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Maryland-National Capital Park Police Appoint New Chief of Prince George's County Division

By Press Officer
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division announces the appointment of Stanley (Stan) Johnson to Park Police Commander, effective Sunday, July 3, 2016. He has been serving as Acting Commander since the retirement of former Commander Larry Brownlee.

Johnson began his career with M-NCPPC in 1986 as a Patrol Officer and progressively moved up the ranks, serving in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties. He obtained a wealth of knowledge in law enforcement and community policing, along with command level management experience. Throughout his career, Johnson assumed direct responsibility for every operational component within the Park Police Division, including Patrol Operations, Investigative Operations, Communications, Records Management, Training, Administration, and Special and Technical Operations. He also served as the Park Police public information officer for 16 years, and worked to build excellent relationships that have helped foster a positive image of our Park Police in the community.

"Stan Johnson has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the mission of the Park Police Division through professionalism and service," said Ronnie Gathers, Director of

Parks and Recreation. "I am confident that he will be successful in this new position and be a role model for his command staff and officers to ensure that our parks and facilities continue to be a safe and secure environment while building partnerships with the communities we serve," concluded Gathers.

A graduate of John Hopkins University, Johnson holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management with a focus in Police Executive Leadership, and a Bachelor's Degree in Management. In addition, he has attended the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development School (FBI-LEEDS) and New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management (NEILEM) program.

One of Johnson's major accomplishments has been managing the accreditation process with the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Under his leadership, Johnson managed and coordinated the achievement of five CALEA accreditations by the Prince George's County Park Police Division. He has served as a CALEA accreditation assessor of other agencies for the past 10 years.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division consists of 117 authorized sworn personnel, 29 civilian employees and approximately 40 volunteers. Title 17,

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PHOTO COURTESY BRITTA VANDER LINDEN

Left to right; MTA Manager Michael D. Madden, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs Director of Communications Alison Tavik, PGCEDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, PGCEDC Business Development Director John Mason, MWAA Department of Contracts and Procurement Deputy Manager Kathy Ruhl, MDOT Special Investigations Manager Michael D. Smith, MWAA Office of Supply Chain Management Vice President Julia Hodge and MWAA Department of Supplier Diversity Manager Richard Gordon.

EDC Matches 200 Small Businesses With \$5 Billion in Transportation Industry Procurement Opportunities

By BRITTA VANDER LINDEN
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Over 200 local companies packed the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's headquarters (EDC) as top executives from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Transit Administration

(MTA) and the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA) gave specific details on how to prepare for and tap into the \$5 billion in procurement opportunities available through these agencies. The EDC's Transportation Industry Procurement Opportunity Day provided local businesses with specific contracting opportunities available, including bid solicitations and procurement forecasts, as well as direction

on how to submit bids on those lucrative contracts.

"I want these businesses to close deals and win contracts. The EDC is on the forefront of bringing our agencies and businesses together. When we do that, it creates jobs. These businesses will put our residents to work to satisfy the needs of these agencies," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "Thanks to County Executive Rushern Baker's

leadership and the commitment of our existing businesses, we have created over 9,000 jobs in Prince George's County over the last year. We're on fire! But this is no time for cooling off. No EDC in the region is this aggressive at matchmaking. That's one of the best things we can do and it doesn't cost us another

See BUSINESSES Page A6

EDC President Jim Coleman Talks to Future PG County Leaders at "Steps to Success" Luncheon

"Any of You Could be the Next President Obama", Says Coleman

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LANHAM, MD—EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman was among the influential guest speakers to congratulate the 70 North Forestville Elementary School 2016 Steps to Success Program participants at the La Fontaine Bleu Restaurant in Lanham, MD. 'Steps to Success' is a volunteer program that promotes good manners, socially acceptable behavior and etiquette to sixth graders at the North Forestville Elementary School to help them prepare for middle school and beyond. Mr. Coleman encouraged the youth to take time to decide what they want to do when they grow up, then position themselves for success.

"Sixth grade is not too early for you to figure out what you want to do in life. Any of you can be the next President of the United States. In fact, President Obama knew that he wanted to be the President when he was in the sixth grade, and he spent his high school and college career working towards that



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman speaking to 6th graders from North Forestville Elementary School at the Steps to Success Luncheon.

goal," said Coleman. "Believe me, to be successful you must do your homework, be responsible for your actions, go after what you want, make sure you stick close to people who are going somewhere in life, and don't marry a dummy. It will only bring you down."

For the last 16 years, the program's founder, Mrs. Dolores Hawkins has presented her "Steps to Success" program

to reinforce core values to help students embrace their self-importance while learning to become responsible citizens. The program's mission stresses self-respect and respect for others, as well as self-confidence and self-reliance.

"Good manners will take you farther than money," said

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PG Valor Basketball Team Welcomes New VP of Promotions Clarence "CJ" Washington

By Press Officer
PG Valor Basketball

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD—PG Valor Basketball team announced that Clarence "CJ" Jackson has joined the team as the Vice President of Promotions. CJ will lead the PG Valor's basketball team's promotional efforts in spreading the word about the team and getting the word out to as many people as possible.

"We are excited about CJ joining the team and I am confident that he will be an asset to

the team and it's promotional efforts," said LaDonna M. Smith, owner of the PG Valor Basketball team.

About CJ:

CJ always knew he had a niche for business at young age. With entrepreneurship and entertainment running on both sides, Clarence knew he had a promising future in promoting when he was introduced to a very well known promoter in 2006 named Trevor Trowell. Trevor gave him his first taste of the promotion lifestyle with

already being in a R&B group the promotion journey led to promoting for the infamous Love night club, Lotus, Lima, 1223. His ability eventually landed him the position with J Records in 2007. He did promotion for mainstream artists such as Mario, Marques Houston, Omarion, Ne-yo, Soulja Boy and many others in recent times to come. His experience and ambition in networking lead him to expand his business

See VALOR Page A5

PG County Acknowledges 2016 Hurricane and Summer Storm Season

By Press Officer
PG County Government

LANDOVER, MD—As we enter the 2016 Hurricane and Summer Storm Season, the Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Management along with our State and Federal partners are proactively encouraging everyone to take an active role

by preparing themselves, their families and their communities for potential storm hazardous.

The peak of the Atlantic Hurricane season which began June 1, 2016 and ends November 30, 2016, is August and September. Although there is no prediction of how many storms will impact our area, we are reminding residents that readiness is always our best de-

fense. Flooding, high winds, and excessive rainfall can severely impact both our community and our way of life. Residents should know the risks of how to protect themselves and their property. Additionally, residents should have a basic disaster supply kit

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INSIDE

Persistent Disparities Found Through Comprehensive Civil Rights Survey Underscore Need for Continued Focus on Equity

The CRDC, which collected student absenteeism rates for the first time, revealed that 6.5 million students—13 percent of all students—were chronically absent from schools in 2013–14.

Community, Page A3

#LoveWillWin

Sunday, June 12, America woke up to news of the worst mass shooting in our gun-soaked history. A celebration of Latin Night at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando turned into a killing field fueled by intolerance, hate and weapons of war. Now is the time to remember those who stand up and stand together in love.

Commentary, Page A4

The Bulldog Group Opens New Headquarters in Beltsville

Partnering with The Bulldog Group is The G.R.O.W. Center, founded by LaCheryl Jones and Renee Cooper. The G.R.O.W. Center (Gain Resources and Opportunities Within) is a 'think-u-bator' to assist small businesses and startup companies' not just reach their potential, but exceed it.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: The Ones Below

For all its miraculous beauty, there's also something eerie and alien about pregnancy, even when you know how the baby got there and how it's going to get out. Films have exploited the fears of expectant parents for as long as movies have been allowed to say the word "pregnant", so there isn't much new ground to be explored.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why is underwater noise pollution such a big deal and what are we doing to prevent it?

—Phil Ziegler,
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

New officers and memories of the founding of VFW Post 9619

When I write about our local VFW, I like to go back to the founding history, much of which I learned from Stan Kingsbury.

They were a bunch of Anacostia High School grads who went off to fight in World War II and returned home to Anacostia where they often hung out at the drug store on Good Hope Road. They got to talking about starting their own VFW. They tried and were turned down because there was already a post in Anacostia.

So, they applied to the Maryland VFW. On Nov. 4, 1947, VFW Post 96129 was chartered. Robert Burns was the first Commander and those first meetings were at Strick's Restaurant, corner of Branch Avenue and Naylor Road.

Sixty-nine years later they are still going strong, and have announced officers for 2016–2017.

James Holland is Post Commander. Other officers are: Senior Vice Commander Todd Traynham, Junior Vice Commander Willie Evans, Quartermaster Lance Glover, Adjutant Willie Evans, Surgeon Robert Jackson, Judge Advocate James Higgingbotham, Chaplain Steve Alcott and Service Officer Todd Traynham.

The name of the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9619 has been changed. They are now officially Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to VFW Post 9619.

Phyllis Cooks is President. Other officers are: Senior Vice President Rose Butler, Junior Vice President Shirley Bell, Treasurer Aileen Pierson, Secretary Karen Rooker, Chaplain Judith McCrone, Conductress Denyse Bennett, Guard Georgia Robinson, Patriotic Instructor Charlotte Thorton, and Trustees Judith McCrone, Denyse Bennett and Dolores Butler.

