

# The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ERIN SERPICO

In honor of Veteran's Day, Maryland's 29th Adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, speaks to inspire a change in the lives of about 20 Department of Juvenile Services youth on November 4, 2015 at the Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School detention center in Parkville, Maryland.

## Detained Youth Connect With Maryland Adjutant General's Story

By NAOMI EIDE  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maj. Gen. Linda Singh leads the state's military operations and serves on the governor's cabinet, but her road to success wasn't an easy one. The 29th adjutant general of Maryland dropped out of high school and was homeless for a time before enlisting in the National Guard.

This year, a week before Veteran's Day, Singh, 51, addressed youth from the Department of

Juvenile Services to motivate them to turn around their own lives from what might seem like a low point.

"Hanging out in the streets ... that gets you nowhere. Other people in the streets are going to lead you right to the next street corner," Singh told them. "You are going to have to say, 'I've had enough, I am going to take control, and I am going to be somebody.'"

During her first time speaking to juvenile services youth, Singh shared her life story with

department veterans, staff members and about 20 teens from various placement centers in the state who all gathered Nov. 4 at Charles H. Hickey Jr. School, a detention center in Parkville.

Singh, dressed in a full camouflage military uniform and her hair tied back, stood behind the lectern in the Hickey School gymnasium to address the rows of teens sitting to her left, wearing matching gray sweatshirts and khaki pants.

Singh grew up in Frederick County, living with her grand-

mother from 3 months old to 9 years old, before moving in with her parents. The then-honor roll student who played basketball had dreams of going to college at the University of Maryland to study engineering—but after moving, she said, things got challenging.

"My mom and I did not necessarily see eye to eye," she said. "I love my mom dearly, but we did not see eye to eye."

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## A PGCPS Partnership Creates First Elementary And Middle School Cricket Leagues

By Press Officer  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Students from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) are helping to popularize an uncommon sport in the United States, as players in the nation's first-ever elementary and middle school cricket leagues.

Through a partnership with the Bowie Boys and Girls Club (BBGC), 15 elementary schools and four middle schools in Prince George's County, participated in the Bowie Elementary School Teams (BEST) and

Washington Area Middle School (WAMS) Cricket Leagues in 2015. The participating schools have received a free cricket set from the United States Youth Cricket Association (USYCA).

The leagues were established with the help of Kancham Chotoo, a Trinidad and Tobago native, and a radar scientist, who resides in Bowie. Chotoo played cricket as a child and is a current member of the Washington Cricket League.

See CRICKET Page A12

## County's First Net Zero Energy House Selected As 2015 GREENBUILD Tour Site

By Press Officer  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County's first Net Zero Energy House has been selected as a 2015 GREENBUILD Offsite Educational Tour as part of its International Conference and Expo taking place in Washington, D.C. this week. The tour was scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. GREENBUILD Conference participants touring the house learned about the challenges in gut rehabbing a 100 year old house to Net Zero.

The Net Zero Energy house tour, located at 3413 Glenn Drive in Suitland, MD highlights the numerous features that make this home the ultimate in energy efficiency. This one-of-a-kind, 100 year-old home is designed to provide superior energy savings, water efficiency and a healthy living environment. The home is designed to produce as much energy as it consumes in a year, minimizing the utility bill to virtually zero. The house meets Energy Star and

See GREENBUILD Page A7

## K. Alexander Wallace Appointed to District 7 Prince George's County Board of Education

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced the appointment of K. Alexander Wallace, a resident of Upper Marlboro, MD to the Board of Education representing District 7. Mr. Wallace will fill the vacancy which resulted from the recent resignation of former School Board Member Lyn Munday. With this appointment, Wallace will serve out the remainder of Ms. Munday's term, which will expire in 2016.

According to Maryland House of Delegates Bill 1107, the education reform law for Prince George's County, the County Executive is required to appoint a member to the Board of Education whenever a vacancy occurs. County Executive Baker conducted an open search to fill this vacancy which provided residents of District 7



PHOTO COURTESY  
PG COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
K. Alexander Wallace

with an opportunity to apply for the position. Since this vacancy was created as a result of an elected board member leaving office, the County Executive's appointee must reside in the School Board district where there is a vacancy.

"I am excited to welcome K. Alexander Wallace to the Prince George's County Board of Education to represent the citizens of

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## Local Nonprofit Group Receives the Governor's Service Award

Court Appointed Special Advocate Recognized for Strong Volunteer Program

By ALICIA MCELHANEY  
Capital News Service

RIVERDALE, MD—Last month Annapolis Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County received the Governor's Service Award for Nonprofit Program, presented by Maryland's 1st Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan and Steve McAdams from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The Governor's Service Awards recognize significant contributions and sustained commitment to meeting Maryland's most pressing needs. CASA was nominated as a representative of outstanding volunteer service and was selected by a committee of community leaders, volunteers and State staff.

CASA's Volunteer Program recruits ordinary citizens from the community and provides intensive training and supervision so that individuals can become advocates for abused and neglected children in fos-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**About Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Prince George's County, Inc. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/ Prince George's County, Inc. is a volunteer-based organization that partners with the juvenile court to improve the lives of abused and neglected children living in foster care. With a strong commitment to diversity, CASA trains and supervises volunteers from the community who advocate for the best interest of children, recognizing and respecting each child's individual needs. By providing a voice to children in the foster care system, it is our goal to promote the timely placement of the children we serve in safe, permanent homes.**

ter care in Prince George's County. Empowered with a Court Order, volunteers are able to not only provide in-

formation to the court to aid the court in making informed decisions that are in the best interest of the children but

also become a positive, consistent person in the child's life. In 2014, 142 children were served by 141 CASA volunteers in Prince George's County. CASA works continuously to strengthen and grow its program to ensure the highest quality service to youth possible.

Executive Director Ann Marie Binsner, along with Board Chair Sheila Edmondson, Board Member William Bundy, volunteers Jerry Thigpen and Ellen White, Transitioning Youth Coordinator Cheryl Richards and Deputy Director Kara Bundy accepted the award on behalf of CASA. "We are honored to accept this award," says Binsner "but the strength of our Volunteer Program is a direct result of the commitment and steadfast advocacy of our volunteers. This award is really for them."

Due to the strength of the Volunteer Program and the

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### INSIDE

#### Important Information for Prince George's County Residents Regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

QHPs are plans that have been certified through the State to meet certain standards. Many of these standards include such benefits as doctor's visits and hospital stays, among others.

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#### Ugly Truths It's Way Past Time for America to Face

More universities and institutions must follow Brown's example and engage in a thoughtful process of truth telling of their own and America's history in order to lift the indefensible blot of slavery on America's dream which plagues us still.

Commentary, Page A4

#### PG County Economic Development Corporation's India Business Center to Hire 50 County Residents in the next 12 Months

Karmick Solutions is an IT solutions provider in the area of education with more than 250 employees in India and is quickly making its presence known in the United States.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "We Are Still Here"

Thankfully, "We Are Still Here" does have more to offer than flickering lights and grudge-bearing ghosts. A fun throwback to the intense, free-wheeling, semi-cheesy horror flicks of the '70s and '80s, Geoghegan's story expands to include not just the creepy old house but the entire creepy old town.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Where do the leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination stand on environmental issues?

—Susan Wollander,  
Raleigh, NC

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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Mudd House

The 14th Annual Victorian Christmas Celebration will be held at the Dr. Samuel Mudd House Dec. 5 and 6. The museum opens each day at 11 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m. Price of admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Reservations not required.

The house will be decorated, as it would have been in the Victorian Period. And there'll be music, refreshments, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and Civil War soldiers encamping.

The Dr. Mudd House is at 3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road. To get there: take Branch Avenue (Rt. 5) and take one of the three left turn lanes onto Mattawoman Beantown Road (still on Rt. 5), turn left onto Poplar Hill Road and, a mile or so later, right onto Dr. Samuel Mudd Road. You'll see the house up on a hill on the right. For information, call 301-274-9358.

My grandson, Conor McHale, is a docent. He'll be there on Saturday on the 2nd floor, to tell you all about the bedrooms and Dr. Mudd's office. Introduce yourself.

I'll probably be there Sunday afternoon.

### Wise grad appointed to Board of Education

L. Alexander Wallace, a graduate of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, has been selected by County Executive Baker to represent our district, District 7, on the County Board of Education. He is replacing Lyn Munday who has retired.

"As a recent alumnus of the Prince George's County Public Schools, Alex can provide our Board of Education with a real working knowledge of our school system from the students' perspective," Mr. Baker said, "His community and civic engagement are also very impressive and will be an asset in this position."

Mr. Wallace graduated from Towson University with a degree in Political Science and is pursuing a master's at the Uni-

versity of Baltimore.

