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PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

The Theater at MGM National Harbor will become the entertainment epicenter of the Capital Region and is the area's first of its kind to be integrated in a resort.

Theater at MGM National Harbor Partners Exclusively With Live Nation

3,000-Seat Venue to Host Entertainment's Biggest Names and Events in Intimate Setting

By PRESS OFFICER
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—MGM National Harbor will join forces with Live Nation, one of the world's leading live entertainment companies, to develop a world-class lineup for The Theater at MGM Na-

tional Harbor. The 3,000-seat venue at the \$1.4 billion resort and casino will become the entertainment epicenter of the Capital Region and is the area's first of its kind to be integrated in a resort. Together, MGM National Harbor and Live Nation will deliver A-list performers and high-profile events—nor-

mally reserved for large-scale—to an intimate setting with unrivaled amenities. Ticketing for the venue will be handled exclusively by Ticketmaster, a Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. company and the world's leading ticketing provider.

"The Theater at MGM National Harbor will host an in-

credible entertainment lineup featuring the industry's leading entertainers," said Bill Boasberg, General Manager of MGM National Harbor. "The intimacy of the venue will give our guests unprecedented access

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Buck Lodge MS Science Teacher Receives Presidential Honor

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Buck Lodge Middle School science special education teacher Elizabeth Lazaro was recently selected as a recipient of President Obama's Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Lazaro is among 213 K-12 science and mathematics educators from across the nation who were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists,

mathematicians, and educators for the award.

"The Presidential Award is a living testament in celebrating the accomplishments of students with significant cognitive disabilities," said Lazaro. "The award captures a milestone in bringing to the fore how these students are able to access the general curriculum with instructional modifications. Ultimately, the award recognizes

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Hope Connections for Cancer Support Opens in PG County

By Press Officer
Redman Communications

BETHESDA, MD—Hope Connections for Cancer Support, a nonprofit based in Bethesda that for the past nine years has offered professionally-facilitated programs of emotional support, education, wellness and hope free of charge, opened the doors Sept. 23 to its Prince George's County venue adjacent to the New Carrollton Metro (Metro Plex 1, 8401 Corporate Drive, Suite 100 in Landover). Beginning the week of October 3, it will offer free support groups, educational workshops, mind/body & exercise classes and social

activities, all in a 3,000+ square foot space designed and furnished to feel like a home to which all are welcome and made to feel comfortable.

"We are very excited to bring our five core programs to a community that is seriously under-served when it comes to medical, emotional and rehabilitative support services for people with cancer and their loved ones," explains Hope Connections President/CEO Paula Rothenberg. "We've had great success helping those affected by cancer overcome feelings of iso-

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Redskins Charitable Foundation Invests in Ready for Work

Helping Prince George's County High School Students Graduate Career and College Ready

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

OXON HILL, MD—Today at Oxon Hill High School, the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation announced a significant \$300,000 investment in Ready for Work: Champions for Career and College Ready Graduates in Prince George's County. Redskins Owner, Dan Snyder, Chief Administrative Officer of Prince George's County, Nicholas Majett, CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, Dr. Kevin Maxwell, and President and CEO of Venture Philanthropy Partners, Carol Thompson Cole all spoke to the hope that Ready for Work will bring to Prince George's County.

"We are building relationships and forging trusting cross-sector partnerships of passionate leaders," said Carol Thompson Cole, President and CEO of Venture Philanthropy Partners. "The addition of the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation's support takes Ready for

Work to the next level in terms of major business partnerships and preparing more young people for work and college."

The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation believes in making a positive and measurable change in the lives of young people in our community.

"The Redskins and Venture Philanthropy Partners both believe that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed. We are proud to partner with VPP to invest in the dreams of young people," said Dan Snyder, Owner of the Washington Redskins.

Ready for Work plans to raise \$15 million dollars over a six-year period. It will support programs and services that expand the number of Prince George's County students graduating from high school who are on a solid path to be career and college ready.

"The Washington Redskins Foundation's investment in the graduates of Prince George's County will help build a pipeline

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Maryland Board Predicts \$365 Million Less in Revenue for Current Fiscal Year

By VICKIE CONNOR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Board of Revenue Estimates announced Wednesday that revenues for the current fiscal year are expected to be \$365 million less than predicted in March.