Victor Jakubowski is President of the Men's Auxiliary. Other officers are: Senior Vice President Anthony Trunflo, Treasurer/Secretary Douglas Sater, Chaplain James Tarleton and Guard William Tennien.

People

John Scroggins, of Silver Hill, wants the names and addresses of former grocery stores in "downtown Suitland." I was able to come up only with Safeway, which was at two different locations in Suitland. If you remember any others, email me (muddmm@aol.com) and I'll put you in touch with him.

Sue Mason is searching for information about Russell "Buddy" Boggs, a heavyweight boxer who lived on Maple Road in Morningside back in the 1950s or '60s. Let me know if you remember him or know where he is, if indeed he still is.

The Morningside Parade on July 4 was better than ever and a lot of fun. I'll tell you about it in next week's column.

We had a little excitement on June 30 when Andrews went on lockdown with the report of a shooter at Malcolm Grow. When I drove past the base on Allentown Road there were dozens of reporters and photographers along the way, hoping for a big story. However, the event turned out to be a drill. By 10:40 a.m., a sweep of the medical facility had been completed and the "all clear" was issued.

Reunions

Suitland High Class of 1966 is celebrating their 50th reunion on Oct. 29 in Ocean City. Contact information is at Suitland66.classquest.com. Thank you to July Koch-Michael for sending this notice.

Crossland High Class of 1966 has an Aug. 6 reunion coming up. Email Phil Saverino at savc66@yahoo.com.

Oxon Hill High Class of '76 plans an Oct. 7–8 reunion. For information, email kellym-clgh@aol.com or go to OHHS76reunion.myevent.com.

Starting in 2017, McNamara and La Reine reunions will take place during pre-determined weekends in June. For the first year, they're focusing on honoring graduating classes whose years end in 2 and 7. If you have questions, contact Bob Nolte, Director of Alumni Relations, via email at

robert.nolte@bmhs.org or 301-735-8401 ext. 111.

Coming up: yard sale, crab feast and Booth tour

Clinton United Methodist Women are hosting a Yard Sale on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Set-up time for vendors is 6 a.m. Tables are \$15; call 301-868-1288. Leave a clear message with name and number. Or you can email CUMYardSale@outlook.com. Also, they welcome back-to-school items such as pencils, glue sticks, notebooks, binders, backpacks, or monetary donations. These will help two elementary schools, Brandywine and Waldon Woods.

John Wilkes Booth Escape route Tours will be held Sept. 10, 17 and 24. Bookings are now underway. Contact the Surratt House Museum at 301-868-1121. I have done this excellent tour three times and recommend it to you historians out there. It is essentially an all-day event, includes lots of commentary, plenty of photo ops, interesting people, and lunch.

St. Philip's Parish is hosting its annual Crab Feast on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Social Hall. The Feast includes all-you-can-eat crabs, corn on the cob, hot dogs, chili, water and sodas. Beer will be for sale. Admission is adults, \$40; ages 8 to 14, \$20; and family (two adults and two children), \$100. If you will be attending, email Suzy at suzygiroux@verizon.net and let her know.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Dessirae Johnson and Helen Journey, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 16; my granddaughter Claire Mudd, Michael Busky, Mike Fowler Jr. and former Morningside Police Chief Stephen Armhold, July 17; Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20; Mary Hay and Jeff Frederick, July 21.

Happy 26th anniversary to my daughter Sheila and John Mudd on July 20.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Timothy Edwards, Robert Miley, Joe Thatcher, Charlene Hudson, Barbara "Bunny" Burdette, Elizabeth King, Alma Pinkney, Trevor Bourne, Franklyn Isaac, Regina Calhoun, Osama Omoregbe, Anston Williams, Wayne Baker, Shirley Young, Sally Davies, Etinosa Omoregbe and George Carter who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of July.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversary to Susan & Jack Matthews, Karl & Romonia Pinkney, Kenya & Safiya Terry Joseph, and Ulric & Veronica Thomas who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their wedding anniversaries during the month of July.

ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER DANCE

Sunday, June 26, 2016 Bowie State University National Alumni Association Prince George's Chapter held their Annual Benefit Dinner Dance at La Fontaine Bleue in Lanham, Maryland. Honored guests on

the program were Mrs. Rosalind Muchiri, Director Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Bowie State University, and Mr. Darren M. Swain, Director Regional Giving Bowie State University.

Bowie State University 2016 Scholarship recipients are Nkemdi Felicia Nnabugwu-Senior, Shelby Baggett-Junior, Fnu A. Atempeh-Sophomore, Kevin Reed-Junior, Ethel K. Okonjo-Sophomore and Rugtatu Jalloh-Sophomore.

FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

Join Council Member Mel Franklin and over one thousand families and friends from across the country for our annual county festival, Prince George's County Family & Friends Day 2016, on Sunday, July 31st from 3:00 PM–6:00 PM at Show Place Arena (outdoors). The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Join our Annual Showcase of our county's local business and non-profit community, featuring the Fix, Black Alley, and the F.A.M.E. Jazz Band. This event is free to the public. There will be free food and fun for the whole family.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

There is year round fun for teens, youth, in arts, clubs, spe-

cial event performances, trips and excursions, sports programs, nature programs, enrichment programs, mentoring, day camps, therapeutic recreation programs, summer playgrounds and many more programs. Call 301-699-2255, TTY 301-699-2544 or visit www.pgparcs.com for more information.

GOLFING FOR EDUCATION TOURNAMENT

The sixth Annual Excellence in Education Foundation Prince George's County Public Schools golfing for Education Tournament was held Thursday, June 16, 2016 at Oak Creek Golf Club in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The Foundation awarded scholarships totaling \$151,000 to 41 deserving PGCPSS graduates for the 2015–2016 school year. Scholarship dollars totaling \$502,000 have been awarded to 156 PGCPSS graduates since the Foundation's establishment in 2012.

Your ongoing support of this annual event makes it possible for us to continue our commitment to academic excellence for all students. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the students we serve.

Neighborhoods

Edwards Statement on the Need for Universal Background Checks

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) delivered the following statement on the Floor of the House of Representatives to demand the passage of the bipartisan "No Fly, No Buy" legislation, on Wednesday June 22, 2016. This legislation expands and strengthens our background checks system, and keeps guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists.

Below is an excerpt from Rep. Edwards' statement as prepared for delivery:

"Mr/Mrs Speaker, Speaker Ryan, and my Republican colleagues, enough already! Gun violence has become unacceptably commonplace in our country—the Orlando attack being the deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States (US). We have a responsibility to do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands."

"It is far past time to listen to the American public instead of the NRA and vote on universal background checks. Congress must not leave Washington without voting on common sense gun violence prevention legislation to keep the American people safe: No Bill, No Break."

ESFCU Presents \$11,000 in Professional Development Awards to Local Educators

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU), presented 11 Maurice Erly Professional Development Awards to help members of the education community continue their education.

Each award recipient received \$1,000 to use towards workshop registration, certification fees, travel and tuition.

Congratulations to the 2016 Maurice Erly Professional Development Award Winners:

Educators from Public Schools

- Anne Arundel County: Angela Lawrence Ulrich, Hilltop Elementary School
- Calvert County: Rachel Dean, Patuxent High School
- Charles County: Erica Hughes, Mary H. Matula Elementary School
- Frederick County: Leslie Williamson, West Frederick Middle School
- Montgomery County: Nicole Brown, Springbrook High School
- Prince George's County: Karen Dresser, Baden Elementary School
- St. Mary's County: Jessica Sanders, Leonardtown High School
- Talbot County: Carol Reed, St. Michaels Middle High School

Educators from Community Colleges

- College of Southern Maryland: Laurie Cangelosi
 - Montgomery College: Terre A. Thomas
 - Prince George's Community College: Audrey C. Davis
- "For us, it's an honor to support education," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We are proud to provide professional development awards to educators who have made a difference and who aspire to further their own development."



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

The Professional Development Award was established in 2014 to honor Maurice Erly, who served on the Credit Union's Board of Directors for 44 years. Mr. Erly was passionate about education and professional development. He spent 25 of his 38-year career as the Coordinating Supervisor of Staff Development for the Prince George's County Board of Education.

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With \$850 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

Builders and Raters of Energy-Efficient New Homes in Maryland Honored by BGE

More than 2,300 ENERGY STAR® homes were constructed in the BGE service area in 2015

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE recently cohosted the 2016 Homebuilder and Rater Awards to recognize efforts to support the ENERGY STAR for New Homes program. Along with Maryland utilities Potomac Edison, SMECO and sister Exelon utilities Pepco and Delmarva Power, BGE spotlighted leaders in building and certifying ENERGY STAR certified new homes.

At an awards luncheon, BGE lauded participating homebuilders and raters for constructing 2,362 ENERGY STAR certified new homes in the utility's service area in 2015. BGE's program paid nearly \$3.25 million in incentives to encourage homebuilders to construct new energy-efficient housing. Families moving into these new homes collectively will save 20 percent on their utility bill compared to a standard code-built home.