### Morningside helping families

The Town of Morningside is once again sponsoring "Morningside Families in Need" for the holiday season. Non-perishable food items, toys, coats, hats & gloves can be donated by taking them to 6901 Ames Street.

The Town helped families have a good Thanksgiving, and now they are taking donations for Christmas. Deadline is Dec. 15. For information, call 301-736-2300 or 240-354-5953.

### Community Outreach for Seniors

You are invited to "The Gospel of John" on Friday mornings, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Suitland Road Baptist Church, 6412 Suitland Road. Contact Pastor Kelvin McCune at 301-219-2296 for concerns or questions.

### It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas trees are being delivered to the fenced area on the Marlow Heights parking lot. The signs are advertising "All trees \$29, except fir."

Camp Springs Senior Activity Center is offering a class in creating beautiful wreaths on Friday, Dec. 11, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Glenda Tharps is the instructor and all supplies are provided. I always buy a wreath; this year I think I'll have Glenda show me how to make my own.

### New Year's Eve

Consider a wonderful New Year's Eve Retreat, Dec. 31, at Loyola on the Potomac. The retreat begins with dinner on New Year's Eve, followed by a time of prayer and quiet reflection. Mass will be celebrated at 11 in time for a social (food and wine, etc.) at midnight. When the blaze in the lounge fireplace begins to cool, head for your private room (with sink and toilet), and sleep with dreams of 2016. In the morning there'll be a good brunch before you depart, refreshed and ready to face the new year. The

fee is \$105. For information, call 301-392-0800. I've done three New Year's Eve with Loyola; I've loved being there.

### Changing landscape

Orange barrels are lining the lanes of Allentown Road from Suitland Road to the entrance to Andrews Manor Shopping Center, and lanes are closed from time to time. Drive carefully.

When did they start showing up? Tobacco shops are everywhere. I went online and found them on Suitland Road, Silver Hill Road, St. Barnabas Road, Marlboro Pike, and throughout Maryland, Washington and Virginia. Now there's one in Andrews Manor. One advertises, "Hookah, Shisha, Hand pipes, Water pipes, Oil rigs, vapes, bowls, scales, and everything else you need for your smoking experience." And, here I thought people were smoking less.

### Stars at Arlington

My brother Col. Joe Mudd and his wife Rosemary are buried at Arlington. And now I note that he's getting a celebrity neighbor: Maureen O'Hara ("The Quiet Man", "Miracle on 34th Street", "How Green Was My Valley.") She joins her husband Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles F. Blair.

Other Hollywood notables buried at Arlington include Jackie Cooper, Charles Durning, Constance Bennett and Lee Marvin.

### Ireland trip cancelled

Several weeks ago I told you about Father McCann's planned tour of Ireland, in April. Sad to say, it has been cancelled for lack of response. Too bad. I went with him on a tour some years ago, and it was wonderful. By the way, he's still going. Just not with a tour.

### May they rest in peace

Robert Brandt "Bobby" Gallahan, 63, a 1970 graduate of Surrattsville High School, died Nov. 13. Most of his career with the federal government was spent working at the White House for Presidents

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## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on Release of Trans-Pacific Partnership Text

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement after the text for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was released today. Rep. Edwards was one of 37 signatories on a bipartisan letter to President Obama calling for the immediate release of the full text of the TPP agreement.

"For years, this trade deal has been negotiated in secret. As details of the agreement emerged slowly, serious concerns were raised on numerous provisions within the agreement. With the full text finally released today, the public can see firsthand what the agreement means for the American people. My concerns remain as I continue to review the details. Indeed, it may indeed be worse than we thought. This TPP agreement appears to fall short in numerous ways, including a lack of enforceable workers' and human rights protections, environmental standards, enforceable currency manipulation rules, food safety standards, strong government procurement Buy American provisions, and enforcement to ensure American wages are protected.

"The American people deserve better and we can do better. I will continue to work with my congressional colleagues to defeat this TPP agreement so we can work on trade deals that benefit America's families and workers."

### BGE Completes Smart Grid Project; Savings Will Exceed One and a Half Billion Dollars

The utility files proposed adjustment to rates to recover project investment after demonstrating that for every dollar spent customers realize about \$2.50 in savings

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) has completed its five-year smart grid initiative to upgrade more than 1.7 million electric and gas meters and activate new customer savings programs. Over the next 10 years, smart grid's operational and customer benefits are expected to lead to more than \$1.5 billion in savings. The company has filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to recover the costs of the upgrade initiative through an adjustment to electric and gas distribution rates. BGE deferred recovery of its smart grid investment until the company was able to demonstrate that the system's benefits were greater than its cost, as required by the PSC when it granted BGE's request to proceed with the project in 2010. Now that the upgrade is completed, BGE's filing demonstrates that for every dollar invested in smart grid, customers are realizing approximately \$2.50 in benefits. The filing also discusses benefits in addition to those quantified, including future capabilities that will improve operations and energy efficiency.

"With upgraded meters in place throughout our service area, we have seen the benefits are substantial and sustainable," said Calvin G. Butler, Jr., chief executive officer of BGE. "As promised when the project was



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

approved, we would not seek to begin recouping costs through customer rates until we could show that customer benefits exceeded the costs. The energy and cost-savings tools available through smart meters have allowed customers to save significantly on their bills. Our company has also realized operational savings that we have been able to pass on to customers."

### Smart meter benefits include:

- Bill credits: customers with smart meters have been able to earn more than \$28 million in total bill credits by participating in the BGE Smart Energy Rewards Program<sup>®</sup> since 2013. This past summer, more than one million residential customers were eligible for this program and almost 80% received bill credits.

- Personalized savings tips: More than 766,000 customers have used the data from their smart meters, accessed through their online accounts or Home Energy Reports to review their energy use and receive tips on changes that will lower their bills.

- Energy reduction: As of July 2015, BGE customers taking advantage of energy management tools and tips have led to a 174,000 MWh reduction in energy use.

- Remote capabilities that enable BGE to more efficiently dispatch resources, more than 130,000 truck dispatches have been avoided as of July 2015.

- BGE is able to remotely start and stop service when customers move

- BGE can contact or "ping" meters to determine if they are in service during a storm event

In addition to smart meter-enabled programs, customers can continue to participate in BGE's "Smart Energy Savers" energy efficiency programs to conserve energy use and save money. These programs include rebates for certain home improvements and Peak Rewards<sup>SM</sup>, which provides bill credits when customers enroll their air conditioner or water heater for reduced use during peak times.

BGE began installing smart meters in spring 2012 and there are currently more than 1.7 million smart metering devices across BGE's system. Final project costs of approximately \$500 million were consistent with BGE's initial proposal to the PSC. These costs were reduced for BGE customers in part by a \$200 million federal stimulus grant, one of only six such grants of that amount awarded to utilities across the country. A small portion of this grant was also used for

initiatives that enabled BGE to better support customers, including BGE's Customer Care & Billing System and PeakRewards program.

BGE's smart grid implementation is a big component of the overall significant investment the company has been making over the past few years to upgrade the gas and electric system and improve safety and reliability. Customer benefits from recent upgrades include the reduction in both the average frequency and duration of power service interruptions by 27 percent in 2014 over the average performance of the prior four years.

"Our aim is to continue to invest in innovative technology that prepares us to meet our customers' needs well into the future," said Butler.

In this filing, BGE is also requesting recovery of the increased fees Baltimore City is assessing all users of its conduit system. BGE's electric assets in the conduit system include cables, switches, transformers, street lighting cable, and communication cable. On September 23, 2015, the Baltimore City Board of Estimates approved an increase that will more than triple the fees for all users of the underground conduit system.

Under the proposed adjustment to distribution rates to recover the costs of the smart grid implementation, the average residential electric bill would increase by approximately 6 percent or \$7.64 per month. The total average residential natural gas bill would increase by approximately 11 percent or \$7.56 per month. A potential customer charge for conduit fees would be in addition to these rate adjustments. Even with the proposed adjustments, an average combined gas and electric residential customer's total monthly bill in 2016 would still be lower than in 2008 due to decreases in electric and gas commodity prices.

A decision on the proposed rates is expected from the Maryland Public Service Commission in early June, 2016.

### WSSC Sells \$145 Million in AAA Rated Bonds

LAUREL, MD—November 13, 2015: The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) competitively sold \$145.3 million of Consolidated Public Improvement Refunding Bonds on November 10, 2015 to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The bonds were issued at an average interest rate of 2.17%.

The Refunding Bonds were issued to refinance five of WSSC's outstanding bond issues. The refunding will save WSSC approximately \$12.8 million with most of the savings occurring in fiscal years 2017 through 2019. This represents a net present value savings of 8.2%, well above WSSC's refunding threshold of 2%.

The bonds were rated AAA by all three Bond Rating Agencies: Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's, which also reaffirmed WSSC's AAA rating on its other outstanding bonds.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### GOSPEL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Prince George's County Gospel Music Workshop Chapter of America and the SPC Youth Ministry of St. Paul Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland presented "An elegant evening of entertainment" Friday November 20, 2015.

