtonmc.org).

#### About MDICS:

MDICS (Physician Inpatient Care Specialist), Maryland's largest private hospitalist group, is dedicated to partnering with health care systems, hospitals and post-acute centers to provide high-quality, cost-effective integrated medical solutions and services for our partners and patients. Since 2007, MDICS has been implementing quality initiatives to improve the patient care experience, decrease hospital costs, reduce readmissions and length of stay, and improve documentation and coding to lower hospital acquired conditions. We deliver effective and efficient medical services for 14 hospitals and

35 post-acute centers. For information about MDICS, visit [www.MDICS.com](http://www.MDICS.com).

#### Edwards Statement on Release of the Clean Power Plan

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement on the Administration's release of the Clean Power Plan.

"The Clean Power Plan is the most ambitious step the United States has ever taken in the global effort to tackle the threat of climate change," Edwards said. "It sets landmark clean air standards and gives states the opportunity to craft individual plans customized to their needs. Climate change is a matter not just of national significance, but global significance as well. With 2015 on track to be the hottest year on record for planet Earth, we owe it to our economy, our environment, and the health of future generations to tackle this growing danger."

"The Administration's Clean Power Plan outlines how all fifty states can work together to combat the danger posed by the effects of climate change. I urge state leaders nationwide to seize this opportunity to create innovative new jobs and protect public health. Maryland, as well as other states participating in carbon reduction programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), has already reduced household energy bills, bolstered state energy independence, and created new jobs in expanding industries. It's time for us to act as a nation. The Clean Power Plan is a tremendous step to boost American innovation and move us toward a clean energy future."

#### Edwards Statement Opposing the VA Accountability Act of 2015

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) today spoke in opposition to H.R. 1994, the VA Accountability Act of 2015. The main provision of this bill would single-out employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be fired or demoted without due process. It would also force senior executives at the VA into mandatory five-year rotations, causing unnecessary distractions that would impact services. The bill passed the House 256-170. Below is an excerpt from her statement:

"This legislation is nothing more than a last minute attempt by House Republicans to terminate, demoralize and unfairly blame Federal employees, and shrink the government so it can't do anything for the American people. I will work with likeminded Members of Congress who want to do the right thing and provide the right kind of oversight, but this is not the answer and it would destroy VA's merit-based civil service system."

"You know let me just say, this is not about accountability, it's not about whistle blowers, it's not about improving services for our nation's veterans. This bill is nothing more than union busting. Let's just call it what it is, it's union busting and it needs to be stopped. The House Republicans should be ashamed for trying to use VA employees and federal employees for their own political gain."

Council Chairman **MEL FRANKLIN** presents the **5th Annual Prince George's FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY**

**August 30, 2015 - 3:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Show Place Arena**  
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue • Upper Marlboro • MD 20772

Food • Live Entertainment • Games • Live Music • DJ • Clowns  
Good time for the whole family!

Join Council Member Franklin at this annual showcase of our county's local business and nonprofit community!

featuring **F.A.M.E. Performers:**  
Renee Barnes  
Richard Payne  
Chelsey Green  
Verny Varela  
Virtuoso Horns

**F.A.M.E.**  
THE FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC & EDUCATION, INC.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### 10 Reasons Why You Might Be Financially Stressed

Stress can come from everywhere—career, school, family, relationships, health—and especially money.

The American Psychological Association (APA) recently reported that money remains the number one stressor for 72 percent of Americans. In fact, money has led the APA's annual stress survey since its debut in 2007, the year before the financial crash that took the U.S. economy into its worst slump since the Great Depression.

Are you financially stressed? Here are 10 major signs of financial stress and ways to take action.

**1. You wonder if your job is secure.** Even though the economy has improved in recent years, employers still cut and reassign workers and make occasional adjustments in pay and benefits. If you've spotted changes in other departments or news accounts suggest a shift in your industry, start thinking ahead. Action Plan: Build up your emergency fund to cover six months or more of basic living expenses, update your resume and get organized for a potential job search.

**2. There's no money to save or invest.** If meeting basic expenses is a struggle and you have no savings or investments at all, it's time for a serious review of where your money is going. Action plan: Making a basic budget is the first step to tracking every penny spent. Figure out extras you can cut and set more aside for savings and debt payoff.

**3. You have disagreements with a spouse or partner about money.** A 2013 University of Kansas study noted that arguments about money are the top predictor of divorce. Action plan: Share information about all debt and legal issues and exchange respective credit reports and credit score data as you plan to solve all money problems together.

**4. You are paying bills late.** Late payments can hurt your credit score (<http://www.myfico.com>). Action plan: Set up a physical or digital calendar to keep track of payment dates and budget in order to put more money toward debt and eventually savings.

**5. You imagine a windfall.** Waiting for a bonus, an inheritance or even a winning lotto ticket to ease your financial stress indicates you have a tendency toward financial denial. Action plan: If your current efforts at budgeting, saving money or paying off debt aren't working, consider a reality check with a qualified financial advisor.

**6. You use your home equity like a cash register.** Home equity loans or lines of credit can provide an interest-deductible solution for a variety of important needs, but a down housing market can wipe out your equity. Action plan: Either refinance if you qualify or stop using the line entirely until you can pay down the balance.

**7. You're considering drawing from retirement funds to solve money problems.** Think twice before taking out loans against these funds. Interrupting your retirement planning, particularly over the age of 50, can have significant financial consequences. Action plan: Re-budget your finances and seek qualified advice to help you find another solution.

**8. Late and overdraft fees are piling up.** According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, the average bank overdraft fee is \$35; credit card late fees are similar. Action plan: Schedule bill payments and opt for online billing when possible to save time on mailing. If you have to pay additional late fees, ask your bank or credit card company if it might forgive the fee; many will remove one fee a year.

**9. You're late on student loan payments.** It is difficult to have student loans (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>) forgiven, cancelled or discharged (eliminated) in bankruptcy if you can't pay. Paying late can also hurt your credit score. Action Plan: Seek qualified financial advice that specifically addresses the type of student debt you have and resolve to pay bills on time.

**10. Your accounts are disorganized.** It's difficult to reach important financial goals when you really can't track your finances. Action plan: Get some advice from a trusted friend or a qualified financial professional about how to best organize your accounts and whether online account management may be right for you.

Bottom line: Reducing your financial stress is a healthy decision. Review your money habits and get qualified help if necessary to lessen this burden.



## Prince George's County Earns National Achievement Award for Employment and Training for County Residents

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

Largo, MD—"Tech Prince George's" has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized Tech Prince George's, Employment and Training for County Residents.

### Tech Prince George's

The focus of Tech Prince George's is on the development of a career pipeline and interceptive strategies to improve student matriculation and eventual career success in technology fields.