During the ceremony, BGE recognized three companies for their accomplishments in 2015:

The award for the most energy-efficient home in BGE's service area went to Bob Ward Companies for the home built at 825 Shandy Brook Drive in Westminster. The project saves the homeowners 71 percent on their utility bill when compared to a home built just to code.

The award for the energy efficiency champion went to Jim Greenfield of Columbia Builders. The company has consistently been at the forefront of energy efficiency. It was one of the first to partner with BGE's ENERGY STAR

for New Homes program. In 2010, Jim Greenfield of Columbia Builders hosted an ENERGY STAR Version 3 pilot, two years before Version 3 had become a requirement. And, in 2015, the company constructed BGE's 10,000th ENERGY STAR certified new home.

The final award, for the 2015 partner of the year, went to Bryant Airey and NVR (NV & Ryan Homes). With 1,299 projects delivered under BGE's program in 2015, the company's commitment to the program is a large part of Maryland's success in growing the market for high-efficiency homes. Thanks to the support of NV & Ryan Homes, many other regional and national builders have joined and stayed engaged with the ENERGY STAR program in Maryland. Since 2012, the state of Maryland has had the second highest market penetration nationally of ENERGY STAR homes and, to date, has had the most ENERGY STAR version 3.1 homes built in the country.

"We're excited to recognize these three key partners for the roles they've played in making BGE's ENERGY STAR for New Homes program the success that it is," said Vanessa Morris, product manager for energy efficiency programs at BGE. "With their help, BGE was able to exceed its goal for megawatt-hour energy savings, hitting 103 percent in 2015."

BGE launched its ENERGY STAR for New Homes program on June 1, 2009. Since then, customers have saved over \$57.7 million in lifecycle energy costs through the more than 13,000 ENERGY STAR homes constructed. Over the life of these homes, customers will save over \$4,400 on their utility bills.

ENERGY STAR certified new homes are designed and built to standards well above most other homes on the market today. A new home that has earned the ENERGY STAR label has undergone a process of inspections, testing, and verification to meet strict requirements set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), delivering better quality, better comfort, and better value.

These programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act. The rebates and discounts offered as part of BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program® benefit all BGE customers. These programs help to manage energy usage and reduce energy costs. Using less energy reduces the need for new power plants and distribution system upgrades, saving money for all customers. More information on the BGE ENERGY STAR for New Homes program is available at BGESmartEnergy.com/NewHomes. While this program is available for new construction, whether you're a homeowner, business owner, or contractor, the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® offers you a variety of options to save energy, money and the environment. Find more energy and money saving programs at BGESmartEnergy.com.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Five Essential Steps to Financial Independence

It's never a bad time to consider life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness but Independence Day offers us a special opportunity. For me, those concepts also have a great deal to do with financial independence. After all, the ability to take care of yourself and your loved ones throughout life is a great source of happiness and a way to avoid stress and worry. And never forget that greater financial freedom isn't just good news for you—financially healthy households make us all stronger as a country.



So make a financial declaration of independence that you can celebrate year round. I've boiled it down to five essential steps:

1. Plan. The only way to build a strong financial future is to live below your means, essentially to spend less than you make. The earlier you can commit to that behavior and divert funds to regular savings and investing, you'll be in better financial shape for a lifetime. Budgeting (<http://pmsfl.us/1mW4IsG>)—the process of tracking income, subtracting expenses and directing the difference to essential financial goals is the way you'll afford retirement, college for your children and a range of other financial goals.

2. Protect. Why focus on protecting your money, even before you have much of it? Because protecting your money early on will keep new money where it can grow. The first task involves building an emergency fund that will hold three to six months of reserves to cover everyday expenses if you lose your job or have to shoulder a major expense or repair. An emergency fund will help keep you from having to borrow in such a situation. The next step is insurance. Whether you purchased a home or you are renting a property, think about everything you own. How much would it cost to replace clothing, furniture, appliances and electronics? Did you also know that renter's insurance offers liability coverage of medical or legal expenses connected to your home? Your landlord's coverage is unlikely to cover any personal liability you incur in a structural emergency or accident and certainly won't cover you in case of theft. It's also important to buy quality auto, home, health, and when relevant to your circumstances, disability and life coverage. Insurance is about preventing a range of financial setbacks.

3. Learn. While you're building your emergency fund, become a voracious reader and listener on financial topics. If you have the time and resources, take classes on the three major financial behaviors—saving, spending and investing. Consider working with a qualified financial or tax expert to determine if what you're learning is right for your situation. Whether it's a house, a car, a continuation of your education or a family, start linking this knowledge with accomplishing actual financial goals.

4. Manage. Evaluate assets for growth and income—stocks, real estate and other assets may fluctuate in value over time, but if they're producing dividends or income, that's a worthy counterbalance to market variations. Keep studying various asset classes of investments so you can build and adjust your portfolio as needed over time. Also, don't forget to study the tax ramifications of any investment you make—taxes are some of the most expensive costs we pay. However you choose to save, invest or spend, do so with the least cost possible. In life, small amounts add up—investment fees, shipping fees for goods you order online, even the extra bag you pay to check at the airport. Always question and try to avoid paying the "small" amounts that leave your wallet because they will add up over time.

5. Evaluate. Our lives don't stand still and neither should your financial planning. Any time major events happen in your life—a new job, marriage, a baby, the death of spouse or partner—financial circumstances change. Always be ready to reevaluate your current savings, spending and investing behavior based on what's going on with your life.

One last item to consider when thinking about financial independence is giving. We still live in a country where many people struggle to find good jobs, raise families and afford homes. Realize that there should be a part of your budget that goes toward helping the less fortunate. GuideStar (<http://www.guidestar.org>), Charity Navigator (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/>), the Better Business Bureau (<http://www.give.org>) or the Foundation Center (<http://foundationcenter.org>) all offer detailed research on charitable organizations that you use to evaluate before you give.

Bottom line: You don't have to be wealthy to become financially independent. Be diligent with smart spending, detailed research and always prepare for emergencies. Soon, you'll be celebrating your own financial Independence Day.

Luncheon from A1

Hawkins. "Our youth must learn how to promote kindness and to use their talents and gifts to encourage and inspire others. If you can train a lion or a bear to do what you want them to do, then certainly we must invest in raising and training our children. They weren't born for failure, each of them was born for greatness."

Other presenters at the luncheon included North Forestville Elementary School Principal Mrs. Falecia McMillian, State

Senator Joanne C. Benson, Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge Karen Mason, former North Forestville Elementary School Principal Dr. Wanda Grant, Dr. Michael Taylor from the Department of Energy, Rev. Dr. Johnnie Cogman, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., Mr. Lindsey Moore, Ms. Betty Griffin, retired U.S. Park Police, Attorney Bradley Farrar, Law Offices of Shipley and Horne, and Donnee Gray, Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association.

Persistent Disparities Found Through Comprehensive Civil Rights Survey Underscore Need for Continued Focus on Equity, King Says

By PRESS OFFICER
US Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), unveiled new data from the 2013–2014 school year showing gaps that still remain too wide in key areas affecting educational equity and opportunity for students, including incidents of discipline, restraint and seclusion, access to courses and programs that lead to college and career readiness, teacher equity, rates of retention, and access to early learning.

U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. said that, despite significant work from districts across the country, the persistent disparities shown in the new Civil Rights Data Collection—which collected data from all public schools and school districts nationwide for the 2013–14 school year—highlight the need for a continued focus on educational equity, especially in the implementation of the new Every Student Succeeds Act.

The CRDC, which collected student absenteeism rates for the first time, revealed that 6.5 million students—13 percent of all students—were chronically absent from schools in 2013–14.

While student discipline occurs in high numbers and disparities remain significant, the 2013–14 CRDC reveals that out-of-school suspensions decreased by nearly 20 percent since 2011–12, as more schools find alternative ways of addressing non-violent student behavior. But this progress is not occurring for all groups of students; the data show, that, in general, students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities are, on average, disciplined more often than their classmates.

"The CRDC data are more than numbers and charts—they illustrate in powerful and troubling ways disparities in opportunities and experiences that different groups of students have in our schools," said King. "The Obama Administration has always stressed how data can empower parents, educators and policy makers to make informed decisions about how to better serve students. The stories the CRDC data tell us create the imperative for a continued call to action to do better and close achievement and opportunity gaps. This is one of the reasons I am excited by the opportunity offered by the new Every Student Succeeds Act. It makes clear the obligation our schools and states have to ensure that all students have access to an excellent education that prepares them to succeed in college and careers. It also

makes clear that ESSA's Title I funds are to be used to provide the additional support needed to make that happen."

"The CRDC data shines a spotlight on the educational opportunities proffered, and denied, to our nation's sons and daughters in schools every day," said Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon. "We urge educators, researchers and the public to join us in using this data to its full potential to support students in realizing theirs."

The Department releases the CRDC every two years to create transparency around the educational opportunities and experiences of millions of public school students. Similar to the 2011–12 CRDC, the 2013–14 CRDC covers more than 50 million students enrolled in nearly every school and school district in the United States.

In addition to chronic student absenteeism, the 2013–2014 CRDC collected data on several new topics for the first time, including access to educational programs in justice facilities; availability of distance education, including online courses; the presence of sworn law enforcement officers in schools (including school resource officers); availability of partially or fully cost-subsidized preschool; and whether the district has a civil rights coordinator.

