

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 29 July 21 — July 27, 2016

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

PGCPS Partners With Public Library System to offer Students Virtual Cards

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—A trip to the local library no longer requires that students use a plastic card to check out library books or access library resources. A Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS)-Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) partnership provides students with virtual library cards, called Leap into New Knowledge (LINK).

PGCPS students can use their school-provided student identification number to check out up to three books at a time and access library resources, such as computers and wi-fi, live-online tutoring with BrainFuse, digital resources, Rosetta Stone, and much more.

"This partnership between the library and Prince George's County Public Schools works to remove every barrier we possi-

See **LIBRARY** Page A7

ESFCU Awards \$500 to the Home School Office of Anne Arundel County Public Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union awarded \$500 to the Home School Office of Anne Arundel County Public Schools to recognize sixth grader, Storie Kulynych-Irvin, for winning the Anne Arundel County Spelling Bee.

Storie Kulynych-Irvin, a home school student in the county, won the Spelling Bee in the 17th round by correctly spelling the word "velveteen." As one of the sponsors of the Anne Arundel County Spelling Bee, Educational Systems FCU presented the Home School Of-



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU
Vic Samuels (left), VP of Community Relations for Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, and Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

See **ESFCU** Page A3



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: Nichelle Holmes, Development Manager, PGCEDC; Mike Scarborough, Managing Partner, Calvert Brewing Company; Claudia Sweeney, Owner, 14Karat Cake and Bakery; Dr. Raphael Denbow, Owner, Portera Rehabilitation; Priscilla Gaillard, Owner, Gaillard Insurance Agency; Council Member Todd Turner, Prince George's County Council; Lisa Smith, Executive Director, Bowie BIC; Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC; Stewart Stevens, Principal, Dawn of the Cameo Promise; Eric Henderson, Board Member, PGCEDC; Britta Vander Linden, Chief of Staff, PGCEDC.

EDC 'Activates Prosperity' at Calvert Brewing Company With Signature Networking Event

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Tonight, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and his T4BT 'posse' traveled to the Calvert Brewing Company in Upper

Marlboro for the June edition of "Thirsty (for Business) Thursday" (T4BT) to sample hops from the largest microbrewery in the country and to network with other local businesses. County Council Member Todd Turner served as the guest speaker and piqued the 'posse's' interest by highlighting the types of economic de-

velopment opportunities available throughout the County that are in need of the services local companies provide.

"The EDC is getting it done," said Coleman. "Each month, I bring my posse out to highlight new and 'up and coming' businesses in the County to let folks know where the best hot spots are. We are bringing

the County's movers and shakers to the folks who need to be moved and shaken. Everyone can be a multimillionaire in Prince George's County if they learn how to Activate their Prosperity through the EDC. This is no time for cooling off!"

See **BREWERY** Page A5

County Executive Baker and Team EDC Meet with Premium Retailers at Worldwide Conference

County Attracts Nearly 500 Prospects, Businesses Bullish on County

By BRITTA VANDER LINDEN
PGCEDC

LAS VEGAS, NV—In May, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and a team of executives from the County and the EDC closed out a whirlwind two-day push at the 2016 International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) where they pitched premium, high-quality retail outlets to expand their brands in Prince George's County and enhance the quality of life for County residents.

"This trip is all about providing our county's residents with access to the premium, high-quality shops and restaurants that they deserve and creating new jobs and career opportunities to make our County families sustainable," said Coleman. "We are determined to

bring every resource possible to get the job done, but we ain't grovelin'. County Executive Baker has already laid the groundwork by streamlining the permitting process and creating the type of business-friendly environment that developers and investors are craving. The secret is out. It's Morning in Prince George's County! Now is the time to invest before it's too late!"

The team held nearly 20 meetings at the County's booth with high-level executives from top retailers, major developers and international food outlets and grocery stores. Nearly 500 convention attendees representing retailers and developers stopped at the County's booth to gather more information about expanding their businesses into Prince George's County.

Throughout the convention, the team met with representa-



PHOTO COURTESY BRITTA VANDER LINDEN

Left to right: EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, EDC Business Development Director John Mason meet with Benjamin Berman, Principal of Berman Enterprises to discuss transit-oriented development plans at New Carrollton Metro Station at the Prince George's County ICSC booth in Las Vegas.

tives of targeted retailers such as leading retail brokers representing Ruth's Chris Steakhouse and Cracker Barrel, who were excited by the opportunity to expand in Prince

George's County. The EDC has already scheduled follow up meetings with these repre-

See **CONFERENCE** Page A5

Maryland's Highest Court Rules in Favor of De Facto Parentage for Same-Sex Couples

By PRESS OFFICER
Free State Justice

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In a case that impacts thousands of children in Maryland born into families headed by same-sex couples, the state's highest court today ruled unanimously in favor of recognizing the parent-child relationships of de facto parents who lack a biological or adoptive relationship with their children. FreeState Justice litigated the case on behalf of Michael Conover. Conover has been denied visitation with his son for four years because his relationship with the child, whom he raised from birth with his same-sex partner of nearly a decade, was not recognized by Maryland courts.

"With the Court's decision today, Maryland family law now recognizes the lived reality of LGBTQ families," said Conover's attorney, FreeState Justice deputy director and

managing attorney Jer Welter. "This decision strongly affirms that children's relationships with their parents are entitled to legal protection—even if their parents are not parents by blood or adoption."

Michael Conover is a transgender man. Before his gender transition, Conover was in a committed same-sex relationship for nearly a decade with Brittany Eckel. In 2009, before marriage equality for same-sex couples was recognized in Maryland or any nearby jurisdiction, Conover and Eckel decided to have a child together by artificial insemination. They chose an anonymous sperm donor on the basis of physical resemblance to Conover, and when Eckel gave birth to their son Jaxon, the child was given Conover's last name. A few months later,

See **PARENTAGE** Page A6

INSIDE

Structured Employment EDC Receives Grant to Help Reduce the Number of Uninsured Children

The Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enrollment awards will support targeted strategies needed to enroll eligible children who do not have health coverage, including application assistance and targeted outreach.

Community, Page A3

Time for "Good Trouble" Inside and Outside Congress

As John Lewis said from the House floor: "Sometimes you have to do something out of the ordinary. Sometimes you have to make a way out of no way. We have been too quiet for too long. There comes a time when you have to say something, when you have to make a little noise."

Commentary, Page A4

PGCEDC Partners with Bethel House to Host Small Business and Job Seeker Summit

During the small business breakout session, Kisha Logan, EDC Small Business Services Manager shared her insight on how entrepreneurs and small businesses can be successful by utilizing the services provided by the Small Business Services Division.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows

I don't mean to suggest that *Out of the Shadows* is excellent. None of the humans are very interesting (though Tyler Perry's mad scientist, clearly inspired by Neil DeGrasse Tyson, is close), and everything to do with Casey Jones and police chief Laura Linney is wasted energy.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Are we really heading for a coal-free power future in the U.S. or is this just an environmental pipe dream?

—Jack Summa,
Boston, MA

Features, Page A7

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Choosing the Right Project for Your Home Renovation

Before the housing market collapse of 2007, all renovation projects—no matter how expensive—seemed like winners. Today, home renovation is a whole new ballgame and why you should carefully research any potential fix-up project you're planning for your home.