The participants were Dr. Henry A. Wise High School, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Frederick Douglas High School, Largo High School, Oxon Hill High School, Bowie State University Gospel Choir Bowie, Maryland and American University Gospel Choir Washington, D.C.

### MACARONI KID

Visit www.Brandywine.MacaroniKid.com to learn about Macaroni Kid of Southern Prince George's County. Entertain, Educate and exhaust your kids. Macaroni Kid is the #1 source for Family Friendly Fun in Prince George's County. For more information please call 240-200-4402.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Come dressed in your PJs and enjoy the story of the "Polar Express," a filling hot breakfast and crafts Saturday, December 12, 2015, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

... Santa arrives by truck to join the fun. Photos with Santa for an extra fee. Cost \$8 resident/child; \$10/others; \$10 Non-resident/child, \$12 others.

The Santa Breakfast will be at Baden Community Center 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Contact number is 301-888-1500; TTY 0301-699-2544.

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Come out on December 5th to do a little shopping at Nottingham Myers Family Life Center. Located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland. There will be various vendors and handmade crafts available. handbags, jewelry, handmade crochet items, handmade Christmas decorations, candles, etc. We will also have homemade baked goods for sale. Please come out to support this event and find that unique Christmas gift for someone special. Telephone number is 301-888-2171.

### CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Parish Cancer Care Ministry, Rev. Constance C. Smith invites you to attend a Praise Service "In the Midst of a Storm" on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

The program will include New Hope Fellowship Choir, The Mighty Wonders, Special Guest Choirs, New Hope Fellowship Liturgical Dance and a Spoken Word of Cancer. Light refreshments will be served.

Cancer Care Ministry Praise Service will be at our South Campus: Christ United Methodist Church, 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. There will be a free will offering. For more information contact Shonnita Lee (202) 527-8598. Email: nhf cancer care ministry @ gmail.com. Website: www.thenhf.org. Facebook.com/New Hope Fellowship Md.

### WORLD VIEW CHRISTIAN CENTER

"Providing quality Child care services for 20 years, World View Christian Center provides after school academics and sports, before and after school programs. There are four locations at Brandywine, Clinton, Temple Hills and Waldorf. Times vary per location (6:00 AM-6:30 PM). For information call (301) 372-0053 or visit info@worldviewchristiancenter.com or www.worldviewchristian-center.com.



# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Your Year-End Financial Checklist

It will begin soon enough—all those “beat the rush!” ads for holiday shopping, activities and events. Right now, you have a great opportunity to beat the rush to organize your year-end finances and make some smart moves for the New Year.

Consider the following tasks for your year-end financial to-do list.



**Total up your year-to-date spending.** Whether you organize by computer or on paper, make sure your tracking system for spending, saving and investment is up to date. This way, you can make sure you are on budget for the year and ready with data for tax time. Once you are finished, determine your net worth—what you own less what you owe—and get an early idea of what you need to change next year.

**Check in with your planner or tax professional.** Late December is a busy time for financial professionals. Take a minute to see if they can review your numbers and make suggestions on year-end financial activities and new moves you should make in 2016.

**Make sure you've reviewed all your credit reports for the year.** You are entitled to one free copy (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com>) of each of your three major credit reports from TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. It's generally wise to schedule delivery of each at different points in the year to catch errors or irregularities.

**Check and rebalance your portfolio.** With the dramatic market swings this past year, be sure to check if your retirement and other investments are still on track with your investment goals. Get qualified help if necessary to see if the assets you own still fit your needs. And if you need to do any tax selling by the end of the year, now is the time to start thinking about it.

**Check your insurance coverage.** If you buy your own home, auto, life or other insurance policies, contact two or three agents representing highly rated (<http://www.ambest.com>) insurers to review the adequacy and pricing of your coverage. If you have made any structural changes or improvements to your home, make sure those actions are reflected in your homeowners insurance. Such work may boost your home's replacement value. Also, if you've had a major life or financial event like a new baby or the purchase of a new home it's time to make sure all your coverage is sufficient.

**Update your W-2, benefits and estate plan if necessary.** While you're updating your insurance and investment needs for big life events related to family, property or marital status, see if your tax withholding and employee health coverage and investments need review. Get qualified help to make this assessment if you are not sure.

**Empty out your flexible spending accounts.** If you have a Flexible Spending Account for health care or other qualifying expenses, it's time to submit outstanding claims from the doctor, dentist or optometrist. Remember you can only transfer \$500 in your remaining balance over to the next year. Make any appointments or medical purchases you need to now and get the paperwork in fast.

**Do a last-minute tax review.** If you work alone or with a tax professional, review your annual income, investment and spending data to see if there's anything you can do in the final weeks of the year to save on taxes. If tax-deductible donations to qualified charities and nonprofits are recommended, consult sites such as GuideStar (<http://www.guidestar.org>), Charity-Watch (<https://www.charitywatch.org/home>) and Charity Navigator (<http://www.charitynavigator.org>) to evaluate your choices so you know your contribution is being well spent.

**Save time and cut back on waste with online bill pay and deposits.** Automatic online bill pay means you won't have to waste time writing checks or risk late payment fees. Scheduling bill payment through your checking and savings accounts can save time and money, while setting up regular electronic deposits to savings and investment accounts can also help you save money before you are tempted to spend it.

**Bottom line:** Doing a last-minute review of your finances can potentially save money and help you save, spend and invest smarter in the coming year.

### Morningside from A2

Reagan through Obama, until retirement in 2010. He was a longtime member of the Swan Point Country Club. Survivors include nine siblings, Frances, Joanne, Kathleen John, Patrick, Mary, Paul, Rose and David, and 13 nieces and nephews.

Stephan Ferralli died Nov. 14, after living more than 14 years with a new heart. My condolences to the Ferralli and Bohannon fam-

ilies. I'll pay tribute to Steve in my next column.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Mark Witherow, Jr., and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Eskew) Simms, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Sandra Mickey and Brian Doyle, Dec. 7; Crystal Pruitt and Charles Boxley, Dec. 8; Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Sharon Fowler and Diane Zirkle, Dec. 10; and Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11.

Happy 14th anniversary to Andy and Marlen Coles on Dec. 8.

## Important Information for Prince George's County Residents Regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Lt. Governor

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County residents have an opportunity to browse, shop, renew or change health insurance plans as the third year of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) gets underway. Open enrollment for health insurance is now through January 31, 2015. Adults 18 to 64 years of age must have coverage, or risk paying a tax penalty. For the first time, dental plans are also offered. Residents needing health insurance or those who would like to compare rates and benefits should go to [www.marylandhealthconnection.gov](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov), call 1-855-642-8572, or visit a health navigator by finding a location and time at [www.capitalhealthconnection.org/sign-up-locations](http://www.capitalhealthconnection.org/sign-up-locations).

"In Prince George's County, we are making sure our residents are covered for health insurance," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Since the launch of ACA in 2012, Prince George's County has insured over 100,000 previously uninsured residents. I am very proud of the work of the Prince George's County

Health Department, Prince George's County Department of Social Services, and our state, local, and non-profit partners to make sure every Prince Georgian is insured."

A variety of qualified health plans (QHPs) are provided this year through the Maryland Health Connection, Maryland's online health insurance marketplace. QHPs are plans that have been certified through the State to meet certain standards. Many of these standards include such benefits as doctor's visits and hospital stays, among others. Preventive care is also included. Health carriers in this year's Marketplace include CareFirst, Cigna, Evergreen, Kaiser Permanente, and United Healthcare. Together, they offer more than 30 plans to choose from, ranging from bronze through platinum levels.

Eligible Prince George's County residents who need health coverage will have three easy ways to enroll:

- Online at [www.maryland-healthconnection.gov](http://www.maryland-healthconnection.gov) any time (24 hours/7 days a week).
- By telephone at 1-855-642-8572; (toll free) or 1-855-8573 (TTY).
- In-person with a health navigator to complete enrollment.

To find sign up locations, visit [www.capital-healthconnection.org/sign-up-locations](http://www.capital-healthconnection.org/sign-up-locations).

- When getting ready to sign up, be sure to have these items ready:
- Social security numbers or document numbers for all family member who need insurance, including birth dates and general information about you and family members applying;
- Employer and income information for you and family members (such as pay stubs or W-2 wage and tax statements); AND
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance, and information about job-related insurance available to your family members.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Health Department, (PGCHD) are the lead agencies in Prince George's County, responsible for community outreach, enrollment, and education. Prince George's County, in conjunction with Montgomery County comprise the Capital Region in Maryland. Capital Health Connection is the health insurance portal that has been established for Prince George's and Montgomery

Counties. Over the last two enrollment periods, the Capital Region led the state in record enrollments with almost 100,000 Prince George's County resident enrollments.