The CRDC measures access to early learning programs. Schools are required under federal law to provide special education and related services for preschool-age children with disabilities. But more than half of school districts are offering preschool above and beyond what is required. More than 85 percent of those school districts are providing those services at no cost to families. Unfortunately, the remaining school districts are charging families to attend, which is a burden to low- and middle-income families.

Key data points of note follow and are included in the CRDC First Look document.

Student discipline

- Nationwide, 2.8 million K-12 students received one or more out-of-school suspensions—which is a nearly 20 percent decrease from the number of out-of-school suspensions reported two years ago.

- Black preschool children are 3.6 times as likely to be suspended as are white preschool students.

- In kindergarten through the 12th grade, black students are nearly four times as likely to be suspended as are white students. Black students also are nearly twice as likely to be expelled—removed from school with no services—as are white students.

- Students with disabilities are more than twice as likely as students without disabilities to be suspended in K–12 settings. They also represent two-thirds of students who are secluded from their classmates or restrained to prevent them from moving—even though they are only 12 percent of the overall student population.

- The Administration has made reforming school discipline one of its top priorities. Last July, the My Brother's Keeper Taskforce convened 40 school districts from across the nation to the White House to announce new commitments to encourage alternatives to suspension and expulsion. The Department of Education's #RethinkDiscipline campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the long-term damage suspensions and expulsions do to children. The campaign also highlights alternatives to those practices and has prioritized some of these alternatives through the final grant competition of the Investing in Innovation fund. The Administration has also had an important focus on eliminating expulsion and suspension in early learning settings, and released the first Federal policy statement on this issue, with recommendations to states and local early childhood programs, in 2014.

Access to advanced courses

- More than half of high schools do not offer calculus, four in ten do not offer physics, more than one in four do not offer chemistry, and more than one in five do not offer Algebra II, which is considered a gateway class for success in college.

- By many measures, some student groups are more likely than others to miss out on these opportunities:

- Only a third of high schools with high black and Latino enrollment offer calculus, compared to 56 percent of those that serve low numbers of black and Latino students.

- Less than half the high schools with high black and Latino enrollments offer physics, while two in three high schools that have low numbers of black and Latino students offer physics.

- English learners have disproportionately low participation rates in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programs: while English learners are 11% of all students in schools offering GATE programs, fewer than 3% of GATE students nationwide are English learners.

- Black and Latino students also participate at lower rates in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programs. Although black and Latino students make up 42 percent of students enrolled in schools that offer GATE programs, they are only 28 percent of the students who participate in those programs.

- Girls are underrepresented in some advanced coursework such as physics, but not in others such as calculus.

Teacher and Staffing Equity

- 10 percent of the teachers in schools with high numbers of black and Latino students are in their first year of teaching, compared to only 5 percent in schools with low numbers of black and Latino students.

- 11 percent of black students, 9 percent of Latino students and 7 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students attend schools where more than 20 percent of teachers are in their first year of teaching, compared to 5% of white students.

- More than 20 percent of high schools lack any school counselor.

- 1.6 million students attend a school with a sworn law enforcement officer but not a school counselor.

Today's release is the first in a series of data analyses from the 2013–14 CRDC that the Department will issue over the course of the summer and fall. To make these data more accessible and useful for parents, educators, policymakers and others, for the first time, the whole data file is available online at CRDC.ed.gov.

One group that plans to use the new data is the nonprofit GreatSchools, which reaches more than half of U.S. families with school-age children with school information each year. Using the CRDC, GreatSchools aims to build a richer set of individual school profiles that shed light on student access to educational opportunity, with a particular focus on equity. Specifically, the group hopes to spotlight access to rigorous coursework, college readiness milestones, student absenteeism, discipline rates, athletics participation, and counselors-per-student.

"The unique national scale, school-level information and transparency that the CRDC offers can help drive meaningful conversations from the kitchen table to the principal's office to a school board meeting," said Matthew Nelson, Chief Operating Officer of GreatSchools. "GreatSchools is proud to partner with Secretary King and the Department of Education in making this information accessible to American families, educators and policy-makers to shine the light on educational opportunity for all students."

The federal government has collected civil rights data about schools since 1968. As with previous Civil Rights Data Collections, the purpose of the 2013–14 report is to obtain vital data related to civil rights laws requiring public schools to provide equal educational opportunity.

Storms from A1

which includes items such as flashlights, batteries, a first aid kit, medicine, water, non-perishable food, can opener, utility knife and a battery powered radio. For more information on preparing for emergencies and

how to build your kit, citizens are encouraged to visit www.ready.gov for additional safety tips.

Flooding commonly occurs when property is located in high-risk areas, especially low-lying areas near water, behind a levee, or downstream from a dam. Visit

www.floodsmart.gov to learn more about your flooding and its risks. High winds can also be dangerous for those who are caught in them. They can destroy property and cause many outside objects, signage, siding, roofing materials and debris to become projectile and cause injury.

The Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management wants to remind everyone that awareness and being prepared are essential to surviving major storms and preventing disasters. For additional information, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 301-324-4400.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Maryland Muslim Community Leaders Discuss Ways to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF BEN CARDIN

Senator Cardin and Maryland Muslim community leaders gathered Monday at the Diyanet Center of America in Lanham, Md., to exchange ideas on ways to build a community of understanding.

LANHAM, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, recently joined members of Maryland's Muslim community for a roundtable discussion on ways to build trust and understanding in our communities.

"Following the tragedy in Orlando and the seemingly daily doses of inflammatory rhetoric from some Republican leaders, we need to take the time to build bridges with our Muslim brothers and sisters, rather than placing walls between us,"

said Senator Cardin, who also serves as the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly. "Leaders need to lead and set an example. The all-too-common, hate-filled rhetoric toward Muslims is not reflective of America's bedrock principles of inclusiveness and acceptance of all

See UNDERSTANDING Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



New Momentum on Common Sense Gun Reform

"The question before us is, what is this Congress waiting for? Over the last 12 years, gun-related crimes claimed more American lives than AIDS, war, and illegal drug overdoses combined. Since Newtown, tens of thousands of lives have been lost to this deadly crisis. The number of bills that have been debated and passed by this Congress to prevent such deaths is zero."

—House Democrats Letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan, June 2016

It has been more than three years since a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 20 first-graders and six adults. Since that time, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been over 900 mass shootings in our country, killing over 1,000 people and wounding thousands more. By the way, those sobering statistics include the 49 people killed and 53 wounded at the Pulse nightclub, along with 27 other less-publicized mass shootings that have happened since the carnage in Orlando—which currently holds the distressing distinction of being the deadliest mass shooting on our nation's soil.

Like many Americans, I am left to wonder: when will enough be enough? How much more innocent blood needs to be shed; how many more lives must be horrifically—and needlessly—wiped away; and just how many more justifications are left in this seemingly bottomless well of excuses to pardon federal inaction on common sense gun reform as the disease of mass gun violence continues to fester?

In the wake of the latest, deadliest mass shooting, Republicans in Congress called for a moment of silence, while Democrats clamored for long-overdue change. The momentum for change began with Senate Democrats, led by Sen. Chris Murphy and joined by two Senate Republicans, who launched a filibuster calling for congressional action on gun reform. Senate Democrats wanted votes on two resurrected proposals: an amendment to prevent people on the government's terrorism watch list from buying guns and another on ex-

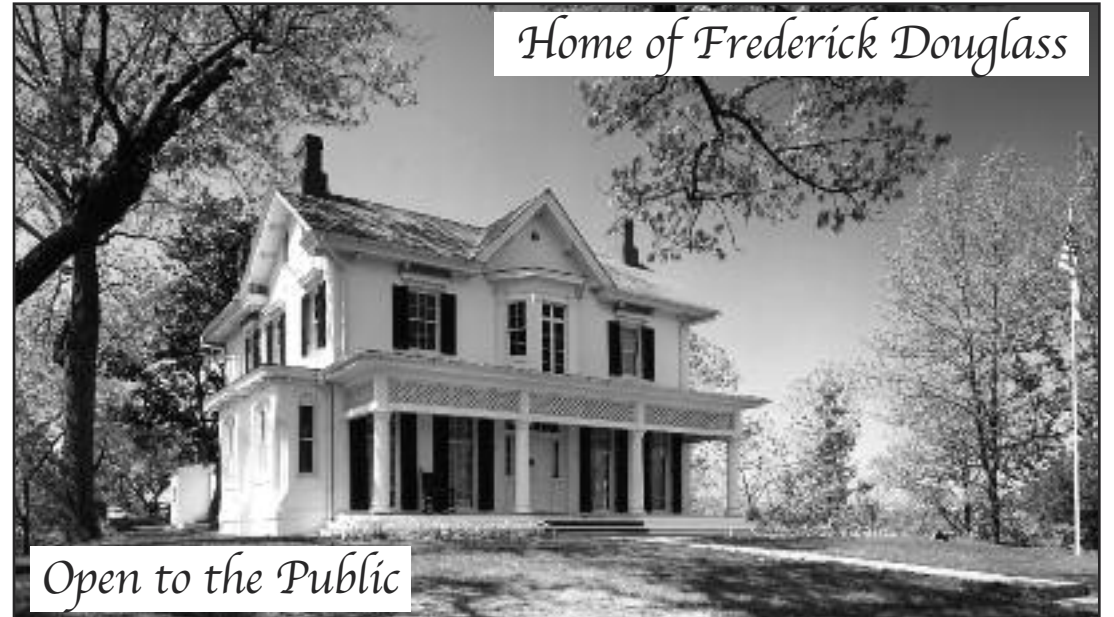
panding background checks. Senate Democrats were victorious in their fight. Votes will be allowed on the proposals, but these proposals have been debated and voted on before—and both failed. Days after a gunman opened fire in a crowded nightclub, House Speaker Paul Ryan called for a now all-too-familiar moment of silence. While a handful of Democrats walked out, boycotting the moment of silence, another group, led by Rep. John Lewis, a veteran of our country's civil rights movement, walked onto the floor of the House and declared that, yes, enough is indeed enough.