For the past 14 years, *Remodeling* magazine's annual *Remodeling 2016 Cost vs. Value Report* (<http://www.remodeling.hw.net/cost-vs-value/2016/>) has tracked cost recoupment on renovation projects nationwide and by region, as local tastes are important. Based on trends from transactions tracked in 2015, several guidelines emerged:

- **Aim to cover your costs.** Pre-housing crash, people were investing heavily in their homes and seeing returns greater than 100 percent on their spending. In 2016, the cost and return at resale for the projects listed in the report averaged 64.4 percent for a home sold within a year of the upgrades. Making a profit on a renovation isn't guaranteed, so aim instead to tackle projects that will allow you to recover your costs at the highest possible level.

- **Smaller projects focusing on essentials can provide better returns.** A decade ago, it was an upscale outdoor deck or a gourmet kitchen. These days, new doors, which can cost under \$500 to replace and install, are one of the most popular projects. A high quality fiberglass entry door replacement can recoup an average 82.3 percent of costs; a garage door replacement can return over 90 percent.

- **Upgrade rooms and spaces, but keep it modest.** A minor kitchen remodel including upgraded cabinet fronts, new hardware and the addition of one or two energy-efficient appliances averaged a return of more than 83 percent of original cost compared to the 65 percent for the gut jobs.

After assessing the national and regional averages, you'll need to evaluate your personal situation, local home market and the type of homes that are selling in your neighborhood. Let's start with the questions you need to ask yourself:

- **What kinds of improvements make sense for my neighborhood?** Generally, exterior renovations that complement nearby homes have greater value, so consider how your new exterior might fit in with other houses on the street. As far as interior renovations, keep your spending in line with your future sale price. For example, a \$100,000 kitchen in a home that might not sell for more than \$300,000 would probably be a wasted investment—but a kitchen update worth \$10,000 or less might help your house move quicker once it's listed for sale.

- **How long will I stay post-renovation?** Remember, the latest *Remodeling* magazine numbers cover only one year of cost recovery on projects. People renovate for a variety of needs, either to make the home more livable or to make it more salable. The longer you stay, the more you'll get out of the investment—but if you have to sell soon, think carefully about what you'll need to spend to attract a buyer.

- **Will this send my property taxes through the roof?** Renovation projects that create larger homes can risk higher property taxes. You should think through potential property tax impact not only for yourself but also for your future buyer. Consider checking with your local residential taxing body to determine "before and after" property tax rates for renovated properties in your vicinity. Sometimes this information might be available on their websites. If you know a real estate broker with significant knowledge of your immediate neighborhood, you might consider speaking with them about this issue.

Consider consulting experts to help you answer the basic questions you'll have as you make this decision. Start with trusted financial professionals who can offer a second opinion on what you're planning to do, how much you want to spend, and what particular tax issues may arise when it's time to sell. If you need to borrow to renovate, that means it's time to make sure your credit reports (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>) are accurate and you are pre-qualified or pre-approved for your loan based on what is required.

In short, do your homework before you renovate your home.

Bottom line: In 2016, home renovation is far from a home run. Know how long you're planning to stay in the home before you start and make sure the project you choose makes sense for your local marketplace or you won't get your money back.

ESFCU from A1

office of Anne Arundel County Public Schools with a \$500 donation. The award funds are to help cover spelling bee expenses.

"Our core purpose is serving the education community," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We are proud to support education in Anne Arundel County by sponsor-



Nathaniel Sillin is the author of the Practical Money Skills column.

ing the spelling bee, and we congratulate Storrer on this achievement."

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,

and Prince William counties. For more information, please visit: <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/funding/history.html>.

More information on the informational bulletin that identifies tools all states can use to enroll and retain eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP can be found here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/html>

ment funding opportunity is authorized by the bipartisan MACRA legislation. Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enrollment funding supports activities aimed at identifying children who are eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and helping their families enroll and renew their coverage. Along with the National Connecting Kids to Coverage Campaign, these activities have helped boost enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP. They also have helped to engage a wide range of partners in taking steps to make health coverage outreach and enrollment a part of their routine efforts to ensure the health and security of the nation's children and their families.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/funding/history.html>.

More information on the informational bulletin that identifies tools all states can use to enroll and retain eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP can be found here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/html>

ment funding opportunity is authorized by the bipartisan MACRA legislation. Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enrollment funding supports activities aimed at identifying children who are eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and helping their families enroll and renew their coverage. Along with the National Connecting Kids to Coverage Campaign, these activities have helped boost enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP. They also have helped to engage a wide range of partners in taking steps to make health coverage outreach and enrollment a part of their routine efforts to ensure the health and security of the nation's children and their families.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/funding/history.html>.

More information on the informational bulletin that identifies tools all states can use to enroll and retain eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP can be found here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/html>

Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation Receives Grant to Help Reduce the Number of Uninsured Children

By PRESS OFFICER
DH&HS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today named Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation as one of the recipients from 38 states, school districts, and local community organizations to participate in an effort to get more eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation will receive a \$950,000 Connecting Kids to Coverage grant to enroll eligible children. Today's awards are designed to build on the historic progress already made increasing the number of children who have health coverage. According to the National Health Interview Survey, only 4.5 percent of children remained uninsured in 2015.

The Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enrollment awards will support targeted strategies needed to enroll eligible children who do not have health coverage, including application assistance and targeted outreach. Awardees include states, school districts, and local community organizations from across the country in

areas where access to health coverage has been lagging, including among others, American Indians, children with learning disabilities, children living in rural communities, and teens.

"Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the rate of uninsurance for children has declined to its lowest levels on record. Fewer than 1 in 20 children are now uninsured," said Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "Today's awards will accelerate efforts in communities across America to continue this progress and reach millions of children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but not yet enrolled."

The latest FY15 data shows 674,417 children are enrolled in either CHIP or Medicaid in Maryland. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has helped increase the number of children who have access to quality, affordable coverage. In addition, 91 percent of eligible children are now enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, an increase of nearly 10 percentage points since 2008, according to the Urban Institute. These researchers also found that health coverage increased all subgroups of children studied, including among all age groups and in all regions of the country in 2014.

CMS is also releasing today an informational bulletin that highlights existing strategies available to all states to enroll and retain eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP. This information will help all states build on the progress to date to increase the number of children with health coverage.

"Today's awards will help continue the remarkable progress states and community organizations have made in enrolling eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP," said Vikki Wachino, deputy administrator and director for the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. "CMS is excited to support innovative strategies to enroll children and address disparities in coverage that have kept some children from obtaining the benefits of Medicaid and CHIP."

Having coverage improves children's health, ability to succeed in school, and other positive outcomes. Recent research shows that these gains are long lasting, with children who gained coverage experiencing better health, higher educational attainment, and higher earnings as adults.

The total of \$32 million made possible for the Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enroll-

AAA Mid-Atlantic Warns: Don't 'Pokémon Go' Behind the Wheel

Drivers and Pedestrians are Gripped by Distraction and Risking Their Safety

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Don't text and drive, don't drink and drive, don't Pokémon Go and drive. AAA Mid-Atlantic is warning drivers that playing Pokémon Go behind the wheel is a dangerous form of distracted driving. The auto club also cautions that distracted pedestrians are risking their safety and the safety of other road users as they take their eyes off the sidewalk and roads. Distracted driving and walking is a bad combination.

Distracted driving is responsible for the deaths of one out of every 10 drivers nationwide, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Previous research by NHTSA estimates that distracted driving is

a factor in at least 3,000 deaths per year, though the actual number is likely much higher. Drivers who take their eyes off the road for more than two seconds can double their risk of being in a crash.