This is largely due to the state receiving less individual income tax revenue than the board had predicted.

Board member and State Comptroller Peter Franchot said the numbers reflect a stagnant economy.

"BRE's estimates ... indicate that for this calendar year, the average wage in Maryland is projected to increase by only 2.1 percent," Franchot said, "These revenue figures show many Maryland workers are bringing home the same or less pay as their living costs are rising, leaving them with less disposable income to spend."

The board estimated \$9.27 billion in individual income taxes and \$864 million in corporation taxes in March, the last time it released numbers. On



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY VICKIE CONNOR

State Comptroller Peter Franchot, D, center, at the Board of Revenue Estimates meeting in Annapolis on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. Andrew Schaufele, director of the board, is to Franchot's left. State Treasurer Nancy Kopp is on Franchot's right.

Wednesday, it revised these numbers to \$8.96 billion for income and \$853 million in corporate tax revenues.

The overall revenue estimate revision is the largest projection error since the 2010 fiscal year, when the state was in the midst of recession recovery and the panel was off by 5.25 percent.

Significant growth in the number of low-wage positions had a large impact on pulling down the numbers, said Andrew M. Schaufele, director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates.

"We are creating jobs that are highly concentrated in industries that pay below state average," Schaufele said.

Revenue estimates for the current, 2017 fiscal year follow a \$253 million shortfall in projections from the previous fiscal year, which ended June 30.

The board's new projections assume 2.7 percent growth in revenues over the last fiscal year, and project 3.4 percent

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INSIDE

Governor Hogan Dedicates Portion of Rt. 97 in Memory of Montgomery County Police Officer Noah A. Leotta

Because of Noah's dedication to public safety and passion for arresting impaired drivers, Montgomery County state elected officials requested a portion of MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in the Olney area be dedicated in his memory.

Community, Page A3

Ending Child Poverty: A Moral and Economic Necessity

Why don't we do what we know works and what is right to do? There is no more urgent need than ensuring a high equality early childhood development system for our children and this should be at the top of the agenda for all of our presidential and Congressional leaders.

Commentary, Page A4

Research Center Roundtable Sparks Farming Revolution

"Having the opportunity to come to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center to learn about their research, which is critical to food production in the State and the country, represents a unique opportunity to partner with many entities to work on this issue," said O'Neill.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Pete's Dragon

Pete, about 10 years old, has been living as a feral child in the forest ever since his parents were killed in a car accident six years earlier. (This and other tragic elements are depicted discreetly, to avoid upsetting the young children who are the target audience. I don't think the word "dead" or its cognates is ever used.)

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are many environmentalists against artificial cloning of living organisms? Isn't it a good way to save endangered species?

—Louis Bachman,
Chico, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Strings for Christ Concert celebrates Spanish Heritage Month

Davies Concert Series, now in its 45th season, presents Strings for Christ, music from Latin America in celebration of Spanish Heritage Month, on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. Members of the group are Wayman McCoy, Michelle Ruiz violins; Jonathan Jones, viola, and Denna Purdie, cello. The program includes works by Carlos Gardel, Luis Bonfa and Angel Villoldo.

The concert will be preceded by a performance by student artist Andrew Kivrak who'll play selections from Spanish Aires, Op.113 by Charles-Auguste de Beriot.

Admission: Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for 18 and younger. Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church is at 7400 Temple Hill Road in Camp Springs. For information, call 301-627-0284.

People

Karen Rooker recently visited Mount Rushmore with other VFW officials and was among the flag-bearers for the CAFE (Celebrating America's Freedom Event) ceremony. She is the Senior Vice President for the Maryland VFW Auxiliary.

Police Officer Vena Mitchell and Code Enforcement Officer Barry Wade were sworn in by Morningside Mayor Benn Cann during the Morningside Town Meeting Sept. 20.

Sister Letekidan has come from Eritrea to join the other Daughters of St. Anne in St. Philip's Parish. The convent is just behind my home and I enjoy the company of these good sisters. I also read twice a week to the children at their daycare. Eritrea, by the way, is a small African country on the Red Sea, just above Ethiopia.