"We are excited about year three enrollment for Prince George's residents," says Gloria Brown, Director of Social Services. "Now is the time to explore and find the plan that best fits you. It does exist. We are here to help you with the enrollment process, with services provided by the Department of Social Services Centers, and our community partners."

"The Prince George's County Health Department is here to help residents understand and utilize preventive measures, understand their insurance needs and coverage perimeters, and making sure every family in the County is achieving their maximum health," said Pamela Creekmur, Health Officer, Prince George's County Health Department.

For more information about enrollment and the items that are needed, or a list of community partners and sites that can assist with enrollment, visit [www.capitalhealthconnection.com](http://www.capitalhealthconnection.com).

### Singh from A1

Living at home became increasingly difficult. She frequently got into arguments with her mother, and became a victim of sexual assault. She ended up leaving and lived on the streets, engaging in poor behaviors, including drinking and smoking, at a young age, she said.

Singh said she had the idea to turn around anything that happened to her into a learning experience instead. So on June 3, 1981, at age 17, she enlisted in the National Guard.

"It's the choices that you make that will really help you move forward," Singh said. "Your past does not define you. ... Whatever has happened in my past helped to shape who I am, and it did not define who I was meant to become."

Gov. Larry Hogan appointed Singh as the leader of the Maryland National Guard this year and she assumed the role on Feb. 28. She told the youths that this was her most rewarding experience, having now accomplished so many things she hoped for.

Singh said it's important to hold oneself accountable for mis-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ERIN SERPICO

One juvenile in the Department of Juvenile Services system hugs Maryland's 29th adjutant general Maj. Gen. Linda Singh after she spoke to about 20 incarcerated youth on Nov. 4, 2015, at the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School detention center in Parkville, Maryland.

takes and to use them as a way to move forward, but also to recognize what one has to offer.

"Each and every single one of you are special. You just have to figure out what your passion is," she said. "You need to become the best at what you do.

You need to become comfortable with who you are, where you're from—never forget where you're from."

Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Sam Abed introduced Singh, mentioning one experience he had seeing her on

television following the riots earlier this year in Baltimore City. She helped bring the city out of disorganization, he said.

"It really was a chaotic situation, and the governor called the state of emergency—the next person on the TV screen was General Singh," Abed said. "And almost immediately, I felt comfort, and I felt safe."

Abed said the point of bringing someone like Singh to talk to the youth is to bring someone relatable, who won't just lecture and tell them what to do.

"We're in the business of teaching these kids that they have opportunities beyond what they're dealing with now while they're with DJS," Abed said. "You don't get more successful people than Linda Singh, and not only that she's successful, but within a group of leaders, she's a leader. That's a really important thing for our kids to see."

Ayranna, an 18-year-old at the J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility in Chestertown, got the opportunity Wednesday to attend Singh's lecture and said it's already had an effect on her.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ERIN SERPICO

Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Sam Abed addresses Maryland's 29th adjutant general Maj. Gen. Linda Singh before she spoke to incarcerated youth Nov. 4, 2015, at the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School detention center in Parkville, Maryland.

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# COMMENTARY

## Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski, Grassley Lead Bipartisan, Bicameral Letter Urging Conferees to Support Gifted and Talented Students as Work On Educational Bill Continues

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) led a bipartisan, bicameral letter urging conferees on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization to maintain the gifted and talented education provisions included in the Senate-passed ESEA reauthorization bill (S. 1177) as part of any final ESEA-conferenced report. These provisions include an amendment offered by Senator Mikulski and later adopted by unanimous consent during the HELP Committee markup reauthorizing the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Act, a program that supports gifted and talented students, especially disadvantaged gifted students who often go unnoticed in school and are not being challenged. The letter was also signed by U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Robert Casey (D-Pa.) and U.S. Representative David Young (R-Iowa).

“Our nation’s gifted and talented children must be held to high standards, challenged, and engaged. Unfortunately, these students do not always get the access they need, or deserve, to amazing gifted programs and services across the country,” the Members wrote. “... There is a lingering perception that gifted kids are wealthy and do not come from diverse neighborhoods. We know this to not be true and that gifted students can and do live in a wide range of school districts. That is why it is

imperative that our federal education policy reflect the understanding that they have unique needs.”

The Senate-passed ESEA reauthorization bill includes several components of the bipartisan To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation’s Teachers (TALENT) Act introduced earlier this year by Senators Mikulski and Grassley, along with companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The TALENT Act was designed to correct a shortage of attention given to high-ability students, especially those in underserved areas. The Senate’s ESEA reauthorization bill now includes gifted and talented students as part of the school, district, and state planning processes that already exist under current law. Additionally, the bill specifies that educators address the special learning needs of various populations of students, and stipulates that existing teacher quality grants be used to help improve the achievement of all students, including gifted and talented students.

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act is the only federal program that provides dedicated funding to states, districts and institutions of higher education to develop curricula and implement teaching strategies to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students. It especially focuses on disadvantaged gifted

See EDUCATION Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### The University of Missouri’s New President, Michael Middleton, and the New Campus Activism

*“Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”*

—Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist, Remarks from “West India Emancipation,” August 1857

Michael Middleton, the University of Missouri’s new interim president faces the challenge of healing wounds that have been decades in the making, since the first African-American students fought for admission in the 1930s.

As the first Black student to enroll as a freshman and graduate with a law degree, Middleton is uniquely well-suited to tackle the immense task before him. In fact, the students who are reclaiming the mantle of principled and peaceful protest to affect real and necessary change are emulating Middleton himself. As a Mizzou student in the 1960s, he was one of the founders of the Legion of Black Collegians, a governing body for black organizations on campus. And the list of demands he and his fellow students presented to the university are virtually the same as the demands presented just a few weeks ago—hire more black faculty, fund scholarships for black students, create a black culture center and start a black studies program.

Middleton helped the university fulfill some of those demands—he was a member of the committee that hired Arvarh Strickland, who became the first black tenured professor at MU, and the black culture center was created the year after he graduated. But even today, only 3 percent of Mizzou’s faculty are African-American.

If our nation’s college campuses are a microcosm of the realities and inequities to be found in our larger society, it should come as no surprise

that as our nation grapples with the lingering injustice of racism throughout so many of our institutions, college students are using their first amendment right to protest racial injustice, and become a modern-day model for confronting and dealing with racism in America.

The university’s African-American students endured decades of racially charged slights. No matter how persistently charges of racism or demands for change were brought to the university’s attention, the answer was always the same: inaction. In 2010, cotton balls were scattered outside a Black student cultural center. Two white students were expelled, but the university engaged in no broader conversation or initiatives to address racial tensions on campus. In September, the president of the Missouri Students Association, a young black man, charged that racial slurs were hurled at him as he walked near campus. On October 5, members of the Legion of Black Collegians were called the N-word while they were rehearsing for homecoming festivities. And only three weeks later, a swastika made of human feces was smeared on the wall of a university residence hall. These alarming incidents of should have woken up the slumbering administration. Instead, students—who had had enough of the university’s lethargy in the face of repeated racist attacks—protested, caught the attention of the nation, and began to realize their crusade for change.

Weeks of student and faculty-led protests—including a hunger strike by a graduate student and the announcement of a sit out by the university’s football team until the president either resigned or was removed—culminated in the ouster of two top university officials. Within hours of each other, the university’s president, Timothy Wolfe, and its chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, stepped down from their posts. With the high profile resignations came new initiatives to address race relations on campus, including hiring a diversity, inclusion and equity

See MIDDLETON Page A12



Montpelier Arts Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK MONALDO

#### MONTPELIER ARTS CENTER

The Arts Center which opened in 1979 houses three galleries, artist’s studios, and classrooms. Exhibitions include cutting edge work as well as more traditional approaches and feature both emerging and established regional, national and international artists. The Main Gallery is also the site for the performances of the Jazz, Folk/Blues and Classical music series. The gallery is also available on a limited basis for rental by community groups. Artist studios are open to the public, and offer insight into the process of creating artwork.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Ugly Truths It’s Way Past Time for America to Face

On November 14, Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia announced the university will rename two buildings on campus named for two 19th century Georgetown University presidents: Thomas F. Mulledy, who in 1838 arranged the sale of 272 slaves from Jesuit owned Maryland plantations and used the profit to pay Georgetown’s construction debts, and William McSherry, who also sold other Jesuit owned slaves and was Mulledy’s adviser. The sale ignored the objections of some Jesuit leaders who believed using the money to pay off debt was immoral and their demands that families be kept together.