"Pokémon Go is a game. Driving is NOT a game," says John B. Townsend II, Manager of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Playing games while driving is a distraction just like sending or reading a text while driving. Put your phone down while behind the wheel. One quick text or glance to see the next Pokéstop could end up causing a crash or worse—costing you or someone else their life."

District law forbids the use of handheld cellphones and other electronic devices while driving.

In Maryland, the use of a handheld telephone is prohibited for all drivers. Virginia's distracted driving law prevents bus drivers and novice drivers from using a cell phone while operating a moving motor vehicle and text messaging and emailing while driving is prohibited for all drivers. During the Virginia General Assembly session AAA Mid-Atlantic supported SB 555, that expands the cell phone ban from those 18 years and under to any person who holds a learner's permit, which became effective July 1.

To help drivers avoid a dangerous situation, AAA offers tips to help drivers avoid the temptation of texting or gaming while behind the wheel.

- Put your cellphone in the glove compartment or trunk to avoid the temptation.

- Ask for help from the passenger if you need to make a call or text.

- Download a safety app that will lock your phone while you're driving.

Pedestrians are also dealing with distraction. Pokémon Go was designed for walking, which causes many players to constantly look down at their phones and not pay attention to where they are.

"Pedestrians playing the game should be aware of where they are and what they're doing and not inadvertently walk into traffic chasing a Pokémon," Townsend said. "Distracted pedestrians are just as likely to cause a crash by not paying attention to surrounding roadways and traffic."

Affordable Care Act Dramatically Improved Health Insurance Coverage for People Living in Rural Areas

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. DHHS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an analysis of how the Affordable Care Act has benefited rural America. The findings, which examine independent studies and other data, show that health coverage in rural counties increased by 8.0 percentage points between late 2013 and early 2015, and the share of rural Americans unable to afford needed care dropped by almost six percentage points.

"The Affordable Care Act has helped millions of people in rural areas access quality, affordable health coverage," said Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell.

"As someone from rural America, I know how important these gains in coverage and access to care are to communities like my hometown of Hinton, West Virginia."

Despite being disproportionately likely to live in states that have not expanded Medicaid, rural Americans have seen coverage gains under the Affordable Act on par with residents of cities because they have benefited from the Health Insurance Marketplace and tax credits that keep coverage affordable, from other coverage reforms such as the elimination of exclusions based on pre-existing conditions.

The new analysis documents the success of the Health Insurance Marketplace in par-

ticular in expanding coverage and access to care in rural areas. In the HealthCare.gov states alone, 1.7 million rural Americans purchased coverage through the Marketplace for 2016, comprising nearly 1 in 5 plan selections. This represents an 11 percent increase from 2015, greater than the overall increase in Marketplace enrollment. The Affordable Care Act also helped ensure that Marketplace plans remained affordable for rural households. For the almost 9 in 10 rural consumers who are eligible for premium tax credits, the average premium increased only 4 percent, or \$5 per month, between 2015 and 2016, despite headlines suggesting double digit increases.

Rural Americans, like residents of metropolitan areas, have also experienced improved access to care as the ACA's major coverage provisions took effect. For example, among rural individuals, the share without access to a personal physician dropped 3.4 percentage points, and the share unable to afford needed care dropped 5.9 percentage points.

Even more progress could be made in improving coverage and access to care for rural communities if the remaining 19 states choose to expand. Nearly two thirds of the rural uninsured (versus 51 percent of uninsured residents of non-metropolitan areas) live in states that have not yet expanded Medicaid at the end of 2015.

ADVERTISE! in The Prince George's Post • 301 627 0900

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Hoyer Discusses the Need for Openness and Transparency in the Selection of a Site for the New Consolidated FBI Headquarters

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) spoke on the House Floor with Reps. José Serrano and Ander Crenshaw, the Ranking Member and the Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services, respectively, to discuss his longstanding support for a fully-consolidated FBI relocation and his concerns with the GSA's recent reduction in the estimated cost of relocating existing facilities at the Springfield site. To watch the video, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLVZgm7YkFI&feature=youtu.be>.

Mr. Hoyer: "I thank the gentleman for yielding. As Chairman [Ander Crenshaw] and the Ranking Member [José Serrano] know, I have been working on a new, consolidated Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters project since 2007. This project remains a top priority for the Maryland delegation.

"Bids, as the Chairman knows, on the three sites under consideration were due on June 22. Two of the sites under consideration for the new facility, Greenbelt and Landover, are located in Maryland. We've been working at the federal, state, and local levels to assemble competitive bids for our sites. We believe that in a fair and open competition, Maryland has put forward sites and proposals that would ultimately be deemed a better fit for the FBI.

"However, as I have discussed with the Chairman and the Ranking Member, I remain concerned about the General Services Administration's recent reduction in the estimated cost of relocating existing federal facilities at the Springfield, Virginia site, since the cost of relocation at these facilities will be factored into the price

for the Springfield site. We need to ensure that the GSA produces an accurate number that fully reflects the relocation cost that taxpayers will be asked to cover.

"My question for the Chairman and the Ranking Member is: will you agree to work with me to ensure that the GSA accurately reports the cost of any federal facility relocation associated with these sites? And in addition to that, I would ask, do the gentlemen agree—the Chairman and Ranking Member—that such transparency on the part of GSA is needed to ensure that the process for siting of this facility is fair and provides accurate information to municipalities and developers competing to construct and house this critically important FBI project? And I yield to the Chairman."

Mr. Crenshaw: "Well let me say to you, from Maryland, thank you for bringing this to our attention, and you have my assurance as we have previously discussed, that I will work with you to make sure this is an open and fair process all the way down the line."

Mr. Hoyer: "I thank the gentleman and have no doubt that that representation is—I certainly rely on that and I appreciate it."

Mr. Serrano: "I thank my friend and distinguished Whip from Maryland for his continued involvement in this effort and his steadfast advocacy for making sure the processes for the new FBI headquarters is located on the best site possible. He also has my commitment we will work together to ensure that this is a fair process and that GSA provides all relevant information to prospective bidders accurately.

Mr. Hoyer: "I thank my friend and I yield back the balance of my time."

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Jesse Williams: A Rising Star Among a New Generation of Civil Rights Activists

"The burden of the brutalized is not to comfort the bystander. That's not our job, all right, stop with all that. If you have a critique for the resistance, for our resistance, then you better have an established record of critique of our oppression. If you have no interest in equal rights for black people then do not make suggestions to those who do. Sit down."

—Jesse Williams

African-American performing arts celebrities were a driving force behind the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. Lena Horne, who was blacklisted in the 1950s for her activism and political views, performed in the South at rallies for civil rights, participated in the 1963 March on Washington, and supported the work of the National Council for Negro Women. Harry Belafonte, a confidant of Martin Luther King, Jr., provided financial backing for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council and emerged as one of the strongest voices of the 20th-Century Civil Rights Movement. Sidney Poitier has been called "the film industry's living embodiment of the progress generated by the Civil Rights Movement."

Now, a new generation of activist artists is rising to take their place. Chief among them is Jesse Williams, whose powerful acceptance speech at the BET Awards has created a firestorm.

Williams has been attacked for his moving condemnation of racially-motivated police violence, evoking the names of Tamir Rice, Rekia Boyd, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and Darrien Hunt. Sadly, just days later, two more names have been added to the list: Alton Sterling and Philando Castile.