Applause

The Town of Morningside is among 37 award winners (out of 3,500!) who'll be honored at the Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company's annual Safety Award Breakfast in Towson on Oct. 27. Morningside Council Member Sharon Fowler and Clerk-Treasurer Karen Rooker will be there to accept the prize.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has been recognized, in the 2016 Best Hospitals edition of U.S. News & Report, as #2 in the metro area and #5 in Maryland for its healthcare services and innovation.

Prince George's Police featured in new bestseller

Author Del Quentin Wilber gained access to the Prince George's County Police Homicide Unit to tell all about the twelve homicides, three police-involved shootings and the search for a killer—all happening in February 2013. The book is *A Good Month for Murder: The Inside Story of a Homicide Unit*. You might want to check it out.

At VFW Post 9619

Wacky Wednesday is happening every Wednesday, with all-you-can-eat and a raffle. Hours are 1 to 3 p.m. and the cost is \$9.

Many of the other activities at VFW Post 9619 are popular rentals, and include Tuesday's hand-dancing lessons, Wednesday night's dancing and Sunday DJ and hand dancing.

I didn't know what hand dancing is and went to the Net: "Hand dancing is a form of swing dance that can be traced as far back as the 1920s, from Lindy Hop, to Jitterbug and to the 50s when Washington, D.C. developed its own version and named it Hand Dance."

For more information about VFW activities, call Nola at 301-735-5290.

Food drive, yard sale & dinner at Clinton UMC

Clinton UMC Women's Fall Canned Food Drive/Yard Sale & Fish/Chicken Dinner will be Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fish and chicken dinners will be served from 10 to 2:30 p.m. Tables, \$15; call Mia at 301-868-1288. The church is at 10700 Brandywine Road in Clinton.

Changing landscape

County Exec Baker spoke at the "I See Opportunity: An Announcement of New Investments in Iverson Mall and the Suitland Area" meeting in Iverson Mall on Sept. 23.

The State Highway Administration has begun a \$155,000 project to enhance the Route 5 bridge over Coventry Way in Clinton by painting a steel beam on the bridge, helping to prevent rust. The project is due for completion by mid-fall, weather permitting. There will be lane closures.

The National African American History & Culture Museum opened to the public on Saturday, Sept. 24. For a schedule of events and other information, visit nmaahc.si.edu.

May they rest in peace

Chloe Williams, 7, a student at Benjamin D. Foulois Academy, died of a rare form of cancer on Sept. 3, but not before she had won the hearts of Morningside and the Foulois family. In June Morningside Mayor Cann declared Chloe Williams Day and she was transported by fire engine to Foulois for a celebration in her honor. She was named Fire Chief for a Day. Chloe was the daughter of Maurice and Aneesah Williams and sister of Maurice Jr., all of Upper Marlboro.

Lucille B. Henderson, 92, a resident of Temple Hills for more than 50 years, died Sept. 17. She worked in the business license office and later the marriage license division at the court house in Upper Marlboro and was a 50-year member of St. John's Church in Clinton. Survivors include seven children, Kathryn, Susan, Robert, Louise, Stephen, Aimee and Laura; five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a great-great-granddaughter. Burial will be at Arlington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30; Jasmine Wade, Nola Thomas and my grandson Sam Mudd, Oct. 2; John Ibrig, Oct. 3; Marlene Titus, Oct. 4; Sue Gilmore and Muriel Ireson, Oct. 5; Rory Lohman, Carmen Buffington and George Nixon, Oct. 6.

Happy 58th anniversary to Larry and Jean Beardmore on Oct 4; and happy 30th to Bill and Terry Ratliff, also on Oct. 4.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Clinton United Methodist Men will have their Annual Men's Day Celebration on Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 PM. Mr. Cary Montgomery from New Hope Fellowship will be their guest speaker. Men's Choirs from churches throughout the area will provide the music. Dinner will be served following the service. The address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

TRASH TO TREASURE GREEN CRAFT FAIR

Watkins Nature Center presents their 8th Annual Trash to Treasure Green Craft Fair Saturday, November 12, 2016 10:00 AM-4:00 PM at Watkins Nature Center in Watkins Regional Park. The address is 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Admission is free.

Come and explore local artists and crafters who create treasures. These treasures are made from at least 50% recycled, organic, fair trade or sustainably-harvested materials. Learn about ways to create recycled crafts

with members of local non-profit and environmental groups. Also learn how you to get involved in your community.