"We were elected to lead, Mr. Speaker. We must be headlights, and not taillights. We cannot continue to stick our heads in the sand and ignore the reality of mass gun violence in our nation. Deadly mass shootings are becoming more and more frequent. Mr. Speaker, this is a fact. It is not an opinion. We must remove the blinders. The time for silence and patience is long gone," he said before he, and fellow Democrats, borrowed a 20th century tactic to address our 21st century dilemma of mass shootings and occupied and House floor with a sit-in, demanding that the House take a vote on gun violence prevention legislation.

To be sure, for many of us, there is healing and national reflection to be found in vigils, memorials and moments of silence, but there are lives to be saved when we act. The families and friends of these innocent victims should be attending birthday parties, graduations and weddings—not unplanned funerals. Symbolism and sympathy can no longer be the extent of what our elected officials have to offer a nation gripped in needless gun violence.

This new momentum on safety has moved beyond the halls of Congress. The Supreme Court recently upheld a federal law that keeps people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns. The families of the victims of the Sandy

See GUN REFORM Page A5



Home of Frederick Douglass

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the most famous 19th century African American. His life was a testament to the courage and persistence that serves as an inspiration to those who struggle in the cause of liberty and justice. Visitors to the site learn about his efforts to abolish slavery and his struggle for rights for all oppressed people.

In 1877 Frederick Douglass purchased the home which he named Cedar Hill. This location was authorized Sept. 5, 1962, as Frederick Douglass Home; and re-designated Feb. 12, 1988 as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Frederick Douglass' life spanned nearly eighty years, from the time that slavery was universal in American states to the time it was becoming a memory. Douglass freed himself from slavery and through decades of tireless efforts he helped to free millions more. Located at 1411 W Street SE, Washington, DC 20020, the hours of operation are, Sunday through Saturday 9:00 Am –5:00 PM.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



#LoveWillWin

... When senseless acts of tragedy remind us
 That nothing here is promised,
 not one day
 This show is proof that history remembers
 We lived through times when hate and fear seemed stronger
 We rise and fall and light from dying embers
 Remembrances that hope and love last longer
 And love is love is love is love is love is love is love
 Cannot be killed or swept aside ...

—From a sonnet by Lin-Manuel Miranda, writer of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Hamilton*, June 2016

Sunday, June 12, America woke up to news of the worst mass shooting in our gun-soaked history. A celebration of Latin Night at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando turned into a killing field fueled by intolerance, hate and weapons of war. Now is the time to remember those who stand up and stand together in love.

Dear Sir:
 I am writing to you concerning a problem we have.

5 yrs. ago my husband and I were married here in the District. We then returned to Va. to live. My husband is White, I am part negro, and part indian.

At the time we did not know there was a law in Va. against mixed marriages.

Therefore we were jailed and tried in a little town of Bowling Green.

We were to leave the state to make our home.

The problem is we are not allowed to visit our families. The judge said that if we enter the state in the next [25] yrs., that we will have to spend 1 yr. in jail.

We know we can't live there, but we would like to go back once and awhile to visit our families and friends.

We have 3 children and cannot afford an attorney.

We wrote to the Attorney General, he suggested that we get in touch with you for advice.

Please help us if you can. Hope to hear from you real soon.

Yours truly,

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Loving
 —Letter by Mrs. Mildred Loving, June 1963

In 1963, young wife and mother Mrs. Mildred Loving decided to write a letter to U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy about a "problem" her family was facing. Four years later Mrs. Loving, who was Black, and her husband Richard, who was White, made history when their struggle to have their marriage recognized in their native Virginia led to the landmark 1967 Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia* overturning the remaining laws in Virginia and other states that banned interracial marriage. The couple, who shunned the spotlight, made it clear they never set out to be social revolutionaries. It was simple: they loved each other, wanted to marry, and beyond that, as Mrs. Loving said, "It was God's work."

The two first met in the early 1950s when she was 11 and he was 17 in Central Point, Virginia, the small community where they both grew up. They became young sweethearts, and in 1958, when Mildred became pregnant, they decided to get married. They drove to Washington, D.C., for their marriage license, and Mrs. Loving later said she initially thought they were doing that because less paperwork was required there. But Richard already understood something she didn't: Getting a marriage license as a mixed-

race couple would have been illegal and impossible in Virginia.

Mr. Loving may not have known how the state would treat legal interracial marriages that had been performed elsewhere, but five weeks after their wedding the newlyweds received a very literal rude awakening: Acting on a "tip," sheriff's deputies surrounded their bed with flashlights at two in the morning demanding to know why they were together. Their reply that they were husband and wife made no difference. The Lovings were arrested, and Mr. Loving was held in jail overnight while the pregnant Mrs. Loving was forced to stay for several days. Both were charged with cohabitation and violating Virginia's Racial Integrity Act. Under a plea bargain, in order to avoid a year-long jail sentence they were forced to leave the state and were prohibited from returning together for 25 years.

The Lovings settled in Washington, D.C., and began raising a family there but quickly missed the small town where they had spent their entire lives. Five years later, inspired by the March on Washington and the wave of new civil rights laws, Mrs. Loving de-

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Giving Kids a Positive Summer Experience

Every parent has heard complaints about summer boredom. Our kids may initially welcome that summer freedom, but all that empty time can sometimes become a burden.

That's where parents can help by approaching summer activities for their kids in a positive way. Some parents, for example, worry too much about their children's futures. They view summer as a time to better prepare their kids for college or that future career, even though the child may still be years away from actual college attendance.

While computer or math camps, or hospital or business internships, can be good experiences for a child with a passion to head in that direction, they often are a joyless burden when it's just mom or dad who has decided this will be a great way for their child to spend the summer. Too often kids are pushed into these camps and experiences because anxious parents are trying to fast forward their child's intellectual and educational development, or attempting to lead them toward a career path that is of the parents' choosing.

The recommendation from most experts is to remember that summer activities can be many things, but they also should be just plain fun at least some of the time. Activities that foster physical, social, cultural and artistic development are certainly positive goals summer planning should try to achieve. You want your child to gain experiences that will give them a greater understanding of themselves and the world they live in.

But in order for that to happen, it's important to focus on what the child's interests and passions are. If a child is into sports, then a sports-related camp that will improve skills and build confidence can be a great idea. The same applies for a child with an interest in art, or math, or some other specialized area. But trying to force the child with a passion for art into several weeks of basketball camp, just because mom and dad thinks he or she needs to be more well rounded, is a recipe for an unhappy child.

It's not necessary to plan and program every minute of your child's summer. A little boredom is fine and better than over-programming to keep your child constantly busy. But trying to help your child engage in activities that he or she really cares about and enjoys can make summer a positive, fun experience for the entire family.

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

Gun Reform from A4

Hook gun massacre are suing Remington Arms and other gun manufacturers for selling the gun used by the killer to take the lives of their loved ones. Perhaps we, as a nation, have reached a critical tipping point? Perhaps the massacre in Orlando will push us to look at common sense ways to reduce gun violence? How can anyone argue that not putting guns in the hands of known abusers or people who are on terrorism watch lists puts the rights of legitimate gun owners at risk?

There is more we can and must do to reduce gun violence

in our country, like banning AR-15-type weapons from civilian ownership or requiring all gun buyers to undergo a background check—no matter where or how they purchase a gun—and we can all join in that effort. One sit-in does not a victory make. The struggle for common sense gun reform is far from over. We can all do more than agree we need change—we can make it. Call your representatives, sign petitions, be impatient about sweeping laws that allow guns to get into the wrong hands into the legislative dustbin. Let's remember, respect and honor the victims of mass shootings by saving future lives.

Understanding from A4

people, faiths and nationalities. It must be absolutely and immediately rejected."

Senator Cardin and the three dozen Muslim community leaders gathered to discuss a wide variety of issues, including the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, ways to improve trust among Muslims and law enforcement officials, and the lack of broad public recognition of the contributions by the Muslim community to American society.

"We need to do a better job of fostering a cross-cultural exchange so that Muslims and non-Muslims alike know and fully believe that the United

States is the place where all can achieve their dreams," said Senator Cardin. "We also need to recognize that members of the Muslim community are some of our closest allies in the fight against terror, as well as friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders in our communities."

Senator Cardin added, "I will continue to take every opportunity possible to foster a dialogue that promotes cultural empathy and understanding. Diversity is our nation's strength, and our American democracy is the strongest form of government. It functions best when we are highly mindful of the need to fully incorporate the voices of all people."