At just 36 years of age, Williams has become a leading voice of the 21st century civil rights and social justice movement. He is the youngest member of the board of directors at The Advancement Project, a civil rights think tank and advocacy group. This spring, he released the acclaimed documentary Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement.

Williams also is the executive producer of the website Question Bridge, "an innovative transmedia project that facilitates a dialogue between a critical mass of black men from diverse and contending backgrounds and creates a platform for them to represent and redefine black male identity in America."

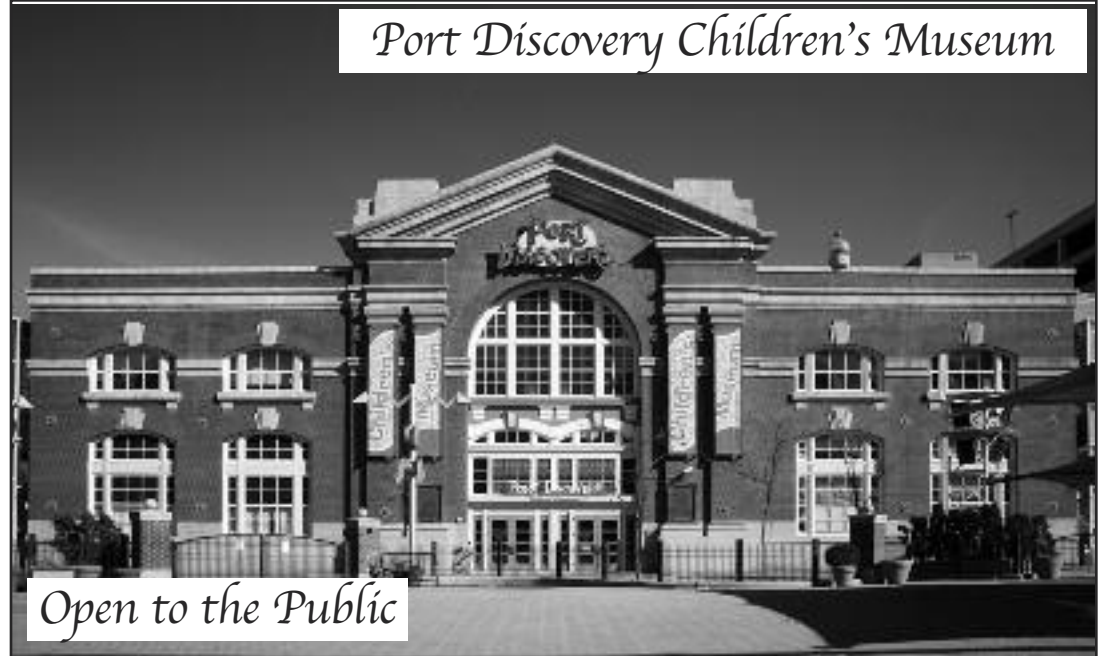
In the turbulent days after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Williams was a critical voice of protest. He was among the stars who chose to boycott the 2016 Oscars, which for two years running included no actors of color among the nominees. He and other celebrities instead participated in a fundraiser for the victims of lead poisoning in the water supply in Flint, Michigan.

Williams' commitment to social justice is rooted in part in his background as a schoolteacher in struggling low-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia. He follows in the footsteps of his parents, both of whom have worked as public school teachers

In response to a petition urging executive producer and showrunner Shonda Rimes to fire Williams from the cast of *Gray's Anatomy*, Rimes tweeted: "Um, people? Boo don't need a petition. #shondalandrules."

We are pleased to live by the rules of Shondaland, where creative and committed artists of color are empowered to lift up one another and change the world for the better.

Port Discovery Children's Museum



Open to the Public

PORT DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Located in Baltimore Maryland's Inner Harbor on the site of Baltimore's Historic Fishmarket Building, adjacent to Power Plant Live! at 35 Market Place, Baltimore, MD 21202. Port Discovery offers three floors of interactive, educational exhibits and ever-changing programs for children ages birth through 10. Toddle and crawl through Tot Trails. Get healthy and fit in Kick It Up!. Splish splash in Wonders of Water. Shop and pump gas at the Royal Farms Convenience Store and Fill'er Up Station. Cook and serve food in Tiny's Diner or climb and slide through KidWorks, a 3-story urban treehouse. General Admission is \$14.50 for ages 2 and up, and members and children younger than two years are FREE. Please call for hours of operation, 410.727.8120.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Time for "Good Trouble" Inside and Outside Congress

"For months, even for years, through several sessions of Congress, I wondered what will bring this body to take action. What will finally make Congress do what is right, what is just, what the people of this country have been demanding, and what is long overdue?"

—Congressman John Lewis

Congressman John Lewis' call to action in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 22nd was the beginning of an extraordinary event in our nation's Capitol. Members of Congress participated in a nonviolent occupation of the floor of the House of Representatives led by a veteran civil rights organizer and participant in the sit-in movement to desegregate Jim Crow lunch counters, Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate travel, and marches to protest the denial of the right to vote to Black citizens across the South. How refreshing to see John Lewis and his Congressional colleagues protesting the egregious fact that even in the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in our nation's history and the senseless preventable deaths by gun of tens of thousands of human beings in our nation, including children, year in and year out, Congress has refused to act to reduce the epidemic of gun violence raging across our country.

"We have lost hundreds and thousands of innocent people to gun violence. Tiny, little children. Babies. Students and teachers. Mothers and fathers. Sisters and brothers. Daughters and sons. Friends and neighbors."

"And what has this body done, Mr. Speaker? NOTHING. Not one thing. We have turned deaf ears to the blood of the innocent and the concerns of our nation. We are blind to a crisis. Mr. Speaker, where is the heart of this body? Where is our soul? Where is our moral leadership? Where is our courage?"

Congressman John Lewis grew up in segregated Troy, Alabama where he was taught not to challenge the racist Jim Crow status quo because that was just the way things were. But as a teenager he decided he couldn't and wouldn't spend his life afraid of getting into "good trouble." He wrote a letter to Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. after hearing him on the radio during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Dr. King invited the "boy from Troy" to come meet him and helped spur young John Lewis on his lifelong path as a nonviolent warrior for justice who helped transform our nation. As a student leader and eventually chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) he helped organize and supported sit-ins and other student activism across the South with my generation of young activists. At age 23 he was the youngest person to speak at the 1963 March on Washington. Two years later he was brutally attacked by lawless state and local law enforcement officials and his skull was fractured on the Edmund Pettus Bridge while attempting to lead a march for voting rights in Selma, Alabama. The televised images of the savage "Bloody Sunday" beatings followed by the March from Selma to Montgomery by people coming from across the nation led President Lyndon B. Johnson to call on Congress to pass what became the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement and in America's continuing struggle to honor America's dream. How

sad that so many states, especially in the South, are attempting to undermine this sacred right of citizenship to vote—in every possible way today.

In 1986 John Lewis was elected to Congress to continue fighting to push America forward. He electrified the nation as he brought the same nonviolent civil disobedience tactics he used as a young civil rights leader to the House floor and led his colleagues in the sit-in condemning Congress' inaction to reduce mass shootings and gun violence. His address to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan displayed a moral leadership and clarity that I hope will infect enough of his Congressional colleagues and galvanize millions of voters appalled by Congress's inability to ban gun sales to people on the "no-fly" list, expand background checks, or provide other urgently needed common sense safety solutions to protect Americans including our children from relentless gun violence.