### PGFD from A1

Emergency Services Life Safety Task Force from 2011–2015. Through these leadership roles, she coordinated and taught at numerous safety conferences throughout the state, to include COG's Arrive Alive and Survive; Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference; and MFRI's Learning from the Past, Improving the Future seminar. She attended the NFFF's Safety/Training Officer's National Summit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### School from A1

Department of Food and Nutrition Services will now charge \$1.60 for full-price breakfast, \$0.30 for reduced-price breakfast, \$2.75 for full-price lunch, and \$0.40 for reduced-price lunch for elementary students. Meals for middle and high school students is \$1.60 for full-price breakfast, \$0.30 for reduced-price breakfast, \$3.00 for full-price lunch, and \$0.40 for reduced-price lunch. For more information on school meals, including online pre-payment through MySchoolBucks, visit the website <http://www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/>.

### New Immunization Requirements

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

reer success in technology fields.

The goal of the program is to identify and develop students in the Prince George's County who have demonstrated a sustained aptitude and interest in IT and to cultivate their educational and career growth so that they become future contributors to the economic success and viability of Prince George's County.

This is made possible through partnerships between Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Public School System (PGCPS), institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations and private industry.

NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, "The Na-

Sayshan has been requested to be an intimate part of safety investigation teams throughout the region, including but not limited to:

- 57th Avenue House Fire—Prince George's County
- Truck 411 accident—Fairfax County
- Ladder training accident—Fairfax County

Sayshan's passion for firefighter safety has also impacted her personal training regimen. Over the years she has attained the following national certifica-

made two changes last year that impacts state-required immunizations for students for the 2015–2016 school year. In addition to the existing school immunization requirements, all students entering kindergarten and Grade 1 must have had two varicella (chicken pox) vaccinations, and all students entering Grade 7 and 8 must have had one Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination and one meningococcal (meningitis) vaccination. This change primarily impacts students coming from a country outside of the United States. A child has up to 20 days from the start of school to show proof of vaccinations or that they have started a plan to get the missing immunizations. For more information and a complete list of required immunizations, the website at

tional Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more effective ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties' outstanding efforts to strengthen services and deliver results for residents across the country."

"We take great pride in our innovative IT efforts to engage our residents, employees and summer youth students. It is great to be recognized with this honor by NACo," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "We are always happy to share best practices and welcome inquiries to help other government IT interested in expanding their programs."

was selected to receive this prestigious award, Fire Chief Marc Bashoor stated, "Battalion Fire Chief Conner-White is an exceptional member of our Department. She is driven to be the very best she can be in the performance of her job as Safety Officer. Her well researched and through safety investigations reports have highlighted improvements that not only benefit Prince George's County but firefighters across the globe. Congratulations on a well-deserved award."

Upon hearing that Sayshan

<http://www1.pgcps.org/hpsi/index.aspx?id=197668>.

### Two New International High Schools

Two new International High Schools will open this fall, one within Largo High School in Upper Marlboro and another at Annapolis Road Academy in Bladensburg. The schools are based on a highly successful model developed by the Internationals Network for Public Schools. They are designed to raise achievement and meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs). Alison Hanks-Sloan is principal of the International School at Largo High School and Carlos Beato will serve in the same role for the school at Annapolis Road Academy. For more information, visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/communications/press.aspx?id=211583>.

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

The awards will be presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10–13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

John Hanson French Immersion has changed its name to Maya Angelou French Immersion, and Robert Goddard French Immersion has changed its name to Dora Kennedy French Immersion. Both schools were previously named after the buildings they were housed in. Since the schools have moved out of these locations, the school community proposed new names, which the Prince George's County Board of Education approved.

### New Names for French Immersion Schools

John Hanson French Immersion has changed its name to Maya Angelou French Immersion, and Robert Goddard French Immersion has changed its name to Dora Kennedy French Immersion. Both schools were previously named after the buildings they were housed in. Since the schools have moved out of these locations, the school community proposed new names, which the Prince George's County Board of Education approved.

### New Athletic Facilities and Playgrounds

Through the school system's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), ten high schools will see new improvements for students to take part in athletic events this fall. Dr. Henry A. Wise and Gwynn Park will have new turf fields and stadium lighting; Charles Herbert Flowers, DuVal, Frederick Douglass, and Northwestern will have new rubberized running tracks; Frederick Douglass, Parkdale, and Suitland will have new tennis courts; and Potomac will have new stadium bleachers. Additionally, students in 40 elementary schools and Early Childhood Centers will see new playground sets when they return to school. To view the latest information on CIP projects, visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/cip/>.

### New Entrances for Elementary Schools and Early Childhood Centers

Five elementary schools—Baden, James H. Harrison, Kenilworth, Paint Branch, and Rockledge—will have an updated look to their entrances when students and families return to school this year. Chapel Forge and H. Winship Wheatley early childhood centers will also sport new entrances, as part of the PGCPS Capital Improvement Program (CIP). To find out what other projects are planned for PGCPS schools, go to <http://www1.pgcps.org/cip/>.

## Beware Phone Scams Impersonating Chief Assistant Sheriff Darrin Palmer

(WARNING: DO NOT GIVE CALLERS YOUR MONEY)

Upper Marlboro, MD—The Sheriff's Office is continuing to hear from citizens and residents that they are receiving calls from scam callers who claim to be from the Sheriff's Office, telling them that they owe money to the IRS, they have outstanding warrants, or some other law enforcement actions, but that can pay to resolve the matter. Neither the Office of the Sheriff, nor any other law enforcement agency, asks citizens to take such an action.

In the most recent scams reported to the Sheriff, the scammer claimed to be Chief Assistant Sheriff Darrin Palmer calling to notify the citizen that they had to pay a fine to avoid further action. These calls can appear to be coming from a local number or a 1-800- number and may actually be from out of state or even out of the country.

"We will continue to notify citizens and residents each time we get these calls," said Chief Assistant Sheriff Darrin Palmer. "There are simply no circumstances in which the Sheriff or any law enforcement agency would make calls demanding payment, period. We're telling residents that they should never give, wire or mail funds to anyone who calls saying anything like this. These are predators, and their actions are pure and simple scams," he said.

Previous scams have included calls saying a citizen had failed to show up in court for a red light camera ticket, or they failed to appear in court or for jury duty, or the caller was calling from the IRS on Sheriff High's behalf. None of these is true and would simply never occur.

We continue to ask for the media's assistance in getting this message out and we appreciate everything they have done to report these scams.

Any resident who receives such a call can contact the Prince George's County Police at 301-772-4420 and file an incident report.

"We urge citizens who get these calls to call our office immediately, even if it is for nothing more than reassurance," said Colonel Palmer.

For more information contact the Communications and Public Affairs Division at 301-780-7354.