Jewelry, knitwear, recycled wood carvings, paintings, candles, and other items will be on sale. Get a book or give a book at the Book Exchange booth. Throughout the event food and beverage vendors will be selling their fare. You will be able to purchase a raffle ticket and win one of several items donated by the vendors, including gift cards and merchandise.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP PARISH

The United Methodist Women presents "Stop Worrying and Start Praying" Prayer Breakfast Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 8:30 AM at Family Life Center/Nottingham Myers UMC 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. Donation: \$20.00—advance/ \$25.00—door. Guest speaker will be Minister Ruthell Bland, Deliverance Church of Christ, Capitol Heights, Maryland. For more information, contact Christ UMC 301 888-1316, Nottingham My-

ers UMC 301- 888- 2171, Janice Watkins 202-247-8691 or Lillie Skinner 301-782-4579.

2016 HARVEST HALLOWEEN JAM/GALA

Please join us as we kick off our annual fundraiser (Prince George's County NAACP Branch). The 2016 Harvest Halloween Jam/Gala is Friday, October 28, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Martin's Crosswinds located at 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

There will be a live auction, silent auction and raffles throughout the night. Examples of auctions and raffle items include autographed sports memorabilia, a beach & cruise vacation, wall art and much more. Single tickets cost \$75, Couple Tickets \$140 and a table of ten (\$650). Ticket prices include an all you can eat & drink buffet featuring pit beef, turkey, BBQ ribs, steamed shrimp, etc., with beer and wine included. Music will be provided by a local DJ. For tickets or more information, please contact Zachary Hawkins at 301-455-1051 or zdhawkins@verizon.net.

Neighborhoods

Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation Applaud New Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Representatives Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Elijah E. Cummings (MD-07), C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), Chris Van Hollen (MD-08), John P. Sarbanes (MD-03), Donna F. Edwards (MD-04), and John Delaney (MD-06) issued the following statement applauding the announcement of a new Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security. The announcement was made this morning by University of Maryland, Baltimore President Jay Perman and University of Maryland, College Park President Wallace Loh, who were joined by University System of Maryland Chancellor Robert Caret, at one of the two Maryland sites that are being proposed for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) new, consolidated headquarters. The new academy is a partnership between UMB and UMD, which will allow two of Maryland's premier research universities to work strategically and collaboratively with the FBI.

In making today's announcement, Presidents Perman and Loh, Chancellor Caret, national security experts, and education officials participated in a "Whistle Stop," riding the MARC train and the Metro to Greenbelt to highlight the efficient transportation options in Prince George's County.

"We are very excited about this new national security partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. From proximity to Washington and transit connections to world-class institutions of research and higher education and premier cyber security and defense facilities, there is no doubt that Maryland has the two best sites for the FBI's new, consolidated headquarters. The creation of this new academy further strengthens our bid by providing the FBI with yet another asset that will benefit its current workforce, train its future workforce, and advance the FBI's mission. We are also pleased that today's event highlighted the efficient transit options that make Maryland's sites convenient for the FBI and its employees. We thank Dr. Perman, Dr. Loh, and Chancellor Caret for their commitment to creating a strategic partnership with the FBI, as well as Mayor Emmit Jordan for hosting today's event in Greenbelt."

Chesapeake Beach Sailor Trains to be a Military Pilot

CHRISTI, TEXAS—A 2010 Huntingtown High School graduate and Chesapeake Beach, Maryland native participates in the lengthy and rigorous training process that transforms military officers into pilots

2nd Lt. Stephen Anderson is a Marine Corps student naval aviator with the "Rangers" Training Squadron (VT-27), based in Corpus Christi, Texas, that operates the T-6B Texan II aircraft. As a student, Anderson is responsible for learning to fly multi-engine and land-based aircraft in conjunction with the

Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps.

"I love the people that I get to work with, the camaraderie is not only great but the training in itself is absolutely amazing," said Anderson.

The T-6B Texan is a training aircraft that is powered by a 1,100 shaft horsepower, free-turbine, turboprop single-engine, four-bladed propeller, with a cruising speed of 310 mph.



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
2nd Lt. Stephen Anderson

VT-27's primary mission is to train future naval aviators to fly as well as instill leadership and officer values, Navy officials explained. Students must complete four phases of flight training in order to graduate, including aviation pre-flight indoctrination, primary flight training and advanced flight training. After successfully completing the rigorous program, naval aviators earn their coveted "Wings of Gold."