The Bulldog Group Opens New Headquarters in Beltsville

EDC Attracts 3 High-Growth Companies to County

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

BELTSVILLE, MD—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Executive Vice President Pradeep Ganguly, along with Business Development Directors John Mason and David Lewis attended the grand opening of The Bulldog Group in Beltsville, Maryland. Officials from the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association, and the Maryland Democratic Party joined other well-wishers as Miguel Lambert, CEO of The Bulldog Group, officially opened their Prince George's County headquarters along with County newcomers Stella May Contracting and The Grow Center.

"The EDC is excited to congratulate Mr. Lambert and The Bulldog Group on their expansion and acquisitions in Prince George's County. We are delighted to have been able to play an integral part in the growth of this dynamic company," said Ganguly. "The EDC prides itself on being able to partner with our business community to retain the business we have, attract great companies like The Bulldog Group, Stella May Contracting and The G.R.O.W. Center, but also connecting these companies with opportunities to grow their business and get results."

The Bulldog Group is a leading specialty contractor serving the construction and transportation market in the Washington Metropolitan area and in New York. Through the permitting assistance, site selection assistance and partnership with the EDC, The Bulldog Group was able to effectively consolidate its operations in the County by purchasing a 20,000 SF office complex right off the Beltway.

"As a new investor, I had the great opportunity to work with



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Holding Ribbon: LaCheryl Jones, Co-Founder, The GROW Center; Harley Flack, Executive Vice President, Stella May Contracting; John Mason, Director Business Development, PGCEDC; Stella Miller, President, Stella May Contracting; Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; Miguel Lambert, Chief Executive Officer, The Bulldog Group; Jeanne Lambert, The Bulldog Group; Renee Cooper, Co-Founder, The GROW Center.

John Mason at the EDC and others who have guided us through the permitting process," said Lambert. "The environment that County Executive Baker, Mr. Coleman and the EDC have produced, through the minority participation programs and certification requirements, affording opportunities for smaller companies to grow in Prince George's County is an environment that is critical to our success. Without the EDC's support, we wouldn't be able to grow our business. With all of the projects that are on the horizon in the County, we also want to provide other companies with an opportunity to grow."

Partnering with The Bulldog Group is The G.R.O.W. Center, founded by LaCheryl Jones and Renee Cooper. The G.R.O.W. Center (Gain Resources and Opportunities Within) is a "think-u-bator" to assist small businesses and startup compa-

nies' not just reach their potential, but exceed it. Also coming into The Bulldog Group Stella May Contracting, a construction firm owned by Stella Miller and well known in the Mid-Atlantic. This woman-owned company, founded in 1995, is opening its first office in Prince George's County.

"It is awesome to have the opportunity to be here in Prince George's County," said Miller. "I want to thank the Economic Development Corporation and Miguel Lambert for the opportunity to be here with The Bulldog Group."

Last week's event highlights the power of the Economic Development Corporation to attract companies to grow their businesses in Prince George's County. The vision of the Bulldog Group is to not only provide quality service to the projects taking place in the County, but to also partner and connect with

smaller companies to mentor their success.

"This is one of the most significant ribbon-cuttings in Prince George's County," said Wayne Frazier, President, Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association. "This project takes several local Maryland African American and minority companies and brings them together to position and attract other African American businesses to locate and grow here. Bulldog's record of working on major projects is extremely significant for the Metropolitan area. I'm glad that they are here in Prince George's County."

For more information how the EDC can assist businesses with access to capital, site selection, and other business support services, contact John Mason, Director of Economic Development at 301-583-4650 or jamaison@co.pg.md.us .

Valor from A1

pursuits at College of Southern Maryland 2010-2011 for business administration. Determined to make student experience for feasible he became the president of the Student Government Association, President of Fellowship Christian Athletes, Vice President of Student Activities Committee. He would create 2 new clubs one of them being Student Diversity Committee and Soul Jerka Entertainment, a platform to display every facet of talent on campus. In the height of creating balance for the student body Clarence would go through the Small Business Development to start his 1st business and his LLC for Soul Jerka Entertainment LLC. Now Soul Jerka Inc. Founded 2010. Now thriving prosperous, Soul Jerka puts on numerous events such as artist showcases, poetry events, and promotion parties to give attendees an exclusive experience they will never forget.

About the team: PG Valor team will compete in the ABA from November through May against other teams in the Ches-

apeake Division of the ABA to include teams from New York, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, with hopes of continuing to the Championship game to be held later that summer. Please note that with the current expansion of ABA being closed recently, the divisions are still being finalized.

Tryouts for players and spirit squad will be held in 2016. For more information on tryouts and/or PG Valor please visit www.pgvalor.com; on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pgvalor); and/or follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/pgvalorbball).

About the ABA: The history of the American Basketball Association is almost as colorful as the iconic red, white and blue ball which represents it.

The original ABA was formed in 1967 and lasted 10 seasons prior to merging four of its teams into the NBA. They were the Indiana Pacers, Denver Nuggets, New Jersey Nets and San Antonio Spurs. The lead attorney for the ABA during the merger was one of the Indiana Pacers co-founders and Commissioner of the ABA, Dick Tinkham, an Indianapolis attorney. Opposing counsel was David

Stern, who was later to become the NBA Commissioner.

The original ABA did not have national television, national radio and today's digital media. What it did have was the mystique of the ABA—featuring its red, white and blue ball, 3 point shots, wide open style of play including slam dunks (and the introduction of the first Slam Dunk Competition), and a remarkable group of players. The ABA produced some of the greatest players of the 20th century—Dr. J, George Gervin, Spencer Haywood, Connie Hawkins, Dan Issel, Roger Brown, David Thompson, Mel Daniels, Moses Malone, Marvin Barnes and many others. In fact, 50% of the NBA All Star team in the first year of the merger were ABA players.

Dick Tinkham and Joe Newman decided to bring back the ABA in 1999, after the original ABA had been dormant for nearly 30 years. This time, to avoid the lack of profitability of the ABA in the past, they decided to improve the business model by making it more affordable to own a team by reducing the operating costs, cost of travel and venues, as well as forming strong bonds with communities and en-

couraging family friendly entertainment. They kept the exciting rules and style of play, and the result is that the ABA is now one of the largest professional sports leagues in the US, with over 70 teams competing for the Championship this season, across 10 divisions. Their community work with Fast Break for Reading, Bullies are Cowards, Proud to Serve America and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and have made major impacts in cities throughout the US.

Today, the ABA has nearly 1000 players competing at the professional level, over 200 coaches and over 200 officials. It is made up of former NBA players, NCAA Div 1 and 2 players, McDonald's All Americans, international players, and is the platform for sending off many players to international teams.

The ABA will continue to grow as it continues to form valuable ties with basketball governing bodies, and grows its number of teams. Network coverage is set to broaden, as is the fan base and merchandising. Big things are in store for the ABA, and the red, white and blue ball is set to be around for a long time to come.

The Prince George's Post

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

The Ones Below

The Ones Below
Grade: B
Rated R, some nudity and
sexuality, violent images, some
strong profanity
1 hr., 26 min

For all its miraculous beauty, there's also something eerie and alien about pregnancy, even when you know how the baby got there and how it's going to get out. Films have exploited the fears of expectant parents for as long as movies have been allowed to say the word "pregnant" (so, like, the '50s), so there isn't much new ground to be explored. But *The Ones Below*, a taut thriller from first-time British filmmaker David Farr, covers some of the familiar fears with a cold, unsettling efficiency.

This is a roundabout way of saying that there should be a Surgeon General's warning on this film: Do not watch this movie if you are pregnant or expecting to become pregnant, ever.

Kate (Clemence Poesy) and Justin (Stephen Campbell Moore) are a comfortable white-collar couple in suburban London who are expecting their first baby in a few months. They live in the upstairs portion of a spacious duplex; below are new neighbors, just moved in, who are equally pregnant. Theresa (Laura Birn) is Finnish, gorgeous, and very open about her body. Her husband, Jon (David Morrissey), is several years older, imposing, somber. As a couple, they are almost unnervingly intense about their desire to have a child. It is impossible to observe them and their mannerisms and not think: What's the deal with these two?



The Ones Below is the debut feature from writer-director David Farr (screenwriter of *Hanna* and AMC's *The Night Manager*), starring the ensemble cast of Clémence Poésy (*Birdsong*, *The Tunnel*, *Harry Potter*), David Morrissey (*The Walking Dead*, *Red Riding*, *Welcome to the Punch*) Stephen Campbell Moore (*Complicit*, *History Boys*, *Ashes to Ashes*), and Laura Birn (*The Purge*, *Pearls and Pigs*, *Heart of a Lion*). Blending an element of urban dread with an edgy sense of paranoia, *The Ones Below* follows Kate (Poésy) and Justin (Moore), a young couple in a tiny London suburb eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child. But when the enigmatic Teresa (Birn) and Jon (Morrissey) move into the apartment downstairs, the parents-to-be soon become involved in a psychological battle of wills with the new tenants.