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# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



### Hoyer, Maryland Congressional Delegation Announce Federal Funding To Combat Heroin Trafficking In Washington / Baltimore Region

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer, U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin, and U.S. Representatives Elijah E. Cummings, Chris Van Hollen, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, John P. Sarbanes, Donna F. Edwards and John Delaney (all D-MD) announced that \$2.5 million in federal funding has been awarded to the Washington/Baltimore region together with regional partners to combat heroin and fentanyl drug trafficking through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA will also receive nearly \$250,000 to support drug trafficking prosecution of those supplying heroin and fentanyl to Baltimore.

In addition to the Baltimore/Washington HIDTA, regional programs in Appalachia, New England, Philadelphia/Camden, and New York/New Jersey will share in the \$2.5 million in federal funding for the Heroin Response Strategy in an unprecedented partnership to address the severe heroin threat facing those communities.

"I'm pleased that our region will be receiving this funding through HIDTA to help communities deal with the challenge of heroin trafficking in our state. We need to muster all available resources at the federal, state, and local levels to address this growing epidemic in our state, especially in the Fifth District where we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of heroin as well as deaths related to overdose," Congressman Hoyer said. "I'm proud to be a longtime supporter of the HIDTA program and will continue to work

with my colleagues in the Maryland delegation to ensure that law enforcement in our state receives robust federal assistance to keep drugs out of our schools and off our streets."

"The crisis of increased heroin use in Maryland and across America is destroying families and ravaging communities. It cuts across class, race and age," Senator Mikulski said. "I'm fighting to address the heroin problem head on. These funds in the federal checkbook will help us to crack down on dealers while working to break the cycle of addiction for drug users."

"Every part of Maryland is working to confront the rise in heroin trafficking and opiate-related medical emergencies, and this federal funding can provide critical support in their efforts to stop the suffering that inevitably accompanies the spread of this scourge," said Senator Cardin. "This funding also will boost the capacity for regional cooperation among law enforcement officials and agencies, a welcome counter-measure to a complex and persistent threat to our communities."

"It is only when we all work together, at the local, state, and federal levels, that we can begin to eradicate problems like heroin use and drug trafficking from our communities," Congressman Cummings said. "In Baltimore and around this country, these HIDTA efforts give us hope that we can reclaim our cities, bring safety and security to our streets, and dream of brighter futures for our children."

See HEROIN Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Remembering a Giant Among Giants

*"The country has lost one of its most passionate and eloquent voices for the cause of justice. He advocated not just for African-Americans, but for every group, indeed every person subject to oppression and discrimination, because he recognized the common humanity in us all."*

—Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center

Julian Bond was never one to shrink away from a worthy fight.

He lived his life as a tireless champion of the oppressed and maligned, a battle-worn warrior for civil rights, equality and social justice. Bond fought the good fight, and at the still-youthful age of 75, he completed his course.

His longtime dedication to equal rights for African-Americans—and for all—will be celebrated in the days and months to come. But we must guard against fossilizing his life and legacy in tributes or textbooks. Bond lived a life of action, clear mission and steadfast service. There could be no worthier tribute to Bond than to pick up the baton he has passed and rededicate ourselves to the struggle to make the promises and opportunities of our democracy true for all its citizens. That struggle is an ongoing one that neither begins nor ends with one movement or personality. Individually and collectively, we must take up the baton to bring an end to the deadly scourge of police brutality, close persistent economic inequality gaps and address destructive disparities in our nation's education system. We must do it, because as Bond once famously reminded us all: "Good things don't come to those who wait. They come to those who agitate."

Bond was a student in a philosophy class taught by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Morehouse College in Atlanta. It was there, during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, that Bond began to agitate in earnest, co-founding the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee along with other Morehouse students, including now-Congressman John Lewis. He served as the group's communications director for five years. Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965, but was not allowed to take

his seat because his white colleagues objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War. It took a year, a protest march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a Supreme Court order, but the legislature finally allowed him to take his rightful seat in 1966. He spent 20 years in the Georgia Legislature, serving in both the House and the Senate.

In 1968, Bond became a national figure after delivering a fiery speech at the Chicago Democratic National Convention. His performance was so impressive; his name was placed into the nominating process for vice president—a position he could not qualify for because he was too young. Bond went on to serve as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, remaining on its board for the rest of his life after his tenure came to an end in 1979. Later, he would also serve as chairman of the NAACP.

No matter the capacity, Bond was first and foremost an activist for equal rights. In addition to his political career and his work as a civil rights leader, Bond was an accomplished writer, he was a lecturer and a professor, a television show host and he narrated "Eyes on the Prize," an iconic documentary on the civil rights movement. Bond never stopped agitating because he fundamentally believed that, "the humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights granted to others." Bond never limited his philosophy to any community, region or nationality. Bond fought against segregation on our shores and apartheid in South Africa. He devoted himself to equal rights for all, including, most recently, the rights of the LGBT community.

Bond left a lasting legacy for us to explore, celebrate and continue. Whether it's challenges to voting rights or inequity in education funding, many of the challenges he faced yesterday continue to plague our nation today. His lifelong fight for equality and justice must become our lifelong fight for the same. We can all become a part of his vision to create a more perfect union in our nation. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy are with his family, along with our promise to continue Julian's fight.



CARROLL COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

The Carroll County Farm Museum, located in Westminster, Maryland, provides the public with the opportunity to experience mid-nineteenth century rural life. The Museum grounds include original farm structures, such as the Farmhouse and a bank barn, built in 1852-53. Other buildings include a 1700s Log Barn, Smokehouse, Broom Shop, Saddlery, Springhouse, Living History Center, Wagon Shed, General Store exhibit, Firehouse, and a One-Room Schoolhouse. Period artifacts and antiques complete the rural experience for visitors. The Farm Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 ages 10-18 and 60 and over, age 9 and under is free. For more information call 410-386-3880

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: MIKE VAN ELLS

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### The Unthinkable Lives of So Many Black Boys: Where Are the Caring Adults?!

What's on the minds of many high school students these days—the start of a new school year, getting a driver's license, worrying whether they'll make the team, perhaps daydreaming about college and sweating over SAT exams? But that's not what three Black male high school students told a Children's Defense Fund audience this summer they're thinking and worrying about.

Aijalon "AJ" Morris is beginning his senior year at Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School in Nashville, Tennessee. "I have no friends that I grew up with. I have lost five this year and I have lost three to prison ... I was in fifth grade and I lost my [first] friend. He got killed. Seventh grade, my friend killed somebody, and he's in jail for life ... From my freshman year to now, I have been to 12 to 13 funerals. And I grew up with everybody that I went to those funerals with, and now they're gone. It's hard to cope with it. It's hard to—sometimes I cry all night, you know, and I ask God why."