"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

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2016, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Staff Writer Christina Williams
	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Even Far-Away Tragic Events Can Affect You

We live in a world where, unfortunately, tragedy on a major scale occurs far too often. From natural disasters to random violence and even terrorism, learning about innocent lives lost has a profound effect on all of us even though we may not be personally connected in any way with what has happened.

A major tragedy is, to some degree, traumatizing and unsettling to us. It's known as "vicarious trauma." It's what we experience even though we aren't directly involved. More than just feeling upset, we can even experience powerful physical and emotional reactions. It's not unusual to feel confusion or dizziness, to find that you're suddenly sleeping poorly, having nightmares or perhaps finding it difficult to relax or concentrate.

It can be hard to understand why we might be affected in these ways, since we don't suffer personally or lose a loved one. But as caring human beings we identify with those people who were directly affected. It isn't hard to imagine the terror experienced as a plane plunged from the sky, or the unbearable sense of loss a parent suffers over the death of a young child.

But beyond that empathy for what those involved are suffering, we can also experience a real sense of frustration and helplessness because what occurred is so far beyond our control.

Those feelings, however, don't have to be overwhelming or leave us paralyzed. While none of us could have done anything to stop that tragedy or disaster from happening, there are things we can do after the fact to help meet our emotional and psychological needs through our personal actions.

A starting point is not to deny the emotional response we are feeling, but rather to acknowledge it and to actively address it. This means not hiding in depression or denial, but rather taking positive steps for a healthy life. Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods and exercise regularly. It almost always helps to discuss with others what you're feeling.

It's also a time to do something positive to help make the world a better place. Volunteering locally, making a financial donation, giving blood, writing letters of thanks to first responders or undertaking some other positive action can make you—and others—feel better.

After terrible events happen, acknowledge your feelings, recognize them as normal, and take real steps to turn such feelings into positive actions.

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

Brewery from A1

Calvert Brewing Company, along with Council Member Todd Turner, Bowie BIC, Gaillard Insurance Agency, Dawn of Cameo, LLC, Portera Rehabilitation, and the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Foundation graciously sponsored this evening's event. The Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Foundation and 14 Karat Cake and Catering also participated as raffle sponsors.

"Jim Coleman is a great spokesman for development in this County, for the business community in this County, and for helping businesses to expand," said Mike Scarborough, Managing Partner of the Calvert Brewing Company. "As the only microbrewery in Prince George's County, we want to be in every bar and restaurant in the County. Nothing replaces events like this where you can be exposed to a part of the market that you would never see. So if Jim Coleman suggests having 'Thirsty Thursday' at your business, you should definitely say 'yes'."

As the guest speaker for tonight's County Council Member Todd Turner, (Dist. 4) praised the partnership of the EDC with government officials and local businesses to draw attention to the vast expansion and development opportunities within Prince George's County.

"I appreciate the opportu-

nity to co-host, along with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation this 'Thirsty Thursday' in the 4th Council District," said Turner. "It is a great opportunity to highlight a new business here in Prince George's County and a great opportunity to network to do more business in the County."

Local business owners from all over the County continue to make it their business every month to come out to network with government, non-profits and other local businesses in a relaxed and collaborative atmosphere.

"These events are very important for small businesses in the County to allow them to further their reach in the community," said George Howell, Senior Product Advisor at Heartland Payment Systems. "This is my second 'Thirsty Thursday' event with the Prince George's Economic Development Corporation. At my first event, I connected with someone that has helped me a lot. Not only have I been able to network, I have also been able to collaborate. This has been very good."

The next opportunity to network with Jim Coleman and his 'posse' will be on July 21st when "Thirsty for Business Thursday" heads to La Chiquita Restaurant, 4821 Annapolis Road in Bladensburg, MD. This event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Nicole Edwards at 301-583-4650 or email us at naed-

PG County Economic Development Corporation Partners with Bethel House to Host Small Business and Job Seeker Summit

EDC Challenges 11 Year Old Entrepreneur to Tap Into Resources that Can Provide Generational Wealth

By Lori Valentine
PGCEDC

BRANDYWINE, MD—On Saturday, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted a Small Business and Job Seekers Summit in partnership with Bethel House, Inc., the community outreach center of the Union Bethel AME Church, as part of its "Activate Prosperity" Tour to build awareness about the opportunities and resources within Prince George's County. Job seekers, local business owners and entrepreneurs flocked to Union Bethel AME Church to learn about the 122,000 job opportunities, \$9 billion in business resources and no cost training opportunities available for residents to take advantage of through the EDC and its life changing programs. Entrepreneurs of all ages came to find out how the EDC's 'Activate Prosperity' initiative can transform them into multimillionaires, including 11 year old Gabrielle Williams, founder of Glorious Pastries by Gabrielle in Accokeek, MD.

"'Activate Prosperity' is all about positioning small business owners from nine to 99 to achieve tremendous success by tapping into the resources that the Economic Development Corporation has at its disposal," said Coleman. "My family farm sent me and 300 of my relatives to college all because of my great grandfather's sense of entrepreneurship and vision for providing generational wealth for his family. By partnering with the EDC, I want the same for young Gabrielle Williams and her pastry business, and for each one of you here today. Each of you can be multimillionaires and provide wealth to your families for generations to come. Who's ready?"

Conference from A1

representatives within the next several weeks.

"I learned a lot in the meeting today about Prince George's County. It's very exciting," said Joseph Gibbs, Starbucks Store Development Manager, who met with County Executive Baker and his team. "A lot of opportunities are coming, especially with the Metro stops and the transit-oriented development that the county is planning. It's a great and exciting time for Prince George's County."

County Executive Baker brought decision makers from the County and the EDC to participate in the meetings in order to send a message to businesses that Prince George's County is open for business and ready to act quickly as a partner in their projects. These key personnel included Glenda Wilson, Chief of Staff, Nick Majett, Chief Administrative Officer, David Iannucci, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development, Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO, Larry Hentz, EDC Business Development Director, Haitham Hijazi, Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, and Brad Frome, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Infrastructure.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (left) with Gabrielle Williams, Founder, Glorious Pastries by Gabrielle at Union Bethel AME Church in Brandywine, MD.

Mr. Coleman and the EDC team gave attendees specific information on the financing programs, training programs and the small business development services available to help them obtain maximum increase in their lives and businesses. Team members also discussed how to write a business plan, how to get certified to do business with Prince George's County and how to earn media attention to grow wealth for a business.

"Business owners can create their own celebrity to drive sales by drawing attention to their brand through earned (free) media," said Britta Vander Linden, Chief of Staff, EDC who led a breakout session on media and marketing. "The head of your organization or company is the 'brand' that drives customers to seek out your services. At the EDC, Jim Coleman represents our brand: possibility, excitement, fun, high energy and game-changing results."

During the small business breakout session, Kisha Logan, EDC Small Business Services

Manager shared her insight on how entrepreneurs and small businesses can be successful by utilizing the services provided by the Small Business Services Division. Ms. Logan emphasized the importance of partnering with the EDC to gain access to capital, fine tune a company business plan, and connect to a skilled workforce. Team members also discussed how to write a resume, what job seekers should and should not do when going after a job, and how to successfully re-enter the workforce as an ex-offender.