Nonetheless, Kate and Theresa bond over their shared condition until there is a shocking incident, followed by a ferocious argument, that divides the two couples. (The searing drama on display in these scenes is palpable.) The downstairs neighbors move out. Time passes, and Kate and Justin's baby is born. It seems like everything will be OK. But will it? (It will not.)

Farr, a TV scribe making his directorial debut (he also co-wrote *Hanna*), gets sidetracked by a handful of details that turn

into loose ends—Kate's mother (Deborah Findlay) is weirdly aloof; there's a repetition of sexual imagery that doesn't add up to anything—but he handles the meat of the story effectively, playing on the worries that afflict all new parents. He makes shrewd use of the accoutrements of parenthood, such as baby monitors, milk bottles, and sleep deprivation, and Poesy and Moore are fine as the frazzled, dedicated parents.

The fears that Farr preys upon include both rational and irrational ones—and of course, part

of the suspense in a movie like this comes from not knowing which category each concern belongs to. Farr deliberately reveals some information that partially settles the question, and the film might have been better if he'd limited himself to Kate's point of view, letting us, like her, wonder how much she's imagining or misinterpreting. But plenty remains hidden, too, right up to the chilling final moments. This isn't one of those scary stories meant as cautionary tales. It's just meant to make you nervous. Have fun!

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

'I Just Wanted to Be Free:' The Radical Reverberations of Muhammad Ali



The reverberations. Not the rumbles, the reverberations. The death of Muhammad Ali will undoubtedly move people's minds to his epic boxing matches against Joe Frazier and George Foreman, or there will be retrospectives about his epic "rumbles" against racism and war. But it's the reverberations that we have to understand in order to see Muhammad Ali as what he remains: the most important athlete to ever live. It's the reverberations that are our best defense against real-time efforts to pull out his political teeth and turn him into a harmless icon suitable for mass consumption.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came out against the war in Vietnam in 1967, he was criticized by the mainstream press and his own advisors who told him to not focus on "foreign" policy. But Dr. King forged ahead and to justify his new stand, said publicly, "Like Muhammad Ali puts it, we are all—black and brown and poor—victims of the same system of oppression."

When Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island, he said that Muhammad Ali gave him hope that the walls would some day come tumbling down.

When John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised their fists on the medal stand in Mexico City, one of their demands was to "Restore Muhammad Ali's title." They called Ali "the warrior-saint of the Black Athlete's Revolt."

When Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) volunteers in Lowndes County, Alabama launched an independent political party in 1965, their new group was the first to use the symbol of a black panther. Beneath the jungle cat's black silhouette was a slogan straight from the champ: "WE Are the Greatest."

When Billie Jean King was aiming to win equal rights for women in sports, Muhammad Ali would say to her, "Billie Jean King! YOU ARE THE QUEEN!" She said that this made her feel brave in her own skin.

The question is why? Why was he able to create this kind of radical ripple? The short answer is that he stood up to the United States government ... and emerged victorious. But it's also more complicated than that.

What Muhammad Ali did—in a culture that worships sports and violence as well as a culture that idolizes black athletes while criminalizing black skin—was redefine what it meant to be tough and collectivize the very idea of courage. Through the Champ's words on the streets and deeds in the ring, bravery was not only standing up to Sonny Liston. It was speaking truth to power, no matter the cost. He was a boxer whose very presence and persona taught a simple and dangerous lesson: "real men" fight for peace and "real women" raise their voices and join the fray. Or as Bryant Gumbel said years ago, "Muhammad Ali refused to be afraid. And being that way, he gave other people courage."

My favorite Ali line is not him saying, "I hospitalized a rock. I beat up a brick. I'm so bad I make medicine sick" or anything of the sort. It was when he was suspended from boxing for refusing to be drafted into the Vietnam War. Ali was attending a rally for fair housing in his hometown of Louisville when he said:

Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I'm not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars. But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here. I will not disgrace my religion, my people or myself by becoming a tool to enslave those who are fighting for their own justice, freedom and equality ... If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people they wouldn't have to draft me, I'd join tomorrow. I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I'll go to jail, so what? We've been in jail for 400 years.

Damn. This is not only an assertion of black power, but a statement of international solidarity: of oppressed people coming together in an act of global resistance. It was a statement that connected wars abroad with attacks on the black, brown and poor at home, and it was said from the most hyper exalted platform our society offered at the time: the

See ALI Page A7

Xtreme Teens Hosts 10th Annual Hip-Hop Poetry Choir

RIVERDALE, MD—Department of Parks and Recreation Xtreme Teens program is hosting A FREE performance featuring the poetry created by the participants of the 9th Annual Expressions: Talk Up, Not Down 2016 poetry camp. 35 County youth spent a week working with master poets learning to use poetry as a positive tool of expression. The poets: Neville Adams, Christopher Fields, Desire Johnson, Sekeitha Johnson, Karin Wilkinson, Sistah Joy visual artists Pierre Dennis and Lillian Shaw spent the week working with the youth teaching them how to use their voice for positive expression. The poems created by the youth provide a unique look into the modern teen who is dealing with many issues associated with growing up in the 21st Century.

WHAT: 10th Annual Hip-Hop Poetry Choir

WHEN: Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 3:00–5:00 PM

WHERE: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts,
15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715

Open to all

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to providing positive recreation activities to youth, families and the community as a whole. Xtreme Teens is all about pushing the limits of traditional recreation. It's about being able to express yourself, explore something new, make new friends and most of all—have fun! Xtreme Teens provides programs, classes, facilities and other fun things to do for teens ages 13–17 and pre-teens 10–12.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook and Twitter. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Businesses from A1

dime. It just requires a great team and effective collaboration with our partners in these agencies."

Stacey Cobbs, Principal of Crowned Grace International, was excited about the IT opportunities presented by MWAA and was pleased at being able to connect with agency representatives in person. "I appreciate how the EDC brings in the agency representatives that present specific opportunities. The EDC brings people with actual opportunities to talk to us and tell us what we specifically have to do," said Cobbs. "We can reach out and touch these people and make the connections on the spot. That's exciting, because as small businesses our resources are small."

Today's Transportation Industry Procurement Opportunity Day is an integral part of the EDC's 'Activate Prosperity' initiative; an aggressive three-year plan designed to rapidly grow Prince George's County businesses by connecting them with valuable resources and programs; thereby creating more jobs for County residents.

A team of executives from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) presented information on various upcoming contracting opportunities including the \$1 billion expansion of Reagan National Airport. The project includes a security checkpoint relocation, a new commuter concourse, roadway improvements and various technology enhancements.

At this morning's event, officials announced that the contractor for the project will be announced on July 5th and encouraged businesses to look out for that announcement.

"There is significant money to be had, said Bradley Mims, Co-Chair of the Dulles Corridor Committee, MWAA Board of Directors. "Keep your eyes on what's going on. You have to go to that second tier company. You have got to drill down and see what you can offer those companies. Don't hesitate to contact those companies. Be aggressive."

Kathy Ruhl, Deputy Manager of the Department of Contracts and Procurement for MWAA shared the types of contracts available for these projects, including goods and services, design and construction and simplified acquisitions. Ruhl also presented the types of solicitations offered by MWAA, MWAA's step-by-step procurement process and she offered suggestions on how to create an effective bid proposal.

Ruhl also cautioned businesses to understand the requirements, demonstrate their firm's capability to perform, provide current and relevant references, know their competition, estimate costs realistically and follow the submission requirements. Ruhl encouraged business owners to refer to mwaa.com/contracting for the most up-to-date contracting opportunities.

See **BUSINESSES** Page A7

Calendar of Events

July 14 — July 20, 2016

Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks: *Twelfth Night*

Date and Time: Thursday, July 14, 2016, 7:30 pm
Description: "If music be the food of love, play on," says Duke Orsino in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Shipwrecks, mistaken identity, and a character by the name of Sir Toby Belch round out the adventure, one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies. Relax under the stars and enjoy Shakespeare's poetry and song with your family. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a FREE performance in your favorite park!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD

Rain location: Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center
431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

Track: Summer All-Comers Meet

Date and Time: Friday, July 15, 5:30-7:30 pm
Description: All-Comers Meets are recreational level track meets. All participants are placed in heats with runners of similar age. Ribbons are awarded in each heat for each event. Participants are permitted to compete in a maximum of four (4) events. Spikes are allowed but the maximum size is ¼ inch.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 6 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

Movie Night at Watkins Regional Park

Date and Time: Friday, July 15, 2016, 7-9:30 pm
Description: Bring the family and enjoy a 1.7 mile fun walk, fitness activities, face painting and more before the movie! Movie will begin at dusk.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All Ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

Health and Wellness Zone at College Park Community Center

Date and Time: Saturday, July 16, 2016, 10 am-12 noon
Description: Looking for something new to do? Get in the ZONE! Stop by your Health and Wellness Zone for fun, and activities for all ages! Make a healthy choice with nutrition workshops, line dancing with a live DJ, and more!

From hula hoops to horseshoes, the ZONE has something for everyone!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Southside Mt. Rainier Music & Skateboarding Competition

Date and Time: Saturday, July 16, 2016, 12 noon-4 pm
Description: Attention skateboarding fans! M-NCPPC is seeking participants of all ages to compete in this annual skateboarding competition. The event includes a free skate session until the competition starts at 1 pm, musical entertainment by a live band & DJ, and cash prizes in 4 age categories. Competition registration will be available onsite.