In middle school AJ was a star athlete. By eighth grade he was already receiving offers to play football in college but after he was sidelined by injuries his sophomore year everything changed. "I lost hope. I stopped going to school. And during those times I was going through a lot with my family. I was homeless. I didn't have anything to wear, didn't have anything to wear to school, you know, nothing like that. I didn't even know where I was going to get my next meal. And everything was gone." No one seemed to care. "I remember a whole month—a whole month we ate bread. We ate toast for a whole month."

E'Darrius Smith, a budding and talented artist, is also a rising senior at Pearl-Cohn. "I had a good friend that I grew up with ... He ended up dying because he was robbed and he tried to fight back and they ended up shooting him in the chest. So they ended up killing him. And when I found this out, you know, I almost cried, but at the same time [you've] seen so many classmates and so many people ... you just sort of say, 'Man, I sort of knew that was going to happen.'"



PHOTO COURTESY CHILD WATCH  
Left to Right: E'Darrius Smith, Jermaine Simmons, Aijalon "AJ" Morris.

Jermaine Simmons is a junior at Pearl-Cohn. "We live in the worst conditions where nobody helps you. And we live in a condition where you've got to watch your back every 30 seconds. You know, you don't know when you're going to get robbed, you don't know [when] you're going to get shot, you don't know [when] you're going to get stabbed ... For some of us that is our reality."

The daily violence, poverty, despair, and isolation that saturate the lives of these youths are morally unconscionable. Where are the adults who should be providing safe harbors for children? E'Darrius talked about some of the missing adults in his life: "Most of the men in my family, they were either locked up or dead, so I didn't have a lot

of attention at home. So when I got to school it was all about rep. It was all about making a name for yourself." But then when students got into trouble he said school discipline polices hurt more than they helped: "When we act up and that zero tolerance policy hits us, instead of actually sitting us down and asking us, you know, 'what's wrong? Why are you doing this?' ... the only thing they do is they send us to ISS [in-school suspension] or they detain us and they deny us ... the education instead of actually trying to teach it to us."

Everywhere children and youths like AJ, E'Darrius, and Jermaine are crying out for help—cries that often fall on deaf rather than discerning ears. Where are the adults? Where is the church when parents are in prison or AWOL on drugs and children are left to cope alone often struggling to care for younger siblings and to find food for long periods without a soul to turn to? Where are the neighbors? Where are the schools and community organizations? Who reaches out to see what the problem is? Does anyone see this child/youth desperately in need of help and

See WATCH, Page A6

## The Prince George's Post

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

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### So Were You Really Listening?

We all believe we're good listeners. We like to think that when someone close to us has something to tell us, that we really pay attention and understand what's being said. But experts say that often isn't the case for a number of reasons.

Sometimes we're poor listeners because it's a basic human desire to want to swap stories. As a result we interrupt, trying to hurry the speaker along so that we can get to our own story. It's more interesting to talk about ourselves, right?

Emotions can also be uncomfortable, our own and those of others, and yet that's what many serious discussions tend to focus on.

Experts also report there's something called "listener burnout." Most of us have known someone who drones on and on about the same old problems. Our tendency then is to offer quick advice that will hopefully fix the problem and stop the endless story.

Listening well is an important skill in any close relationship and it's a skill we can all improve.

Start by learning to recognize when someone close to you really wants to talk. There will usually be signals and hints that something is bothering him or her. That's when it's time to give your undivided attention.

Let the other person disclose what is troubling, and then acknowledge that you recognize this as a legitimate problem or experience. If you dismiss or minimize what has been said, or if you argue about details, it's likely the conversation will end.

A key element is to encourage the other person to elaborate on what has happened or is so troubling. A good way is to ask open ended questions that show you want to hear and understand the whole story.

You can also show your interest by paraphrasing what has been said and asking if you're hearing and understand the issue correctly. As you become involved like this, it not only lets the other person know that you care, but also opens the door to being able to work together on possible solutions to whatever has caused the problem.

Yes, it's more in our nature to want to focus on ourselves and air out our own problems, but if you truly love and care for someone, it's important to learn to listen to and help with the problems he or she is facing.

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

### Jobs from A2

said David Iannucci, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure. "Jobs are such an important indicator for the County. In addition, investors look at these important indicators to make key business decisions in areas that are a proven and successful market. The economy of this County is moving in the right direction."

To continue this progress, the Prince George's County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has recently launched several initiatives to continue to retain current County businesses and attract new companies to the County. The EDC "We Care Blitz" is a business retention initiative that focuses on addressing the immediate needs of the business community and letting them know what services are available to enhance businesses in Prince George's County. Another initiative focuses on the international business community. Prince George's International! will create a one stop shop for international businesses, their clients and for residents to find resources to support and attract global commerce through Prince George's County.

"County Executive Baker is doing an outstanding job of taking Prince George's County to the next level," said EDC President Jim Coleman. "EDC is operating with a fierce sense of urgency to see that these key indicators continue to move in a positive di-

rection. Our office stands committed to taking care of the needs of our existing businesses, attracting those businesses who are looking for more out of their current markets, and ensuring all of our residents are gainfully employed in well paying, family sustaining jobs."

Additionally, Prince George's County has seen nearly a 50% increase in the median sales price of homes and a 10% increase in the amount of housing sales, while the average amount of days a house is on the market in Prince George's County has been cut in half. Throughout Prince George's County, homebuyers are discovering unique and diverse neighborhoods in every part of the County.

"Overall, our housing market here in Prince George's is strong and surging forward," said Desiree Callender, President of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS, Inc. "If you're a property owner in Prince George's County, rest assured, you've made a wise investment. When you drill down to specific markets you really see how "HOT" we truly are. In a year-to-date comparison of the first 7 months of 2014 to the first 7 months of 2015, Greenbelt is leading in recovery with a 33.9% increase in appreciation. Hyattsville follows at 23.8%, Oxon Hill at 20.5% and Capitol Heights/Fairmount Heights at 18.5%. These are fantastic numbers representing a diversity of communities throughout Prince George's County."

## Maryland Lottery and Casinos Contribute \$1.012 Billion to the State in Fiscal Year 2015

### Lottery Players Take Home \$1.049 Billion in Prizes

By PRESS OFFICER  
MLGCA

Baltimore—Maryland Lottery and Gaming today announced that FY2015 traditional lottery sales and casino revenues contributed \$1.012 billion to the State of Maryland—\$525 million from the lottery and \$487 million from casinos. The total is an increase of 19.1% from FY2014 and marks the first time that combined lottery and casino contributions to the state exceeded \$1 billion. Maryland Lottery and Gaming is the fourth-largest contributor to the state after income, sales and corporate taxes.

Overall lottery sales stood at \$1.762 billion, an increase of \$38.5 million (2.2%) year over year. Sales of instant tickets (scratch-offs) set an all-time record of \$546.1 million, an increase of \$66.4 million (13.9%) over FY2014.