"Key words in a resume signal to an employer that you are the best person to fill their job opening," said Walter Simmons, Interim Director, EDC Workforce Services Division. "The EDC partners with the U.S. Department of Labor and the State of Maryland to provide the training job seekers need to put them on the path to career success. Our training sessions can be the difference between getting an interview and getting a job."

Pastry chef Gabrielle Williams was ready to take her business to the next level, after

being featured on 'The Chew'. During Saturday's event, she learned about the importance of building her capacity along with her brand.

"Today I learned that I can use social media right now to tell people about my business," said Williams. "I want to be a celebrity. I now know that I need to work hard, find a good place to set my business up, and eventually take on employees to help me get my pastries to my customers. I learned a lot today."

For more information on how to gain access to capital, get assistance in writing a business plan and other business support services, contact Kisha Logan, Small Business Services Manager at 301-583-4650 or kvlogan@co.pg.md.us.

For more information on how to identify job opportunities, register for job training and certification or career development workshops, contact Walter Simmons, Interim Director of Workforce Development Services at 301-618-8400 or email us at wsimmons@co.pg.md.us.

Many retail prospects were interested in the opportunities developing in the County's 'Emerging Corridor', an area represented by County Council Member Karen Toles, including Suitland and Iverson, where the County is investing \$52 million in new infrastructure and road improvements. A new massive mixed-use community development is planned for the historic Suitland Federal Center, including 900 new residential units, 90,000 square-feet of new retail space, a 700-seat theater and performing arts space and a walkable promenade.

Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Mike Gill visited the County's booth to offer support on behalf of Governor Larry Hogan. During an intensive strategy session led by County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis, the team discussed ways in which the County and State could work together to address key areas of economic development, including workforce training and transportation issues.

With 3,600 jobs coming online for the MGM Resort and Casino at National Harbor by December 2016 and the capacity for 10-15 more hotels to open in the County within the next 24 months, EDC Board Vice-Chair Marva Jo Camp coordinated a special tour of the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas, a train-

ing facility graduating thousands of Las Vegas hospitality servers annually. The tour was designed to share best practices in preparing a local workforce for customer service-oriented occupations and to explore the development of a similar training center in the County.

To view the new video released by the EDC at ICSC 2016 entitled 'It's Morning in Prince George's County' that celebrates the County's progress and the incredible opportunities available to retailers, developer and investors, visit the website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNZiBByGC54>.

Prince George's County has scored many wins from past ICSC conferences, including Dave and Buster's, which opened at Ritchie" Station last month, Harris Teeter, Krispy Kreme and Nordstrom Rack.

The County's participation at this year's ICSC was sponsored by MGM National Harbor, Dave and Busters, Walton Development, The Peterson Companies, ARC Properties, Berman Enterprises, G.S. Proctor & Associates, Echo Realty, Iverson Mall, Petrie-Richardson, Diversified Lending, Forestville Plaza, NAI Michael Companies, Urban Atlantic, Wawa, BlueLine Security Services & BlueLine Video Surveillance, Royal Farms, Quantum Companies and Krispy Kreme.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles:
Out of the Shadows
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, action violence, a
little crude humor
1 hr., 52 min

Well, it took 26 years and six attempts, but they finally made a *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie that I enjoyed! Which is magnanimous of them, since I wasn't the target audience and never expressed any interest in being part of it. But *Out of the Shadows*, the sequel to 2014's loud, dumb reboot, at last achieves the goal the franchise has been reaching for all along: It's made for 12-year-olds without "made for 12-year-olds" being meant as an insult.

Often, that designation means a movie is shallow and lazy, or that it panders to a juvenile sense of humor, or that it's full of plot holes and incoherence that the filmmakers assume kids won't notice or care about. In truth, "12-year-olds" is often shorthand for "idiots." This film, on the other hand, is jocular, easy-going, and occasionally funny. Everyone has clear motives and goals, and the conflicts (and zippy action scenes) make logical sense, arising out of character and not out of contrivance. The Turtles are glib, but not annoyingly or mindlessly so, and they're capable of serious conversations about important things. Like a good comic-book sequel, the story brings back old villains, introduces news ones, and expands on the established mythology. It's a better, more lucid superhero movie than *Batman v Superman* was, not that that's saying much.

You notice almost immediately that the film wants to be straightforward and un-confusing, like the Saturday morning cartoon it should have been. Right at the top, the four Turtles are reintroduced by name, along with their chief character traits—Leonardo (Pete Ploszek) the leader, Raphael (Alan Ritchson) the muscles, Donatello (Jeremy Howard) the brains, and Michelangelo (Noel Fisher) the goofball. Later in the film, they introduce themselves to a new ally, corrections officer Casey Jones (Stephen Amell), effectively reiterating the lineup for viewers who may otherwise have trouble telling the almost-identical Turtles apart.

Key dialogue and plot points are reiterated frequently. When the Turtles get word that associates of Shredder (Tohoru Masamune), the murderous villain they captured in the last movie, are planning to help him



ROTTENTOMATOES

Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, and Raphael return to theaters this summer to battle bigger, badder villains, alongside April O'Neil (Megan Fox), Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett), and a newcomer: the hockey-masked vigilante Casey Jones (Stephen Amell). After supervillain Shredder (Brian Tee) escapes custody, he joins forces with mad scientist Baxter Stockman (Tyler Perry) and two dimwitted henchmen, Bebop (Gary Anthony Williams) and Rocksteady (WWE Superstar Stephen "Sheamus" Farrelly), to unleash a diabolical plan to take over the world. As the Turtles prepare to take on Shredder and his new crew, they find themselves facing an even greater evil with similar intentions: the notorious Krang.

escape from prison, Donny declares, "They're gonna break him out! He'll be free again!" In the next scene, Donny repeats the message almost verbatim to Splinter (voice of Tony Shalhoub), who then says it again in different words, adding something along the lines of how Shredder will be able to resume his reign of terror. Most of the dialogue is declarative like that, a quality that makes me roll my eyes or sigh with boredom when it's in an adult movie, but which is perfectly suitable for one intended for kids. (An even better movie would do this without being obvious about it, but we're taking baby steps here.)

The villains, too, keep restating their mission in simple terms. (Like 37% of all films, this one is about an effort to collect the mystical artifacts required to open a portal to somewhere.) Besides Shredder, there's Krang (Brad Garrett), an intelligent, slimy alien who looks like a cross between an octopus and a brain and who resides in the chest cavity of a powerful robot that does not always obey his instructions. Krang seems like something out of *Futurama*, which is fine with me. When he enlists Shredder to retrieve the artifacts so that he (Krang) can invade Earth, he also gives him a purple ooze that can turn people into mutated animals. Shredder uses it on two unwilling fellow convicts, Bebop (Gary Anthony Williams) and Rocksteady (Stephen Farrelly), who become an oversized

warthog and rhino, respectively—and they love it. Bebop and Rocksteady (the movie makes sure to repeatedly say their names together like that, "Bebop and Rocksteady") LOVE being powerful mutants who wreck things. Their enthusiasm is delightful.

Donny figures out (well, he actually just guesses) that the purple ooze could also make the Turtles look human. Then they wouldn't have to hide in the sewers and let vain photographer Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) take all the credit for their heroics. The Turtles disagree among themselves on the merits of this idea, leading to a schism—a major no-no for a group that relies on unity and teamwork. When Splinter tells Leo that "it's the different points of view that make the team strong," I realized with astonishment that his statement makes sense because the Turtles are actually four distinct individuals this time, rather than being interchangeable. Leo's on a bit of a power trip as the squad's leader, Raphael is a hot-head sometimes, Donny has a crush on April O'Neil (Megan Fox, gradually getting better at this whole "acting" thing), and Mikey is kind of a sweet, care-free little brother.