Georgetown’s action followed a student sit in outside President DeGioia’s office but it was part of a longer ongoing process examining the university’s historical connections to slavery. The renaming was one step recommended by the Working Group on Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation established by the President this school year. Recently student protesters at Yale University repeated calls to rename its Calhoun College honoring slave owning Vice President and South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun, already a subject of campus wide discussion. For years the college featured a stained glass window depicting Calhoun with a chained Black slave kneeling in front of him. After complaints the slave’s image was removed but Calhoun’s remains as does his shameful legacy that haunts our nation still. Georgetown and Yale are among the growing number of colleges and universities struggling to come to terms with their historical connections to slave owners, slave labor, and slave profits and the scars they leave on campuses and our nation today. What values do we want to hold up for our young as worthy of honor and emulation?

Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island was the first Ivy League university to move forward with a large scale investigation of its history under the leadership of former president Ruth Simmons. In 2003 she appointed a Committee on Slavery and Justice to learn more about Brown’s past ties to slavery and wealthy benefactors involved in

the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The Brown family included slave owners and slave traders as well as at least two members who became active abolitionists. The committee learned 30 members of Brown’s governing board owned or captained slave ships and slave labor was used for some of the school’s construction.

Brown is far from alone. In his groundbreaking 2013 book *Ebony & Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America’s Universities*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) scholar Craig Steven Wilder documented many of these connections. In the book’s prologue he says: “In short, American colleges were not innocent or passive beneficiaries of conquest and colonial slavery ... The academy never stood apart from American slavery—in fact, it stood beside church and state as the third pillar of a civilization built on bondage.”

The nation’s oldest colleges depended on direct and indirect wealth from slavery and the slave trade. Slaves helped build many university buildings including some at Thomas Jefferson’s University of Virginia. Students sometimes brought slaves to college to serve them, as George Washington’s stepson

did when he attended King’s College in New York City, now Columbia University. Many university founders and early presidents owned personal slaves including Dartmouth, Harvard, the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and more, and some colleges owned slaves. William and Mary, one of the slave owning colleges, produced one of the most awful stories Wilder shares—that of founding trustee Reverend Samuel Gray, who “murdered an enslaved child for running away”: “Rev. Gray struck the boy on the head, drawing blood, and then put a hot iron to the child’s flesh. The minister had the boy tied to a tree, and then ordered another slave to whip him. The boy later died. Gray argued that ‘such accidents’ were inevitable, a position that seems to have succeeded, as a court declined to convict him.”

Slave corpses were used in a number of the colleges’ medical and scientific experiments. In one of Wilder’s examples, Dartmouth College founder Eleazar Wheelock’s personal doctor arranged for a slave’s skeleton to be wired up for study and his

See WATCH, Page A12

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Getting Through the Holidays Intact

Ask people what the holiday season means to them and odds are good you'll get a wide range of answers. For some it's their favorite time of the year. For others it can be a season of sadness and feelings of loss. It is not unusual to find that many people find themselves feeling anxious, stressed and even depressed as the holiday season approaches.

That can be especially true if you have faced a loss in recent times—the death of a family member, the end of a romantic relationship or any of the numerous happenings that can throw our lives a little off track.

If you find yourself facing such emotions during this season, especially depression, there are things you can and should do to combat such feelings and to keep yourself on an even keel.

A good starting point is to keep your life as regular as usual. It's not a time to stop exercising, to skip on the things you regularly do and enjoy, or to ignore a healthy diet.

An important part of that is not to give in to the excesses in food and alcohol that the season brings, and the guilt which always follows. Enjoy holiday parties, food and drink, but do so in moderation.

You also don't have to live up to other people's expectations. You have the power to not be affected by the pressures of the season. If you don't wish to attend a holiday event you know will only bring you down, feel free to say "no." You don't have to agree to every favor asked of you.

That doesn't mean, however, that you want to isolate yourself during the holidays. An important way to fight depression is to stay in touch with your regular friends and colleagues, and to maintain regular activities. Stay active by choosing friends and social situations you know you will enjoy.

The bottom line is to be good to yourself. If you're feeling blue, find ways to pamper yourself, to do things you want to do and that make you feel good. And be realistic, knowing that all the "perfect" holiday hype you see isn't the real world.

If you find the holiday season is making you truly blue and depressed, ask for help. A trained professional counselor can offer a variety of assistance to assist you in making the best of the season.

*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*

### Wallace from A1

District 7," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "As a recent alumni of the Prince George's County Public Schools, Alex can provide our Board of Education with a real working knowledge of our school system from the students' perspective. His community and civic engagement is also very impressive and will be an asset in this position. I am confident that Alex will add leadership, stability, and passion to the Board of Education and that he will represent the residents of District 7 with honor and distinction."

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve students, families and educators in District 7 and Prince George's County Public Schools," said Mr. Wallace. "I want to thank County Executive Baker for having confidence in me. I will work with our community of students, their families, and their teachers, fellow Board Members, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Prince George's County Council members, as well as State of Maryland delegates and senators in pursuit of outstanding academic achievement for all Prince George's County Public Schools students. The more we collaborate on this common goal, the more our children and County will prosper."

### CASA from A1

needs of the community, CASA is recruiting more volunteers to be able to serve more children and youth in foster care. On Wednesday December 2nd from 6-7pm, an Information Session will be held at First United Methodist Church at 6201

"We look forward to working with Mr. Wallace. He is a remarkable young man who seems to have a good understanding of Prince George's County Public Schools and the needs of its students, teachers and families. He is a true advocate for public education and for the academic success of all students," said Board of Education Chairperson Dr. Segun Eubanks.

### Bio of

#### K. Alexander Wallace:

Alexander Wallace, a graduate of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, has focused on public service, advocacy and education policy throughout his professional career. Wallace has worked and volunteered with several different non-profits, governmental agencies, community leaders, and elected officials such as The Education Trust in Washington, D.C., the Maryland Higher Education Commission, University System of Maryland and the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. Mr. Wallace was an inaugural member of the Wayne K. Curry Leadership Institute. Mr. Wallace graduated from Towson University with a degree in Political Science and Communication Studies. He is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree with a Public Policy concentration at the University of Baltimore.

Belcrest Road in Hyattsville, Maryland for people interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer. The next training will start in January 2016. To RSVP for the Information Session or request more information, please email [staff@pgcasa.org](mailto:staff@pgcasa.org) or call 301-209-0491.

## PG County Economic Development Corporation's India Business Center to Hire 50 County Residents in the Next 12 Months

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Today, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation welcomed two companies to its India Business Center, a program that provides high-growth Indian businesses with low-cost office space, and access to mentoring, training, certification assistance, workforce development and networking opportunities. Having researched and heard the value of locating a business in Prince George's County, the CEO's from Allied Deccan Service and Karmick Solutions traveled to Maryland intent on expanding their India based businesses in the United States. Collectively, the two companies expect to hire more than 50 Prince George's County residents over the next 12 months.

"Today represents good news for Prince George's County," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "Whether you are looking to do business internationally or domestically, we want you here in Prince George's County to grow. We have 14 federal agencies that do over \$50 billion in procurement every year. There are companies that have grown up in Prince George's County who have started with very meager means and are now worth millions thanks to the County's value proposition and that is what we are replicating today."

The goal of these centers is to help international companies enter the United States, grow in revenue, create local jobs and add to the local commercial tax revenue base.

"Our India Business Center, a partnership with the State of Maryland, has become a successful model for Indian and other international companies because we provide tailored services and a 'soft landing' to businesses that want to rapidly grow in the United States," said EDC Vice President Pradeep Ganguly. "We want to replicate this model for Chinese companies, African companies, Korean companies and South American companies that express an interest in growing their business in the U.S."

Allied Deccan is a diversified Indian company with over 400 employees throughout India and Australia that provides a variety of services including import/export, commercial building services, facility management, wholesale trading and marketing support.

"I would like to thank the Prince George's County Economic Development team for encouraging us to come to Prince George's County," said Ganesh Raj Pant, CEO of Allied Deccan Services. "It has always been our dream to open a place in the United States and sell our products directly to the American public. Our main intention is to bring the products from the factory to the customers in the



PHOTO COUTESY PGCEDC

**L to R: Manjot Dhanoa, PTW, Charmin Lloyd, EDC Business Resource Representative, Liz Williams, EDC Workforce Development Director, Britta Vander Linden, EDC Chief of Staff, Sourav Roy, CEO Karmick Solutions, Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO, Ganesh Raj Pant, CEO Allied Deccan Services, Pradeep Ganguly, EDC Executive Vice President, Asheesh Jain, President Creative Lipi, Toni Miles, EDC Small Business Director, David Lewis, EDC Director of Business Development, Mayank Kapur, EDC Director of Business Development**

United States and with the help of the Economic Development Corporation we will bring more jobs to this area."

Karmick Solutions is an IT solutions provider in the area of education with more than 250 employees in India and is quickly making its presence known in the United States. Prince George's County is their first brick and mortar office in the United States.