"The \$38.5 million increase in lottery sales, along with record sales of scratch-off tickets, are indications that traditional lottery products are poised

for continued growth," said Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director Gordon Medenica. "The coming year will bring many new opportunities, from the expansion of traditional lottery games to the opening of the state's sixth casino."

"Surpassing the \$1 billion mark in total contributions to the state is a significant milestone for Maryland Lottery and Gaming," said Governor Larry Hogan. "The lottery continues to be a revenue generator for the state, and the presence of the casinos has created thousands of jobs, boosted local economies and added significant new funding for education."

There were 4,563 businesses which served as Maryland Lottery retailers in FY2015, earning \$128.6 million in commissions, an increase of \$6.5 million (5.3%) over FY2014. Prizes paid to lottery players totaled \$1.049 billion, an increase of \$25.7 million (2.5%) over FY2014. Operating expenses remained consistent at just 3.3% of total sales.

The growth of the state's casino gaming industry contin-

ued during FY2015, highlighted by the August 2014 opening of Horseshoe Casino Baltimore. Maryland's five casinos generated \$1.038 billion in revenue, a \$204.2 million (24.5%) increase over FY2014. Year-end highlights include:

Casino revenue contributed \$387.7 million to the Maryland Education Trust Fund (ETF), an increase of \$59.3 million (18.1%) from FY2014. This fund supports early childhood education, public elementary and secondary education, public school construction and capital improvement projects.

In addition to the ETF contribution, FY2015 casino revenue was divided among the following: Maryland's horse racing industry (\$53.1 million); local impact grants (\$36.4 million); Maryland Lottery and Gaming operating costs (\$11.9 million); and small-, minority- and women-owned businesses (\$9.9 million).

Maryland's five casinos added nearly 2,000 jobs in FY2015, increasing the total number of employees to approx-

imately 5,900. Full-time employees were offered comprehensive healthcare and retirement investment options.

Since its inception in 1973, Maryland Lottery and Gaming has contributed more than \$14.4 billion to the State of Maryland and paid more than \$22.2 billion in prizes to players. The casino program, which began in September 2010, has generated nearly \$2.78 billion in revenue, with more than \$1.14 billion going to the Education Trust Fund. The state's sixth casino, MGM National Harbor is scheduled to open later in 2016 in Prince George's County. Details by game and by casino are available on the attached FY2015 review.

To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, Maryland Lottery and Gaming posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, gaming.mdlottery.com. For more information on all Lottery products, promotions and news, go to mdlottery.com.

### Heroin from A4

"With deaths from heroin increasing in Maryland, we have to make every effort to get the upper hand and address this public health crisis," said Congressman Van Hollen. "This funding will increase public safety, improve the effectiveness of our anti-drug strategies, and help ensure police and other public safety officials are adequately trained to respond to heroin and drug related calls."

"We have all heard the dire calls from heroin users and their families for expanded treatment options, additional training of law enforcement on the use of naloxone and the need for increased communication about bad batches of heroin plaguing our streets," Congressman Ruppersberger said. "Funding for the Heroin Response Strategy will enable us to effectively address trends in heroin use and get more help to more people suffering from the disease of addiction."

"This grant funding is a tremendous boost to our fight against heroin abuse in Maryland," said Congressman Sarbanes. "By providing local and state law enforcement with improved intelligence gathering resources and information analysis capabilities, we can more effectively combat heroin trafficking across our state."

"At a roundtable earlier this month first responders and community stakeholders shared how heroin and other opioid-related

drugs are devastating families and impacting communities in the 4th Congressional District," Congresswoman Edwards said. "This federal funding will help develop a network of public health and public safety partnerships at every level to coordinate an effective response to this epidemic. Moreover, I welcome the Administration's leadership to expand naloxone access and training for first responders. It's time for Congress to act to broaden these life-saving initiatives."

"Heroin trafficking is hurting Maryland, where we have seen a tragic increase in heroin-related deaths in recent years," said Congressman Delaney. "A problem this big will require a federal, state and local response and additional federal funds to the Washington/Baltimore region are a step in the right direction. Stopping heroin is about public safety and public health and I applaud additional funding being provided to prosecute traffickers, help those who are addicted and support local law enforcement, first responders and health care providers."

According to the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, in 2014 there were 578 heroin-related deaths in the state, 25 percent higher than previous year and more than double the total in 2010. Only 11 percent of heroin addicts who need treatment receive it according to National Institute of Drug Abuse.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Heroin Response Strategy

will foster a collaborative network of public health-public safety partnerships to address the heroin/opioid epidemic from multiple perspectives. The Strategy will enhance the efficacy and efficiency of the criminal intelligence process in support of cooperative law enforcement operations. The five HIDTAs will create a 15-state network of experienced, connected law enforcement contacts and leverage these connections and information-gathering capabilities with a strong, complementary, analytical capacity.

The five HIDTAs will select two centrally located Regional Coordinators, one with a public health focus and the other with a public safety focus, who will manage and oversee implementation and operation of the Heroin Response Teams. The Public Health Coordinator will oversee regional reporting of fatal and non-fatal overdose information and issuing of relevant alerts regarding dangerous batches of heroin and other heroin-related threats to health authorities. This will mobilize a rapid public health response to distribute naloxone or expand resources in the affected areas, helping to mitigate the number of overdoses and prevent deaths. The Public Safety Coordinator will oversee execution of public safety goals by ensuring case support is provided where needed and intelligence is being disseminated to relevant law enforcement authorities to enable

disruption of the heroin supply.

A heroin and prescription opioid training curriculum will be developed and used to prepare rural and municipal officers and first responders who are inexperienced responding to heroin and prescription opioid-related incidents. To assist communities in coping with this escalating problem, the five HIDTAs will develop Education & Training strategies that will increase awareness of heroin and opiate addiction, create linkages to available prevention and treatment resources in the respective regions, and enable first-responders to know how to report all pertinent lead information developed from seizures and overdose responses.

The Heroin Response Strategy builds upon the successes of the 2014 symposium hosted by the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA. Each year, the five HIDTAs will host two, two-day State of the Region symposia at a jointly nominated HIDTA. These symposia will build additional structure within each respective HIDTA region for the attendees to maintain regular contact and continue their public health-public safety partnerships between symposia. The aim will be to facilitate collaboration between public health and public safety partners within and across jurisdictions, sharing best practices, innovative pilots, and identifying new opportunities to leverage resources.

### Startups from A1

House Demo Day, part of the President's Startup America initiative to celebrate, inspire, and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship. The President welcomed dozens of startups from around the country to share their stories, showcasing the full breadth of the country's entrepreneurial talent.

The theme for Demo Day was Inclusive Entrepreneurship, working to make sure all talent in our country has access to the entrepreneurial ecosystem—an ecosystem that is the envy of the world. Today many women, people of color or those not in certain metro areas do not have access to the same growth capital and other im-

portant resources to support their startup to scale. Some people are not encouraged to start business or join in the startup economy.