All of this is at odds with the film's chaotic, brainless predecessor. There's a new director (Dave Green, who made *Earth to Echo*), but two of the three screenwriters, Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec, are the same. Maybe we should blame the 2014 film's badness on its third

writer, Evan Daugherty, who wasn't involved this time? Let's see, Daugherty's credits also include *Snow White and the Huntsman* and *Divergent*. So yeah, I'm comfortable with that.

I don't mean to suggest that *Out of the Shadow* is excellent. None of the humans are very interesting (though Tyler Perry's mad scientist, clearly inspired by Neil DeGrasse Tyson, is close), and everything to do with Casey Jones and police chief Laura Linney is wasted energy. (She doesn't believe his story about shadowy ninjas trying to thwart Shredder's escape, even though it happened during a high-speed freeway chase that must have been witnessed by hundreds of people.) It's also yet another film where the climax has parts of New York City being destroyed by a massive weaponized planetoid hovering overhead. But it treats its ridiculous heroes and premise just seriously enough for us to buy into it without getting TOO serious, which makes a huge amount of difference.

Look, maybe the rest of you learned how to tell the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles apart years ago. Maybe the cheerful, slightly off-beat tone of the movie is how the comics or TV cartoon always were. Or maybe it's a betrayal of those things! Maybe true TMNT fans will hate this. Don't know, don't care. I had fun with it.

(NOTE: Research indicates I also kind of enjoyed the animated one from 2007, the one called *TMNT*. I don't recall this, but I'll take my word for it.)

Parentage from A1

Conover and Eckel married in nearby Washington D.C., where marriage between same-sex couples had become legally recognized. They parented Jaxon together for the first two years of his life, but later broke up. In their divorce case, Conover asked the court for visitation with their son, but Eckel claimed that they had no children together.

The trial court ruled that Conover is a legal stranger to Jaxon because he lacks a biological or adoptive relationship to the child. In August 2015, Maryland's intermediate ap-

peals court, the Court of Special Appeals, upheld the trial court's decision. In today's decision, the Maryland Court of Appeals overruled the lower courts and recognized that a person who, like Conover, has been a "de facto parent" to a child—who has raised a child together with the child's other legal parent—has standing under Maryland law to have custody of or visitation with their child.

"I haven't seen my son in four years because the state of Maryland didn't recognize me as a parent," stated Michael Conover. "I am elated that the state's highest court has ruled that people like me should

have our relationships with our children legally protected. This decision is a huge milestone for my family and for Maryland, and it gives me hope that I will get to see my son again very soon."

In the 36-page Court of Appeals opinion, written by Judge Sally Adkins, the court ruled that "de facto parenthood is a viable means to establish standing to contest custody or visitation." The Court overruled its own contrary decision in the 2008 case *Janice M. v. Margaret K.*, which had rejected the de facto parenthood doctrine, calling the 2008 decision "clearly wrong" and stating that Janice

M. "failed to effectively address problems typical of divorce by same-sex married couples." Instead, the court declared today: "A legal parent does not have a right to voluntarily cultivate their child's parental-type relationship with a third party and then seek to extinguish it."

The decision is available from the Court of Appeals' website and can be found at: www.mdcourts.gov/opinions/coa/2016/79a15.pdf

The case will now return to the Circuit Court for Washington County in Hagerstown, where Conover will seek visitation with his son as a legally recognized de facto parent.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Orlando Killings and the Message of Muhammad Ali's Funeral



There are no words regarding the emotional whiplash I feel, having attended Muhammad Ali's funeral on Friday and now, on Sunday, attending a vigil in Washington, D.C., for the 50—and counting—slaughtered at the Pulse in Orlando on Saturday. Was this really all the same weekend? The juxtaposition is beyond tragic.

To hear about the remorseless killing of predominantly Latino LGBT people during Pride month is shattering enough. To then see Donald Trump and a collection of the worst anti-gay bigots be boastful, almost gleeful, about it because the shooter was Muslim is all the worse. Muhammad Ali, as eulogist Billy Crystal said, truly devoted the last half of his life to building bridges. These bridges are fragile; that's what makes them matter. It is so much easier to just burn them down, and that is exactly what one shooter aimed to do, and now in death he is being assisted by an entire right-wing apparatus, which despises bridges about as much as it detests irony.

Never mind that by all accounts, we know that the shooter—whose name I will not write—was an American citizen. Never mind that he bought the automatic weapons legally, or was a violent misogynist, or worked for one of those shadowy global private security firms for almost a decade, or wasn't even religious. The fact is that powerful people are demanding their villain of choice. So it won't be the gun nuts, or those poisoned by seeing women as objects of violence, or the internal culture of these private security firms. It will be Muslims. That's their narrative of choice.

It's all so awful. And yet I can think of no better response to this cavalcade of hate than the message of Muhammad Ali's funeral. The entire interfaith service was a testament—an act of resistance—against anti-Islamic bigotry, symbolized by the fact that the most powerful voice against this strain of hatred was Rabbi Michael Lerner, although he was hardly alone. The entire day brought together people of all faiths and no faiths from all over the world to celebrate a person who was tough enough to stand up to empire, racism, and the US state, as well as kind enough to care about the future of humanity.

At the painstakingly constructed service, as she said goodbye to her husband of 30 years in front of family, friends, 22,000 people at KFC Yum! Stadium, and the world, Yolanda Ali spoke the following truth. She said, "Muhammad wants us to see the face of his religion, al-Islam, true Islam, as the face of love. It was his religion that caused him to turn away from war and violence. For his religion, he was prepared to sacrifice all that he had and all that he was to protect his soul and follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. So even in death, Muhammad has something to say. He is saying that his faith required that he take the more difficult road. It is far more difficult to sacrifice oneself in the name of peace than to take up arms in pursuit of violence."

She also said the following, and it is sending a chill down my spine to even transcribe these words: "You know, as I reflect on the life of my husband, it's easy to see his most obvious talents. His majesty in the ring as he danced under those lights enshrined him as a champion for the ages. Less obvious was his extraordinary sense of timing. His knack for being in the right place at the right time seemed to be ordained by a higher power."

We need—desperately—to recognize the timing of Ali's passing, crossing the same weekend as the worst mass shooting in US history. We need to use his death to promote an alternate vision to the competing fundamentalisms that want to turn our world into two warring camps: camps that hold a common agreement of seeing the LGBT community as something to demonize, oppress, and, when opportunity strikes, kill. We need the memory and voice of Muhammad Ali now more than ever. We need to remember the person who understood the importance of using his own funeral as a last act of resistance. We need the example of someone who said, "In war, the intention is to kill, kill, kill, kill and continue killing innocent people!" That war has come home, not just in Orlando but amid the lives of innocent families across the Middle East.

We need, above all else, the example of someone who put it all on the line to resist this mindless violence, because that will be our task in the very immediate future.