"I am glad that I have this opportunity from the Prince George's County EDC to open an office in Prince George's County," said Sourav Roy, CEO of Karmick Solutions. "My ob-

jective has been to be closer to U.S. customers. A physical office in the U.S. will bring more confidence and trust to our U.S. customers. Our other objective is to have a team here so that they can interact with the U.S. customers can give more value to customers. We couldn't have done this without the assistance of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation."

To start growing your business in Prince George's County or get more information on international business development, contact Pradeep Ganguly ([pganguly@co.pg.md.us](mailto:pganguly@co.pg.md.us)) or (301) 583-4650.

## 6 Ways to Avoid a Ticket-Selling Scam

By PRESS OFFICER  
BBB

You know that winning feeling you get after buying tickets to that special show, concert or sporting event? Scammers know it too and will stop at nothing to make a quick buck. Before purchasing tickets, know the red flags of a ticket-selling scam. The Better Business Bureau serving Metro Washington, D.C. and Eastern PA is urging consumers to do their homework before purchasing tickets to an event—especially in light of the upcoming visit from Pope Francis.

Whether it is a phony listing that touts discounted tickets or street-side vendors selling fake

knockoff tickets, the BBB hears of too many cases where customers think they are getting a good deal on a special event only to be left outside the venue and without the money they spent.

With the recent visit from Pope Francis to the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. areas, your BBB is warning residents of scams surrounding the September visit and urged those interested to only get tickets from verified sources, in most cases the archdiocese or the World Meeting of Families. Tickets will not be sold for any of the Pope Francis's planned events, but interested residents were advised to contact Catholic parishes directly

for more information. Consumers should proceed with caution before actually purchasing tickets from an unverified vendor since these tickets may be counterfeit or real but with expired bar codes.

The BBB recommends the following tips to help avoid a ticket-selling scam:

**Do your research.** When purchasing tickets through an online broker, look for the BBB seal on its website and check its BBB Business Review at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). Assess the company's policy for customer satisfaction and what happens if tickets purchased through its site are fake or not as advertised.

**Know the total price.** When buying tickets online, be

mindful of convenience or venue fees that can raise the price. Before you make any payments, be sure it includes all charges, shipping, handling, insurance and taxes. Coupons and other discounts should be properly disclosed.

**If it sounds too-good-to-be-true, it probably is.** The reason tickets are expensive is because they are hard to get in most cases and the chances of getting lucky and finding a deal are usually slim. If a situation sounds too-good-to-be-true, such as someone selling tickets to a popular event when tickets are rare or for much

See SCAM Page A6

### Education from A4

students who often go unnoticed in and are not being challenged in school. As the senior Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski has fought each year to put funds in the federal checkbook for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act.

The full text of the letter follows:

November 2, 2015  
Dear Chairmen Kline, Alexander and Ranking Members Scott and Murray:

As you begin conference negotiations to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we urge you to maintain the bipartisan gifted and talented education provisions that were included in the Senate-passed Every Child Achieves Act (S. 1177).

The original intent of ESEA was to help schools better serve the "special educational needs of educationally deprived children." This means that we need to support every child in

achieving their maximum potential. This must include gifted and talented children, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds and lack access to services to help them achieve their potential.

Our nation's gifted and talented children must be held to high standards, challenged, and engaged. Unfortunately, these students do not always get the access they need, or deserve, to amazing gifted programs and services across the country. A recent survey done by the National Association of Gifted Children found that our country has fallen behind in gifted education and identified a number of challenges that must be addressed: lack of teacher training, limited state funding, and a lack of data and accountability. One reason that gifted education has fallen behind is that federal law creates incentives to ignore the educational needs of gifted children.

There is a lingering perception that gifted kids are wealthy and do not come from diverse neighborhoods. We know this to

not be true and that gifted students can and do live in a wide range of school districts. That is why it is imperative that our federal education policy reflect the understanding that they have unique needs.

We are glad that S. 1177 included provisions from a bipartisan bill we introduced earlier this year—the TALENT Act, S. 363 in the Senate and H.R. 2690 in the House. These provisions, found in both Title I and II, provide for the inclusion of high-ability students in state plans and state accountability systems. States and school districts need to be accountable for how well they identify and serve gifted minority and low-income students. The bill also makes it easier for States to use their funds to improve teachers' ability to identify gifted and talented students specific learning needs, and tailor instruction accordingly.

Additionally, during the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee mark-up of S. 1177, the Committee unanimously passed

an amendment offered by Senator Barbara Mikulski to reauthorize the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education program. The Javits program is the only federal program dedicated specifically to gifted and talented students. Although relatively small, it positively impacts the education of gifted and talented students in every state through the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented through competitive research and capacity-building grants. These grants lead to the development of effective strategies that support both students and teachers.

If the United States is to remain competitive globally and on the cutting edge of innovation, we must challenge our best and brightest in order to help them reach their full potential.

We respectfully urge the conferees to ensure that the gifted and talented education provisions included in S. 1177 remain in the final confereed ESEA reauthorization bill.

Thank you.



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “We Are Still Here”

*We Are Still Here*  
Grade: B  
Not rated, probably R  
for profanity and  
some strong violence  
1 hr., 24 min

“We Are Still Here” begins with a married couple moving to a creepy old house and immediately—I mean immediately—noticing strange phenomena. The fact that the disturbances begin even before the title appears, coupled with the give-away nature of that title, suggests that writer-director Ted Geoghegan has something more than the usual haunted-house tropes up his sleeve. At least, we hope he does. Otherwise we’re in for a long, predictable 84 minutes.

Thankfully, “We Are Still Here” does have more to offer than flickering lights and grudge-bearing ghosts. A fun throwback to the intense, free-wheeling, semi-cheesy horror flicks of the ‘70s and ‘80s, Geoghegan’s story expands to include not just the creepy old house but the entire creepy old town. (Do you love movies about towns with dark secrets? ME TOO.) The married couple, Anne (Barbara Crampton) and Paul (Andrew Sensenig), have



ROTTENTOMATOES

**In the cold, wintry fields of New England, a lonely old house wakes up every thirty years—and demands a sacrifice.**

moved to snowy New England to escape their grief after the death of their son. Problem is, there seem to be spirits here—and Anne thinks her dead boy is among them. A visit from local old-timer Dave McCabe (Monte Markham), who describes the house’s grim history, lends credence to the idea that something supernatural is afoot.

Things really pick up when Anne and Paul’s friends come for the weekend. May (Lisa Marie) is a spiritualist who

wants to conduct a seance; her husband, Jacob (Larry Fessenden), is a good-natured hippie along for the ride. Paul is skeptical of Anne’s fears at first, but there comes a time—always a very satisfying moment in these movies—when, at last, everyone is on the same page. All that remains then is to determine the source and defeat it, which in this case leads to a raucous and bloody finale.

“We Are Still Here” offers a few good scares and some mo-

ments of high tension, lightened by a tongue-in-cheek attitude that stops short of being self-aware. (Markham’s performance as Dave McCabe is the one that feels like maybe his character is more meta than everyone else’s.) Barbara Crampton, a scream queen from ‘80s flicks like “Re-Animator” and “Chopping Mall,” provides a graceful (and fierce) center for this one. No matter what mayhem ensues, she remains a loving mother who misses her son.

#### Scam from A5

less than offered elsewhere, it probably is.

**Pay with a credit card or PayPal account.** Consumers should avoid paying by cash, check or wiring money to a seller. Often there is little or no way to get back your money if the tickets do not arrive, which is why scammers often do busi-

ness this way. Using a credit card or PayPal account provides additional protection and the opportunity for potential reimbursement if the seller is uncooperative or does not follow through with sending the tickets.

**Keep a record of your purchase.** Save any information the seller gives you such as receipts, product description, delivery date, cancellation policy, privacy

policy, warranties and order confirmation numbers. The information may come in handy if needing to dispute the charges.

**Ask to see the seller’s proof of purchase.** If you are purchasing your tickets directly from an individual without the aid of a known online third-party, you should ask the ticket seller for proof of purchase (such as a purchase confirmation listing seats,

dates of the event, etc.) that the tickets were ones purchased from an authorized source. If they don’t offer that, don’t turn over payment.

For more tips you can trust, visit [bbb.org/washington-dc-eastern-pa](http://bbb.org/washington-dc-eastern-pa) and for the latest, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. To check out current scams or report a scam, visit [bbb.org/scam-tracker/washington-dc-eastern-pa](http://bbb.org/scam-tracker/washington-dc-eastern-pa).

#### Singh from A3

“What (Singh) had to say was very true, our life is based on our choices,” she said. “You can either learn from them or just keep making the same mistakes.”

Ayranna said she realizes that as an 18-year-old, the severity of any mistake she now makes can

be serious. But hearing Singh’s story gives her inspiration.