As part of working to expand access for all entrepre-

*"American ingenuity remains one of the most valuable resources in the world. Beyond just tech, entrepreneurs in Colorado and beyond are reshaping the world of aerospace, energy, bioscience, food, outdoor recreation, and even beer. Startups are responsible for the majority of new jobs in the US—we've got to make sure we're supporting these job creators with policies that help, not hinder them."*

—Congressman Jared Polis

than a hundred deans of engineering schools, to promote diversity throughout the entrepreneurial ecosystem. We announced or extended programs from the Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Health

"Startup in a Day," and the Growth Accelerator Fund. Both programs are designed to spark inclusive entrepreneurship across the country, especially outside traditional centers for venture capital.

**Startup In a Day** has a simple goal: Help entrepreneurs find, understand, and apply to meet the requirements for starting a business—in less than one day. The SBA is partnering with 25 cities and two Native American communities to develop online tools that consolidate startup information and streamline permitting processes. Every community involved has pledged to share best practices through the National League of

and Human Services that support startup companies around the country.

We also announced grant winners in two new Small Business Administration programs:

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review  
"Ted 2"

Ted 2

Grade: B

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity and vulgarity, sexual dialogue

1 hr., 39 min

As "Ted" demonstrated and "A Million Ways to Die in the West" verified, the comedy stylings of Seth MacFarlane are best enjoyed in a carefully controlled environment—say, an episode of "Family Guy," which is animated (making the absurdities easier to swallow), and which can never be more than 22 minutes long (forcing MacFarlane and company to follow a structure). In "Ted 2," the sequel to the 2012 hit about a living teddy bear, director MacFarlane and co-writers Alec Sulkin and Wellesley Wild are once again given free rein to stretch a small, satirical story into nearly two hours, padding it with sketches, bits, and diversions that have nothing to do with the main action. (How forced is this stretching? The four-hour drive from Boston to New York City becomes a two-day, overnight road trip, just to kill time.) There are several good laughs here—but they all come not from the characters or



ROTTENTOMATOES  
Newlywed couple Ted and Tami-Lynn want to have a baby, but in order to qualify to be a parent, Ted will have to prove he's a person in a court of law.

the situations, but from random jokes that could just as easily have been inserted into a "Family Guy" episode or a sketch-comedy show.

The story eventually has Ted (voiced by MacFarlane) and his human pal John (Mark Wahlberg) going to court to prove Ted's personhood so that he can legally marry his girlfriend, Tami-Lynn (Jessica

Barth). But first there are tangents related to obtaining a sperm donor (Ted, lacking genitals, is infertile), and somehow Tom Brady is dragged into it. Ted's lawyer, Samantha (Amanda Seyfried), is a pot-head like Ted and John are, and she becomes John's new love interest. (His previous love interest divorced him between movies, coincidentally around

the same time that Mila Kunis declined to participate in the sequel.) Giovanni Ribisi is back as the villainous janitor who wants Ted for himself. New York Comic-Con is heavily featured. There's the usual assortment of non sequitur jokes, the more "taboo" (never mind funny), the better. Because get it? The teddy bear says swear words!

## Startups from A5

Cities, so cities and towns across the country can help their own entrepreneurs get off the ground more quickly.

**The Growth Accelerator Fund** supports "accelerator" organizations, which help startups obtain the capital, mentorship, and institutional support they need to grow. Through this fund, the SBA will provide selected

accelerators \$4 million to expand their efforts, helping more founders and small businesses get good ideas moving.

But our work to support entrepreneurs and small businesses isn't done. Updating our trade policy is another lever we can pull to help jumpstart American entrepreneurs. Here's why: 95 percent of the world's customers live outside the U.S. And when we compete for those customers

on a level playing field, our innovators and small businesses are the far and away winners.

That's why President Obama is working to secure the Trans-Pacific Partnership—a high-standard, progressive trade agreement that can help level that playing field, open new markets, and set strong rules of the road that protect American businesses, workers, and values at home and abroad.

Entrepreneurship is more important than ever to the future health of the country's economy. President Obama will continue to work with Members of Congress like those celebrating Startup Day Across America today to give every American entrepreneur the opportunity to be a part of the country's success—because the next big idea can come from anywhere.

## Laurel from A1

cated in a former 1840s Mill Workers house and adjoins the site of the former Laurel Cotton Mill. Diven's Den is located in what once held two mill worker kitchens in the building's lower level, and elements of its former function are incorporated into the exhibit.

Diven's Den was first created as a space for children's activities in the Laurel Museum in 2009. Over time it has undergone several modifications, each attempting to engage younger visitors in a new way. The most recent alterations incorporate STEM principles and history for a multi-generational audience. The name "Diven" reflects the space's mascot: a cast iron dog nutcracker nicknamed "Diven" after the Laurel foundry operator that produced the dog locally. The cast iron dog nutcracker is a treasured artifact in the Laurel Museum's collection.

Funding for Diven's Den was made possible in part through funding provided by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, and a bequest in memory of R. Travis Hill and Grace W. Hill.

The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland. Admission is free. The current exhibit, "Ripped from the Headlines: Laurel in the News" runs through December 21, 2015. The Laurel Museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10-2, Sundays 1-4. Group tours by appointment. The John Calder Brennan research library, which includes newly digitized copies of The Laurel Leader from 1897-2008 is open by appointment Monday-Friday. The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Md. Contact info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org.



PHOTO COURTESY THE LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Aidan Chiarella is enjoying the marble run in the new Diven's Den at the Laurel Museum. At the same time he's getting a lesson in inclined planes, a simple machine. The new exhibit brings science and STEM principles into a history setting, while offering visitors the chance to explore, create and play.

## Watch from A4

hope? Who listens or offers a helping hand amidst the violence and despair they face daily?

These three teens are very lucky that they have a mentor in Reverend Damien Durr, a gifted teacher-preacher they can rely on. Damien is a member of the Children's Defense Fund's Nashville organizing team but also is a social and emotional counselor at Pearl-Cohn High with a special focus on helping Black male students stay out of the cradle-to-prison pipeline who is available 24/7. Every school should be like Pearl-Cohn and find ways to offer the additional support these strug-

gling children need. AJ now dreams of becoming a kinesiologist; Jermaine—a social studies teacher; and E'Darris—a freelance artist, one of whose fine paintings I look at every day when I step out of CDF's national headquarters elevator.

Damien and the school's innovative program are helping fill a deep void for these Black male teens struggling to survive and grow up at the treacherous intersection of race and poverty. But he is a drop in the bucket of need for these drowning children. Where are the other neighborhoods, community, school, and faith congregation mentors and role models? And where are those

calling for common sense gun laws so that walking down the streets or to school is not like a showdown at the OK Corral? Where are the outreach workers from community agencies to knock on doors from time to time and see who's there and what children's needs might be? Wouldn't it be wonderful if all schools had a Damien or two in them for their high-needs children?