Calendar of Events

July 21 — July 27, 2016

Safe Summer: Tumble Weed Game Truck

Date and Time: Thursday, July 21, 2016, 9:30–11:30 pm
Event Description: The Tumble Weed Game Truck is filled with the latest video game systems such as Xbox, PS3 the Wii. Compete with your fellow teens with new games!
Ages: 13–17
Fee: FREE
Location: Seat Pleasant Activity Center
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD

G.E.A.R.: Make Your Own Candles

Date and Time: Friday, July 22, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Girls will get step by step directions on how to make candles. Then they will use what they have learned to make their own unique candles.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville 20782
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

TR: Movie in the Park—*Inside Out*

Date and Time: Friday, July 22, 2016, 8:30 pm
Description: Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy Movie Night in the Park! Tonight's movie is the Disney/Pixar smash-hit *Inside Out*.

Parking is located at the Central Area Office. The movie area is to the right of the parking area.

*Please note: direct supervision/assistance is not provided for this event.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Hike

Date and Time: Saturday, July 23, 2016, 9:30–11:30 am
Description: Enjoy a naturalist-led hike through our beautiful woodlands, swamp, and tidal marsh conservation trail. Learn about local flora and fauna.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Engineering Challenge Series: Rain Gutter Regatta

Date and Time: Saturday, July 23, 2016, 12 noon
Description: Design and create a sailboat that can travel the length of a rain gutter faster than all your competitors. Boats will be judged on speed and creativity.
More information and a complete set of rules can be found at www.FieldofFirst.com
Cost: Free for contestants; \$5/Adults; \$4/Seniors; \$2/Children, Free for 1 & under
Ages: 8 & up
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Glenn Dale Day

Date and Time: Saturday, July 23, 2016, 1–6 pm
Description: Join your neighbors and friends in celebrating Glenn Dale! Bring a blanket and have a picnic on the lawn, visit food and craft vendors, enjoy the smooth sounds of live jazz music, or visit with the men and women of the Glenn Dale Fire Department.
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Movies Under the Stars: Summer Movie Series

Date and Time: Saturday, July 23, 2016, 6 pm
Description: Beginning at dusk, guests will watch the film *Home* (2015)(PG)
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Good Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham 20706
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: Summer Harvest

Date and Time: Sunday, July 24, 2016, 12 noon–3:30 pm
Description: The Kitchen Guild harvests fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden and prepares an array of 18th and 19th-century recipes.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc Tucker Road Athletic Complex

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 8:30–9:30 am
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.
Event Doctor: Dr. Brenda T. Bradley
Certified Health Coach (private practice)
938 E Swan Creek Road., Suite 787
Fort Washington, MD 20744
Specialty: Health Coaching
Cost: Free
Ages: All Ages
Location: Tucker Road Ice Rink
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Is a Coal-Free Future Really Possible in the United States?

Dear EarthTalk:

Are we really heading for a coal-free power future in the U.S. or is this just an environmental pipe dream?

—Jack Summa,
Boston, MA

Far from just an environmental pipe dream, the coal industry in the U.S. and around the world is in the midst of a major downswing. In 2011, coal dropped below 40 percent of total U.S. energy generation for the first time since the late 1970s, while in 2015 coal accounted for only 33 percent. And given the influx of cheap natural gas and the ascendance of renewable energy sources—not to mention recent coal mine safety lapses with tragic consequences—coal might not be able to mount a comeback.

“Technological advances have made natural gas, wind and solar—and efficiency—increasingly competitive,” reports John Brinkley in *Sierra Magazine*. “The once-robust overseas demand for coal is disappearing.”

Brinkley adds that a decade of sustained public advocacy for clean air and clean energy has left coal out in the dark. The Obama administration's landmark Clean Power Plan that forces big coal fired power plants to clean up their acts dramatically or shut down has been

one major factor in coal's slide, while the Paris climate accord has sped up the process even more by taking a huge bite out of potential U.S. coal exports.

Over just the last five years, fully one-third of U.S. coal plants, some 232 different facilities, have been closed or scheduled for imminent retirement. Plans for another 184 new coal-fired plants have been shuttered—activists claim credit but the development of new technologies that make harvesting natural gas that much cheaper may have more to do with coal's death knell. For the first time in 200 years, no new coal plants are on the drawing board in the U.S.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), which collects data and reports on energy statistics for the federal government, some 13,000 megawatts of coal power went offline in 2015 as a result of coal plant retirements, while wind energy added 8,600 megawatts and solar tacked on another 7,300 megawatts. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign reports that coal's downswing is just beginning, with another 50,000 megawatts of coal power predicted to go offline by 2030.

And the trend isn't stopping at the border. “Many countries that used to be reliable customers for U.S. coal just aren't into it anymore, partly because of last year's successful UN climate



CREDIT: RENNETT STOWE, FLICKRCC
Coal is still big business in the U.S. and beyond, and it isn't going away overnight. But how long it can stick around as a viable contender for Americans' energy dollars as natural gas and renewables ascend is anybody's guess.

change conference in Paris,” reports Brinkley. Even before the Paris agreement, China, the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, had been scaling back production and imports drastically in efforts to clean up urban air pollution and reduce its carbon footprint. In 2015, China cut imports of U.S. coal some 86.5 percent from 1.7 million tons to only 229,000.

Of course, coal is still big business in the U.S. and beyond, and it isn't going away overnight. But how long it can stick around as a viable contender for Americans' energy dollars is anybody's guess. “The trajectory for the coal industry

is clear, but the timeline is not,” sums up Brinkley.

CONTACTS: Clean Power Plan, <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/clean-power-plan-existing-power-plants>; Energy Information Administration, <http://www.eia.gov/>; Beyond Coal campaign, <http://content.sierra-club.org/coal/>;

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - **The Environmental Magazine**

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

Library from A1

bly can from children who will benefit from the resources that the library offers, at school and in life,” said Kathleen Teaze, Chief Executive Officer, PGCMLS. “LINK accounts reflect recognizing what library service has become, not a plastic card, but access to the many services that libraries provide, from anywhere.”

Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO, PGCPS added: “We are thrilled that our students have useful library resources right at their fingertips with their new LINK accounts. Reading is critical and the benefits are limitless: vocabulary expansion, knowledge, strong analytical and thinking skills, and better writing skills. This new partnership helps ensure that our students have the re-

sources they need in order to succeed in school.”

Students can access their LINK account by visiting the Prince George's County Memorial Library System website or downloading the PGCMLS app. Students can access their LINK account by visiting the Prince George's County Memorial Library System website. To sign-in, students must add their 9-digit student iden-

tification number to PGCPS and use the last four digits of their ID number as their PIN. For example, username: PGCPS100100100; PIN:0100.

Through the partnership, over 125,000 PGCPS students now have a virtual public library card.

For more information about LINK, please click here or call PGCPS' Office of Library Media Services at 301-386-8208.

COMPOSTING AT HOME

Whether you live in a house or an apartment, composting food scraps and other organic materials is a great way to reduce waste going to the landfill, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and make nutrient rich soil that's good for plants and gardens.

To make compost, all you need is 3 things: browns, greens and water!

For more information on indoor and backyard composting, items that can and cannot be composted and the benefits of composting, visit the EPA's Composting webpage at www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment Authority and Office of Capital Services to provide cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April needs you!!

Help Us Celebrate 28 Years in the County!

**Andrews Air Force Base
September 26, 2016 all day—The Courses at AAFB**

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 27th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Denison Mona Golf Tournament on September 26, 2016, at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2017 program, which renovates the homes of elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

Golfers and sponsors are needed!

Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more.

Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 90 needy families in 2017. Please call soon as space is limited.