“I’ve been in certain situations, I’ve gotten in trouble and I knew that if I keep getting in trouble, I’m going to eventually go nowhere,” she said. “This stuck with me.”

The event was dubbed a “salute to our veterans” from

the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services’ C.H.A.M.P.S. program—Changing Habits and Making Progressive Strides—a rewards and intramural sports program that aims to foster relationships and secure positive behavior.

The department took the day to honor about a dozen of its vet-

erans, presenting them with a gift and recognition from Singh. Two boys also made a poster in honor of Veteran’s Day and presented it for the crowd.

“A lot of people don’t always realize that it’s not always where you come from,” Ayranna said. “It’s about where you’re going.”

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Pimps All Around: In Defense of ‘Louisville Madam’ Katina Powell

We all write the word “alleged” when it comes to “Louisville Madam” Katina Powell’s assertion that she supplied strippers and sex workers to lure recruits for the local big-time basketball program.



But the allegations are easy to believe, for one critical reason: If they weren’t valid, the Louisville War Room would be working overtime to discredit Katina Powell, destroy her character, and wreck her life. Instead, they are in a retrenchment mode, looking for scapegoats, and trying to save the job of superstar head coach Rick Pitino, as well as the future of the most lucrative hoops program in the NCAA.

Pitino’s friends in high places are saying that there is “no way” he could have known. They want us to believe that a man described as the Godfather of Louisville was kept in the dark about years of sex parties with players, coaches, and campus security all allegedly present.

The trashing of Katina Powell has been outsourced to sports-radio talkers, the local press, and social media. It is not surprising that she has become a target. Powell is not only threatening the golden goose; she also speaks openly about having no regrets for having been a sex worker or over having her young daughters—both over 18, Powell insists—do sex work for her at the very parties in question. When asked if she had any discomfort over her children going into “the life,” she merely said, “They wanted to make money. They wanted to have fun. And they wanted to do it with me ... They always wanted to be around their mom. And if it wasn’t with me, they would have done it for someone else.”

When asked why she was coming forward now and writing a book, she said she was done with sex work and was doing it “for the money.”

People have been utterly appalled by her words, and yet, as is often the case when you actually listen to sex workers, she may be the most honest person in the room. The NCAA system is an ugly greed-pit of adults using teenagers and monetizing the college experience for their own massive financial gain and personal gratification. They have no qualms about warping these young kids, as I wrote earlier this week, by using women as a form of currency in their gutter economy.

Players get pimped by their coaches, by the NCAA, and by their schools. Who is pimping and who is getting pimped is such an essential part of the NCAA experience, it has its own lexicon and understanding.

Charles Barkley made it plain when he said, “Nick Saban [Head Coach] of the University of Alabama calls the agents pimps. But the coaches pimp more than agents. At least these agents are investing in these players ... Players make these colleges money. We at [Turner] just bought the NCAA tournament for \$11 billion. Let’s stop joking like this is amateur stuff ... there’s no integrity. NCAA sports [are] bona fide big business.”

Hall of Fame Georgetown coach John Thompson Jr. called the football schools that tore apart the Big East conference “pimps,” saying “They came in and used us and left us. Who does that? A pimp.”

Joe Paterno—in a quote that haunted him during the Sandusky child-abuse scandal—was more blunt about it when he said, “We have raped a generation of young black athletes. We have taken kids and sold them on bouncing a ball and running with a football and that being able to do certain things athletically was an end in itself. We cannot afford to do that to another generation.”

I could list a thousand more quotes in a similar vein. The language of sex, violence, and rape is used so often to describe the student-athlete experience, one wonders why NCAA president Mark Emmert doesn’t elicit cries of “stranger danger” when he enters a room.

As for Katina Powell, let us all please remember that when it comes to the sports world, the truth tellers never arrive looking like Russell Wilson or Tim Tebow. They are never the people who praise the lord and “give 110 percent.” Those are often the people you have to be most careful around: the ones who should have to prove their honesty before you offer your trust. The truth tellers usually come looking a lot like Jose Canseco or Tim Donaghy ... or Katina Powell. I have interviewed both Canseco and Donaghy and, after the fact, I felt dirty, but not only because of their desire to sell books and name names for a quick buck. I felt dirty because of the truth they allowed me to see. When you are offered unvarnished candor in this sports world, it is as bracing as getting ice-cold mud poured down your back. It feels so different and so rare, you know it when it’s happening. Katina Powell has that similar vibe.

This is not the world she created, and defending her right to make a living on this scarred landscape is not the same as endorsing the way she does it. (To use an old phrase, one can believe in the right to divorce, while not thinking that every married couple should get a divorce.) No one, with even a tangential connection to the NCAA, is in any position to judge Katina Powell or her relationship to her daughters. Maybe she felt like she was protecting them. Maybe she was using them. Maybe she was exploiting them. Or maybe in this story, Katina Powell is just the lowest-level pimp in the room. Instead of writing corporate how-to books, Rick Pitino and his ilk should be delivering seminars in Big Pimpin’. Katina Powell isn’t close to being on his level.

## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!



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## Calendar of Events

December 3—December 9, 2015

### Holidays Around the World

**Date & Time:** Thursday, December 3, 2015, 10:15 am & 12 noon  
**Description:** Join Nick and Joy as they travel home for the holidays! On the way home, they encounter people celebrating many different traditional holidays, including The Festival of Lights, Kwanzaa, The Lohri Festival of India, and even Chinese New Year. Experience the costumes, stories and celebrations that occur around the globe during this special time of year.

**Curriculum Connections:** Social Studies, Language Arts.

**Cost:** \$8/person; \$6/person (groups of 20 or more)

**Ages:** Grades K-5

**Location:** Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Movie Screening: "Last Vegas"

**Date & Time:** Friday, December 4, 2015, 11 am-1 pm

**Description:** Morgan Freeman, Michael Douglas, Kevin Kline and Robert DeNiro star in this amiable comedy about old friends and a bachelor party.

**Cost:** \$2/person

**Ages:** 60 & better

**Location:** Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
 5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Holidays at Our House

**Date & Time:** Friday, December 4, 2015, 6-9 pm

**Description:** Celebrate the holidays with Deerfield Run Community Center! Help us decorate the facility by trimming the tree and putting out holiday decorations while sipping on hot cocoa and tea.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Deerfield Run School Community Center  
 13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD

**Contact:** 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

### G.E.A.R.: Dream Makeover Photo Party

**Date and Time:** Friday, December 4, 2015, 7-9 pm

**Description:** What girl doesn't like to feel like a VIP? Join us for our dream makeover party. Girls will learn the essentials to hygiene, nail care, face cleaning and managing stress to prevent acne. There will be girl talk to discuss social and physical issues that affecting the female community.

**Cost:** Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

**Ages:** 10-17

**Location:** Deerfield Run Elementary School Community Center  
 1300 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD

**Contact:** 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

### Breakfast with Sint Niklaas

**Date and Time:** Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9 am & 11 am

**Description:** Sint Niklaas, the Flemish forerunner of our Santa Claus, will make his annual visit to Riversdale! Children and parents will enjoy a Belgian-inspired breakfast, meet Sint Niklaas, and receive a gift. Capacity limited; advanced payment is required by November 16.

**Cost:** Resident: \$10/child, \$7/adult;  
 Non-Resident \$12/child, \$9/adult

**Ages:** Ages 3-10

**Location:** Riversdale House Museum  
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD

**Contact:** 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### Paper Ornament Workshop

**Date & Time:** Saturday, December 5, 2015, 2-4 pm

**Description:** At this workshop, guests will have the opportunity to create paper ornaments for the holiday season. All materials will be provided. If you have special paper you'd like to use, feel free to bring it with you. No registration required.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Brentwood Arts Center

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

### A New Orleans Christmas with the Marsalis Family

**Date & Time:** Saturday, December 5, 2015, 8-10 pm

**Description:** Celebrate the holidays and Laissez Bon Temps Roulez! with the First Family of Jazz! Experience the incomparable flair of Big Easy-style jazz with Ellis Marsalis and his sons Jason and Delfeayo as they perform jazz interpretations of your holiday favorites.

**Cost:** \$30/person (General Admission) \$25/person  
 (Students, Seniors or Groups of 20 or more)

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
 5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Annual Holiday Open House

**Date and Time:** Sunday, December 6, 2015, 1-4 pm

**Description:** Montpelier Arts Center invites families to a fun holiday celebration! Tour resident artists' studios, attend exhibition receptions, shop the pottery sale, enjoy holiday music, and be inspired by art demonstrations.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708

**Contact:** 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Healthy Holiday Cooking

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 3-4 pm

**Description:** Stay healthy and fit this holiday season with our free healthy holiday cooking demonstrations. Enjoy samples, take home new recipes and learn to prepare delicious meals that are good for you and your loved ones this holiday season.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Watkins Nature Center

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD

**Contact:** 301-218-6702; TTY 301-669-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Where Do the Republican Presidential Hopefuls Stand on Environmental Issues? Worst Fear of Greens Would Be GOP Taking White House

*Dear EarthTalk:*

Where do the leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination stand on environmental issues?