All children need adults who will listen and care, AJ says: "Especially dealing with young troubled Black youth, because we go through so much ... and people don't take the time out to see it or to think about what we have gone through, trying to come to school

and learn and go home and deal with the problems that we have to deal with." He had special advice for teachers: "I may not want to do this lesson today. I might need some motivation. I might be feeling down. I might have just lost a friend last night or this morning and I don't want to do any work. And people take that—never asking—as an act of defiance, and you get sent to ISS or you get kicked out of class or you get expelled, when all you needed to do was just, 'Hey, what's wrong?'"

AJ seemed to speak for them all when he said it would be good

See WATCH, Page A7

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### African Artistry and Anger at the Women's World Cup



As the soccer world is still exhaling after the USA's thrilling 2-0 semifinal victory over Germany, it is worth taking a moment to look backward at the tournament before the inexorable hyper-focus upon this weekend's final against either Japan or England. The Women's World Cup has been a showcase of brilliant, nail-biting soccer: the best of the beautiful game. It has also been an exercise in seeing just where we are on the question of the sport's global development: an issue that wraps together questions of uneven international resources and imbalanced national gender politics. What we can see is that, to an even greater degree than the men's game, there are profound inequities in development and attention between regions of the globe: North America, Japan, China, and Europe flourish, while countries in Africa and Latin America suffer. They suffer from FIFA neglect and conscious disinterest amidst their own country's soccer leadership, some of which only recently have taken the first halting steps toward taking the women's game seriously. Yet the Women's World Cup has revealed something else as well: the heroic ability and drive from the teams on the African continent to achieve in spite of the obstacles laid out in front of them. They may have been knocked out, but their progress has been profound and in many respects is the story of this tournament.

The three African squads, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Cameroon, left it all out on the field. Cameroon, les lionnes, managed to get through to the knockout stages in their first World Cup appearance and their most indelible player, Gaëlle Enganamouit, who plays professionally in Sweden, proved to be a force, leading her team to a dominating 6-0 victory over Ecuador. Then they were sent home only after a 2-1 loss to Japan, the defending Women's World Cup champions.

Nigeria perhaps did not live up to lofty expectations, but the fact that there were expectations that could be described as "lofty" is a story unto itself. Ranked 33rd in the world, they opened with an outstanding performance, tying 3-3 with Sweden, the world's fifth-ranked team. The energy emanating from 20-year-old Liverpool striker and BBC Female Footballer of the Year Asisat Oshoala was unmistakable and augurs great things in the years to come. But it was not enough to help the team advance.

The Ivory Coast, ranked 67th, lost all three of their matches. Their inaugural content against world-superpower Germany resulted in a 10-0 loss, but even this was useful, showcasing the obvious gaps between the technical training and strength of the two-time World Cup champions and the Ivory Coast. It also provided an international platform for Ivory Coast manager Clementine Toure to bravely call out her national federation to improve support of women's football in the West African coastal nation. The same country has produced world-class male players such as Yaya Toure and Didier Drogba and made an inspiring World Cup run in 2006. But the need for improved attention to the women's game is critical. "At this point I want to say that we want to see a higher investment, so that we can prepare with friendly matches," Clementine stated. "That's what we need to take on the great teams. If we could get half the resources men do, that's what we could do."

For the World Cup to be the first time this Ivorian squad plays against a non-African country is unfathomable. This propels a vicious cycle where FIFA rankings dictate the strength of a team, but if a team does not get enough chances to play, there is no opportunity to climb up the list. Then there is compelling interest in a strong team playing a lower-ranked squad, a situation that African journalist Kahinde Odegun calls "a vicious circle."

Further evidence of what reproduces this "vicious circle" is seen inside the countries themselves. The Fédération Camerounaise de Football backtracked on promised World Cup bonuses for the players. In addition, of the 14 professional women's teams in Cameroon, eight went on strike at different points in 2014 in protest of low stipends.

The Nigerian Football Federation has a better record of support, but more is needed. As sportswriter Janine Anthony wrote, soccer is the number-one sport for girls in Nigeria; she insists it is a misconception when people say Nigerians do not care about the women's game. "But we need it to be more than enjoyment and entertainment, we need investment," Anthony says, "When girls play on the streets, it's just for fun. But there's no career for them. That's the barrier."

For the few players with a chance to play in Europe, the training and focus on football development with proper coaching and financial support is possible. But in order to unite a national team, support from national federations is critical. As Laurent Dubois wrote in a piece for the #UpfrontOnside series

See ANGER Page A7

## Calendar of Events

August 27—September 2, 2015

### Pre-school Open House/Back to School Night

Date and Time: Thursday, August 27, 2015 7-8 pm  
Description: Stop by the Pre-school Open House to learn about the programs offered in the Fall Preschool session at Harmony Hall. This is your opportunity to meet pre-school staff, tour classroom and play areas, and get an overview of the curriculum.

Cost: Free  
Ages: 3-5  
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center  
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744  
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030

### Seniors: Rootz Republic Concert

Date and Time: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:50-1:50 pm  
Description: Ricardo Mowatt is a solo, jazz guitarist, who combines the basic elements of hip-hop with jazz. In addition, he fuses a multitude of genres together from reggae, R&B, house and world music to create a distinctive sound.

Cost: Free (please bring your M-NCPPC Senior ID Card)  
Ages: 60 and Better  
Location: Camp Springs Senior Activity Center  
6420 Allentown Rd, Temple Hills, MD 20748  
Contact: 301-449-0490; TTY 301-446-3402

### Kayak Kaper

Date and Time: Saturday, August 29, 2015 6-9 pm  
Description: Explore the natural beauty and cultural history of the river on a guided kayak trip. Some instruction will be provided and all skill levels welcome.

Cost: Resident: \$20; Non-Resident: \$24  
Ages: 18 & up  
Location: Patuxent River Park  
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-627-6074 TTY: 301-446-3402

### Sci-Fi Family Night!

Date and Time: Saturday, August 29, 2015, 6-8 pm  
Description: Let's have fun & learn! Bring the entire family out for the Sci-Fi Family Night and participate in:

- DIY Robot Competition
- Lightsaber Training
- Stars & Planets Trivia
- Monsters vs. Aliens Challenge
- Intergalactic Photo Booth

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages  
Location: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex  
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington 20744  
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

### Puppet Show at Watkins Nature Center

Date and Time: Saturday, August 29, 2015, 10 am-10:45 am  
Description: Come as we transform Watkins Nature Center into a puppeteer's paradise. The stage will be set for a nature-themed puppet performance, followed by a meet-and-greet with the real-life animals that inspired the show.