Cost: FREE to compete
Ages: All ages
Location: Mount Rainier Skate Park
Corner of Otis St. & Wells Ave., Mount Rainier, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Sunset Boat Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, July 16, 2016, 6-7:30 pm
Description: Board a pontoon boat for a sunset cruise on the picturesque Patuxent River. Light refreshments will be served.

Cost: Residents: \$3; Non-Residents: \$4
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Soap Making

Date and Time: Saturday, July 16, 2016, 7-8:30 pm
Description: Ladies, ever wonder what's in soap and why they smell so good?

Tonight, you'll learn the steps it takes to make a variety of soaps.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Evansville Community Center
6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc:

Hillcrest Heights Community Center
Date and Time: Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 6:30-7:30 pm
Description: We know that walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It is also one of the best ways to connect with others! A local health care professional will lead a group walk, share wellness tips, and answer your questions. No registration is required. Just grab your tennis shoes and join the fun!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Safe Summer: Tie-Dye Fun

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 10 pm-12 am
Event Description: Tonight we are using Tie-Dye to design clothing. Bring a friend and create some one of a kind tees, socks and or any other lightly colored clothing. Don't forget to bring your own shirt.

Ages: 12 & up
Fee: FREE
Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD
301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Underwater Noise Pollution Threatens Marine Wildlife, Ecosystems

Dear EarthTalk:

Why is underwater noise pollution such a big deal and what are we doing to prevent it?

—Phil Ziegler,
New York, NY

For us land-dwellers, underwater noise rarely reaches our ears. However, marine organisms can be very sensitive to undersea sounds, particularly unnatural noise. Human activity—from explosives to underwater construction to ship traffic to oceanographic research—creates intense noise that threatens the health of ocean wildlife. Direct effects include hearing loss, habitat displacement, and even brain hemorrhages. The noise impedes the senses that enable many marine species to coordinate their movements and find food, and can also interfere with breeding cycles and migration patterns. This cacophony of underwater noise pollution puts additional stresses on marine ecosystems already on the ropes due to overfishing, pollution and myriad other human threats.

Of particular concern lately to environmentalists is underwater noise pollution from seismic testing, where resource extraction industries use air guns to map the seafloor to look for potential oil and gas reservoirs. "From the water's surface, the gun generates a blast of sound that penetrates the ocean floor then bounces back up

to a receiver, relaying data about the layers of sediment, rocks, and potential fuel deposits below," reports the Pew Charitable Trusts. "There is concern that the intensity of seismic sounds and their large spatial coverage may lead to injury, disturbance or displacement of marine animals or a masking of their communication."

While the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea forbids pollution that can damage marine wildlife, a lack of enforcement abilities means corporations and the military can continue to carry out many noisy undersea operations. The non-profit Ocean Mammal Institute would like the UN to endorse a "precautionary approach" limiting all sources of intense underwater anthropogenic sound and requiring individual nations to follow suit accordingly.

"The precautionary principle should be applied publicly and transparently to noise generated for military, commercial and scientific purposes," reports OMI. "In many cases, there are alternatives and realistic mitigation scenarios for reducing and eliminating very loud human-generated noise from the marine environment, including employing improved passive sonar devices, using reduced noise energy, mechanical and operational designs that minimize noise, alternative energy sources, etc."

Given the Convention on the Law of the Sea's lack of "teeth" on monitoring and enforcement on the issue, the United States



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Cetaceans (dolphins, whales) are particularly vulnerable to underwater noise pollution which can affect their ability to communicate and feed.

has started taking matters into its own hands to address underwater noise pollution in its own territorial waters and beyond. The Obama administration recently called for more scientific research to fully understand the ecological impact of underwater noise, and directed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to step up efforts to track and monitor volume levels below the surface. NOAA is also working on tools that the public, corporations and military can use to assess and help mitigate noise-making activities, and has initiated a campaign to raise public awareness on the issue.

While ocean wildlife activists say much more needs to be done to start solving this insidious

problem, at least the U.S. is taking steps in the right direction even if the rest of the world continues to ignore the noisy threats lurking below the depths.

CONTACTS:

Pew Charitable Trusts, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>; Ocean Mammal Institute, <http://www.oceanmammalinstitute.org/>; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, <http://www.noaa.gov/>.

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Send questions to:
earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Businesses from A6

Michael Madden, Manager from the Maryland Transit Administration, shared details on the much anticipated Purple Line project and how businesses can take advantage of the \$2 billion allotted to design and build the rail line over the next six years and another \$3.6 billion budgeted to maintain the line over the following 30 years.

Wendell Point, DBE/MBE Program Manager and Purple Line Concessionaire shared a list of bid opportunities for companies that perform work such as hauling, demolition, saw-cutting, asbestos-abatement, landscaping and fencing.

To take advantage of these opportunities, Point stressed the importance of being DBE (disadvantaged business enterprise) certified in Maryland and offered advice on the bid process. "Be specific on what your company does," said Point. "We like to peel back the onion to find out what the company can actually perform."

Alison Tavik, Director of Communications from the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs offered guidance on leveraging certification to secure procurement

opportunities and recommended that businesses attend pre-bid meeting to get ahead.

"Nothing beats a handshake and pre-bid meetings are the place to do it," said Tavik. "Also meet the state agency personnel who are managing the contract. Begin to build a relationship. You want the small stuff as well as the big stuff. Know the difference between big procurement and low-hanging fruit. Go after the \$10,000 bid. You must get out from behind the desk and come to events like this and learn that there is opportunities for you."

Kim Drew-Kelly, owner of Emmanuel Logistics said that she found a fit for her services particularly in the Purple Line and Reagan National projects. "We're just starting out. We saw ourselves in every presentation. Where we can fit in. How we can position ourselves as a third tier subcontractor," said Kelly. "You hear about the opportunities in the county, but this is the proof. We're seeing that the opportunities are there, even for the small companies like me."

"The Purple Line is about to break ground, the Silver Line Extension is just around the corner, and now Reagan Na-

tional is expanding its terminal," said John Mason, EDC Business Development Director. "Billions of dollars in projects are on the table and the EDC is making sure our county businesses are first in line to get a crack at these jobs."

Chef JR Robinson, owner of Kitchen Cray and former competitor on Hell's Kitchen provided breakfast for the guests. The event was also sponsored by NAI Michael Companies and Berman Enterprises.

Coleman used the occasion to announce a new game-changing partnership between the EDC and the Prince George's County Public Schools called P-TECH, Pathways in Technology Early College High School. The program offers free high school, college and professional mentoring to students grades 9 through 14 focused on the knowledge and skills students need for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers.

Coleman appealed to business owners in attendance to become mentors, which includes providing the students with real-life work experience through internships. He challenged 25 to volunteer. More

than 30 completed forms of interest on the spot.

Any business interested in becoming a P-TECH mentor should contact Tara Anderson, Prince George's County Public Schools Business Liaison at tara.anderson@pgcps.org or 301-669-6012, ext. 45595.

The next EDC event will be the 'Embassy of South Africa Mutual Briefing' on July 21, 2016 and will connect businesses with key officials and experts from the Embassy of South Africa, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Maryland Department of Commerce who will present lucrative business opportunities in South Africa. Attendees will also receive an exclusive preview of Prince George's County's planned trade mission to South Africa. The event will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20772.

Free admission and parking will be provided. All attendees for these exclusive events must RSVP www.pgcedc.com/events or to Nicole Edwards at 301-583-4650. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Nichelle Holmes by email at naholmes@co.pg.md.us or call 301-583-4621.

Ali from A6

platform of being the Champ. These views did not only earn him the hatred of the mainstream press and the right wing of this country. It also made him a target of liberals in the media as well as the mainstream civil rights movement, who did not like Ali for his membership in the Nation of Islam and opposition to what was President Lyndon Johnson's war.

But for an emerging movement that was demanding an end to racism by any means necessary and a very young, emerging

anti-war struggle, he was a transformative figure. In the mid-1960s, the anti-war and anti-racist movements were on parallel tracks. Then you had the heavyweight champ with one foot in each. Or as poet Sonia Sanchez put it with aching beauty, "It's hard now to relay the emotion of that time. This was still a time when hardly any well-known people were resisting the draft. It was a war that was disproportionately killing young Black brothers and here was this beautiful, funny poetical young man standing up and saying no! Imagine it for a moment!

The heavyweight champion, a magical man, taking his fight out of the ring and into the arena of politics and standing firm. The message was sent." We are still attempting to hear the full message that Muhammad Ali was attempting to relay: a message about the need to fight for peace.

Full articles can and should be written about his complexities: his fallout with Malcolm X, his depoliticization in the 1970s, the ways that warmongers attempted to use him like a prop as he suffered in failing health. But the most important part of his legacy is that time in the

1960s when he refused to be afraid. As he said years later, "Some people thought I was a hero. Some people said that what I did was wrong. But everything I did was according to my conscience. I wasn't trying to be a leader. I just wanted to be free." Not the fight, the reverberations. They are still being felt by a new generation of people. They ensure that the Champ's name will outlive us all.

Bill Russell said it best in 1967. "I'm not worried about Muhammad Ali. I'm worried about the rest of us." That is more true than ever.

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