— Susan Wollander,  
 Raleigh, NC

In recent decades, Republicans have certainly been far less sympathetic to environmental causes than the Democrats, and this year's batch of candidates for the party's Presidential nomination is no exception.

Donald Trump has remained skeptical of environmentalists and the issues they care about. In 2012 he tweeted that the Chinese created climate change to suppress the American economy. More recently, he called climate change "a hoax" on Fox News. He is also notoriously supportive of getting rid of any tax on oil, "the lifeblood of the economy." While Trump may look bad on climate change, at least he has a track record of working well with environmentalists on some of his development projects.

Ben Carson rejects the significance of climate change, deeming it distracting and irrelevant. He does support some development of alternative energy sources, but only so much as it reduces dependence on foreign oil. Likewise, he supports drilling both offshore and in Alaska to both create jobs and put economic pressure on Middle Eastern terrorists. Despite his

lack of climate concern, Carson does feel strongly about conservation, saying in his 2012 book, *America the Beautiful*, that "mindless consumption" leads to unnecessary pollution and that we should all take care to protect the health of the planet.

Marco Rubio is no fan of government intervention, and would prefer to see the free market dictate how we protect the environment. He publically stated in 2014 that human activity is unrelated to the warming climate trend, such that any laws would be ineffective and bad for our economy. His plan to keep energy prices low consists of continued exploration of domestic energy sources. He supports expansion of wind and solar energies, but also favors increasing production and consumption of coal, oil and natural gas.

Jeb Bush started out his political career with negative views on environmental regulations, but after re-election as Florida's governor in 1998 he changed his tune to say that conservation is the purview of the states (not the federal government). He's well known for spearheading a \$2 billion program to protect and restore the Everglades, and opposes oil drilling in his own state. He favors continued oil consumption, but he would also like to see 25 percent of U.S. energy derived from renewable sources by 2025.

Carly Fiorina supports clean alternatives to fossil fuels, but maintains that every potential



CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE, FLICKRCC  
**Republican frontrunner Donald Trump calls climate change a "hoax."**

energy source should be explored (including nuclear and "clean" coal). She believes the best strategy for cutting carbon emissions is global action. Conveniently, this position makes any federal action by the U.S. pointless. In keeping with her antipathy for big government, Fiorina would like to see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency downsized and its role in policy making diminished.

For the most part, the rest of the still-crowded Republican field shares similar views about climate and environment. If any of these candidates makes it to the White House, Americans should buckle up for a rough ride that could include approval of the Keystone XL pipeline to bring Canadian tar sands oil across U.S. soil, a pull-back from any emissions reduction

commitments made by the Obama administration at the upcoming Paris climate talks, and a weakening of federal powers when it comes to environmental oversight of air and water quality and conservation initiatives in general.

**CONTACTS:** Donald Trump, www.donaldjtrump.com; Ben Carson, www.bencarson.com; Marco Rubio, www.marcorubio.com; Jeb Bush, www.jeb2016.com; Carly Fiorina, www.carlyforpresident.com.

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**Send questions to:** earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## Flat Lining: One Third of 2015 Vehicles Missing Spare Tire

### AAA Calls On Automakers to Put Consumers First, Save the Spare Tire

By PRESS OFFICER  
 AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Automakers' decision to eliminate the spare tire may leave more than 30 million drivers vulnerable at the roadside, according to new research from AAA. Tire inflator kits, a high-cost alternative for consumers, have replaced the spare tire in millions of vehicles over the last 10 model years and, due to their limited functionality, cannot provide even a temporary fix for many common tire-related problems. AAA calls on automakers to put consumer interests first and halt the elimination of the spare tire.

"Flat tires are not a disappearing problem, but spare tires are," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair. "AAA responds to more than four million calls for flat tire assistance annually and, despite advances in vehicle technology, we have not seen a decline in tire-related calls over the last five years."

Along with run-flat tires, tire inflator kits have replaced spare tires on 29 million vehicles in the last 10 model years, steadily increasing from five percent of 2006 model year vehicles to more than one-in-three 2015 model year vehicles (36 percent) sold. While each four-pound kit eliminates approximately 30 pounds of weight, resulting in minimal savings in fuel consumption, the replacement cost

is high. With some kits costing up to \$300 per use, a tire inflator kit can cost consumers up to 10 times more than a simple tire repair and has a shelf life of only four to eight years.

"Automakers are facing increasingly-stringent fuel economy standards and the spare tire has become a casualty in an effort to reduce weight and boost miles-per-gallon," continued Nielsen. "Advances in automotive engineering allow for weight to be reduced in ways that don't leave motorists stranded at the roadside."

AAA tested the most common tire inflator kits in today's vehicles and found that the units worked well in some scenarios, but they are not a substitute for a spare tire. For an inflator kit to work effectively, a tire must be punctured in the tread surface and the object must remain in the tire. Used correctly, the kit then coats the inner wall of the tire with a sealant and a compressor re-inflates the tire. If the puncture-causing object is no longer in the tire, a sidewall is damaged or a blowout occurs, a tire inflator kit cannot remedy the situation and the vehicle will require a tow.

"Consumers need to ask whether their new vehicles come with a spare to make sure they are not caught unaware at the first sign of a flat tire. Always ask sales staff for a detailed list of equipment and if a spare tire can be purchased as an option," said John B. Townsend II, AAA

Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "If your vehicle is equipped with a tire inflator kit in lieu of a spare tire, read the owner's manual and understand the system limitations before roadside trouble strikes."

"Spare the tire and ruin the ride." With the disappearance of the spare tire in nearly thirty million vehicles since 2006, millions of American drivers and their families are vulnerable at the roadside," comments AAA Mid-Atlantic. Also troubling, the tire inflator kits are not a suitable replacement for a spare tire and may leave millions of motorists stranded at the roadside. AAA Automotive Engineering evaluated tire inflator kits in an effort to inform and protect its 55 million members and to educate the automotive industry.

AAA Mid-Atlantic responded to 311,983 tire-related rescue calls from January 2015 through the end of October 2015. In 11 percent of those calls, the member did not have a spare or did not have a usable spare resulting in 35,475 vehicles towed. In Washington, D.C., AAA Mid-Atlantic responded to 13,847 tire-related rescue calls during the same period. In 12 percent of the calls, the member did not have a spare or a usable spare, which resulted in 1,644 vehicles towed.

Knowing how to change a tire is also a skill that is now less prevalent among younger age groups, according to a recent

AAA survey. More than one-in-five millennial drivers (ages 18-34) do not know how to change a tire, compared to the nearly 90 percent of drivers aged 35-54 that know this important skill. Gender differences also exist: while nearly all men (97 percent) claim to know how to change a tire, only 68 percent of women boast the same ability, the AAA survey reveals.

"Consumers may mistakenly believe that inflator kits are a one-size-fits-all alternative to installing a spare tire," continued Nielsen. "The reality is these kits can accommodate specific types of tire damage, but having the option to install a spare tire can save stranded drivers time and money."

If faced with roadside trouble, including a flat tire, AAA is available to help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. AAA members can request assistance by calling (800) AAA-HELP, visiting AAA.com/RoadsideAssistance or via the AAA Mobile App. To become a member, visit AAA.com/join.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 55 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at AAA.com.

### Greenbuild from A1

LEED Platinum Standards. Tour participants heard how the triple goals of Net Zero, Energy Star and LEED affected the entire build process, from documentation and specification to project team building and in-field quality control.

The Net Zero Energy House was chosen from over 110 GREENBUILD 2015 applications. The house sustained a rigorous selection process and

surpassed many noteworthy metropolitan Washington regional sites. The selection process focused on high quality educational content, proximity to other sites, diversity of sites and tours and the thematic compatibility of proximate sites.

"We are honored by the distinction of being selected as an educational offsite GREENBUILD Tour," says Howard Ways, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority. "The Redevelopment Authority is partnering with several devel-

opers to build more houses with Net Zero features so this type of housing becomes the rule versus the exception in Prince George's County."

The Net Zero house is a single family home priced to sell for \$316,800. It's features include: 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths, solar panels as the renewable energy source, an HVAC mini-split system and energy efficient windows and doors, fixtures and appliances, a solar hot water heater, bamboo floors in the living and din-

ing room areas, 42 inch kitchen cabinets with granite counter tops, cultured marble double sinks, tub and separate shower, his and her closets, patio doors that lead to a deck and back yard and more.

For more information on the County's First Net Zero Energy Home, please contact Patricia Omondi, Senior Construction Advisor/Special Projects Administrator for the Redevelopment Authority at: paomondi@co.pg.md.us or (301) 883-5300