Cost: \$2.00 for residents and \$3.00 For non-residents  
Ages: 2 to 10 years old  
Location: Watkins Nature Center  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-218-6768

### Authors' Afternoon

Date and Time: Sunday, August 30, 2015, 2 pm  
Description: Did you know Riversdale's volunteers and staff are published authors? Their works include nonfiction, mysteries, Regency romances, and children's books. Chat with the authors about their experiences and have a chance to purchase books for signing and take a tour of the house!

Cost: Adults: \$3; Seniors: \$2; Students: \$1; 4 & under: free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### Seniors: Amazing Advantages of Laser Dentistry

Date and Time: Monday, August 31, 2015 10 am-12 noon  
Description: The advent and evolution of laser assisted dentistry has revolutionized the comfort and safety of many dental procedures for all patients. It has particularly done so for our growing senior population, many of whom have medical conditions that put them at risk during conventional treatment. This informative presentation will explore those treatments and their exciting benefits of using laser-assisted dentistry.

Please sign up at the center early! Spaces are limited.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: 60 & Better  
Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center  
1500 Merrimac Dr, Hyattsville, MD 20783  
Contact: 301-408-4343; TTY 301-446-3402

### Seniors: 2015 Club 300 Summer Group Walk

Date and Time: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:30 am  
Description: Meet other Club 300 members and keep those feet moving as we explore some of the wonderful trails in our area. For those who are interested, Club 300 group walks will be scheduled and posted on the Club 300 webpage. We are bringing a new dimension to our Club 300 group walks! A doctor/health care practitioner will be sharing a health tip and leading our group walk! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to Walk and Talk with the Doc.

Cost: Free  
Ages: Any Prince George's County senior (age 60 & better) or pre-senior (age 50-59)  
Location: Jug Bay Natural Area, Patuxent River Park (Meet at Group Pavilion/Camp Area)  
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3400 (Special Programs Division) or 301-446-3444 (Club 300 voicemail)

## EARTH TALK ... The Psychological Benefits of Nature Are Often Overlooked These Days

Dear EarthTalk:

How is that being around trees and other plants can help us feel good?

—Amy Mola,  
Greenville, SC

Trees are known to improve air quality by capturing six common air pollutants and toxic gases: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and lead. In fact, a single tree can absorb 10 pounds of air pollutants per year. In a study published in 2014, U.S. Forest Service scientists and collaborators calculated that trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidents of acute respiratory symptoms. The researchers valued the human health effects of the reduced air pollution at nearly \$7 billion every year.

"We found that, in general, the greater the tree cover, the greater the pollution removal, and the greater the removal and population density, the greater the value of human health benefits," says Dave Nowak of the U.S. Forest Service.

More recently a 2015 study from the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, Spain found that children exposed to more greenery—as measured by satellite imagery of their schools

and neighborhoods—demonstrated better attention skills and memory development. While the association was partly mediated by reductions in air pollution, Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, one of the study's authors, noted that he and the study's other researchers don't think it's all air pollution: "I think it's also some kind of direct effect... you see quite a beneficial effect of green space on mental health."

Numerous recent studies have focused on the positive effects that exposure to trees and nature has on our mental health. A recent study published in the journal *Nature* combined satellite imagery, individual tree data, and health surveys from 31,109 residents of the greater Toronto, Canada area, and found that people who live in areas with higher street tree density report better health perception compared with their peers living in areas with lower street tree density.

"People have sort of neglected the psychological benefits of the environment," says Marc G. Berman, an author of the study and professor of psychology at the University of Chicago. "I'm very interested in how the physical environment affects the brain and behavior."

Such studies correlate to the "biophilia hypothesis" associated with German-born American psychoanalyst Erich Fromm and Harvard evolutionary biologist Edward O. Wilson. The hy-

### Anger from A1

where they can play at home and grow the sport." FIFA's continuous smorgasbord of corruption and scandal can exhaust even the most ardent soccer enthusiast, which is why the women's game and this World Cup are refreshing reminders of what is still a wonderful and unmarred game. In order to nurture the players and continue to grow the sport, we need to make

sure that the investment is real and the progress continues. The beautiful game deserves more. In the words of the lion-hearted Clementine Toure, "I want to make an appeal to not only our federation, but to all of Africa, that women's football has arrived. We believe in our women. We have a good team. Today the Ivory Coast showed it deserves a place in the World Cup. But we

also deserved to be better prepared. We didn't deserve to be humiliated." The Ivory Coast, and all of the women's teams in the Global South deserve not humiliation but resources. This World Cup has shown that if the economic playing field could be leveled, the actual playing field could delight and thrill the world to an even greater degree than it has already done.



CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

Recent research has shown that trees not only scrub pollutants from the air so we breathe easier, but also help make us feel better from an emotional standpoint as well.

pothesis proposes that humans have evolutionary biological and psychological needs attached with the natural world. According to the book, *The Biophilia Hypothesis*, co-edited by Wilson and Yale social ecology professor Stephen R. Kellert, relentless environmental destruction could have a significant impact on our psychological and spiritual quality of life.

"Why do people bring flowers to the hospital all the time? Is it just superficial? Is it just a nice gesture, nice but not important? I would suggest that it is a much deeper recognition of the healing effects associated with affirming life," Kellert told *Yale 360*. With over 80 percent of Americans living in urban areas,

this newer research implies an indispensable need for growth and implementation in urban tree planting, urban greening and biophilic design in educational institutions and places of business for enriched physical and mental health.

CONTACTS: CREAL, www.creal.cat; Nature, www.nature.com; Yale 360, www.e360.yale.edu.

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(www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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For more information, contact Erica Bannerman at [esbannerman@co.pg.md.us](mailto:esbannerman@co.pg.md.us) or Akosua Dowu at [adowu@co.pg.md.us](mailto:adowu@co.pg.md.us) by June 19, 2015.

\* Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. EPA Environmental Protection Agency.

Prince George's County Solar2015 Initiative is an action of the Department of the Environment, Planning and Economic Affairs, and Office of Capital Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

### Watch from A6

if every adult made the effort to really understand Black boys. "If you walked down the street, you wouldn't know that I have been through what I have been through. You know what I'm saying? ... I'm not trying to be racist or anything, but that's what most White people think: Oh, he's just another Negro. You know what I'm saying? And they don't take the time out to get to know us, and I feel like people should."

Yes we should—adults of every color, those who work with children of any color in our schools and other community institutions, and those responsible for keeping them safe in the war zones of their daily lives. The violence, poverty, and trauma these young people face would be unthinkable for anybody—and yet we leave countless children to cope with death and fear daily and often all alone. What are our

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For more information, please contact:

Alnicia Gibson at 240-424-7123 or email us at: [blessed2bgifted@gmail.com](mailto:blessed2bgifted@gmail.com)

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