After graduation, pilots continue their training to learn how to fly a specific aircraft, such as the Navy's F/A-18 Hornet strike fighter jet, the P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft or the SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. They are later assigned to a ship or land-based squadron.

Many of these pilots will fly aircraft which take off from and land aboard aircraft carriers and other aviation and air-capable ships, a unique capability which allows Naval Air Forces to operate integrally with surface forces anywhere on the world's oceans. Recently, Navy strike aircraft operating from aircraft carriers sailing in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and from Middle East waters have launched hundreds of missions against terrorist targets in Iraq and Syria.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's squadrons with the newest aircraft platforms, Anderson said he and other VT-27 sailors are proud to be part of a warfighting team that readily defends America at all times.

"The instructors here are great at what they do," said Anderson. "I look forward everyday learning from them because with their knowledge and expertise, I know I can be the best I can be both as an aviator and officer."

Jobs are highly varied at VT-27, according to Navy officials. Approximately 60 men and women officers and 15 civilian employees, make up and keep all parts of the squadron running smoothly—this includes everything from training the new aviators, maintaining airframes and engines, processing paperwork, along with handling and flying the aircraft.

"What the men and women of this squadron ac-

complish every day is nothing short of miraculous," explained CDR Corbett Dixon, Commanding Officer of VT-27. "The students are in the process of moving from just another college graduate in society, to someone who sacrifices their own time and effort for society. That's what it means to serve in the Navy. That's what they're learning as they learn to fly. And the staff here, the instructor pilots

and civilians, put in an amazing amount of effort day in and day out, to ensure that we send the best young men and women forward to serve our nation, with all the skills, dedication and integrity necessary to serve successfully."

Serving in the military, Anderson is learning about being a more responsible leader, Marine and person through handling numerous responsibilities. "My dad served as a Marine Corps Cobra Pilot," said Anderson. "I was brought up in a military lifestyle and now serving in the Marine Corps like my father, it's definitely had a lasting impact influencing me to be both a better man and American."

Scholarship Offers to Maryland Grads Approach Last Year's Record

BALTIMORE (September 14, 2016)—Maryland's class of 2016 received more than \$1.3 billion in college scholarship offers, according to the results of a new Maryland State Department of Education survey. Students received offers totaling just short of \$1.32 billion in scholarship offers, nearly equaling the class of 2015's record total.

"Students increasingly need educational opportunities beyond high school, be it college or vocational training, and that can be expensive. Scholarships can help students pursue their dreams," said Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools.

The survey found that 18,819 graduates received offers last year—about one-third of the 2016 graduating class of 56,954. The scholarships included more than 150 National Merit Finalists and more than 350 scholarship offers from Ivy League institutions.

For more than a decade, MSDE has been collecting data on college and university scholarship offers received by its graduates, and over the years the total dollar amount of those offers has risen dramatically. Maryland graduates received less than \$500 million in scholarship offers in 2007, for example, and passed the \$1 billion threshold for the first time in 2013.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

What College Students Should Learn About Money

As you prepare for a new year at college, managing your money may be the last thing on your mind. But, college is the perfect time to instill strong and healthy financial habits, such as budgeting and living within your means.

By starting on the right foot with good saving and spending habits, you'll have a good chance to set yourself up for a life of financial success. Here are some ideas students—with the help of parents, relatives and the school's financial aid office—can consider while taking the leap into living away from home.

Create a financial plan early on. Create a general financial plan for your college years right away, and a more detailed budget for the upcoming semester. You can start with estimated costs for tuition, fees, room and board from your school's financial aid office and fill in the actual numbers once you know them.

Even with financial aid, most college students need to be frugal as they balance major expenses and a limited income from work or parental support. While you may need to take out student loans, the better you manage your personal and educational expenses the less you'll have to borrow now, and repay later.

Adjust your budget as you go. Your focus should be school, but you can also take time to track your money and stick to your budget. A budget can be a tool and a learning opportunity, and particularly during your first few semesters, you'll likely have to make adjustments as you learn to balance wants and needs. Try to stick with it and remember it's okay to make changes (and an occasional mistake) as you go.

Parents can discuss how they manage their personal or family budget and offer suggestions for cutting expenses or finding work. College students may face many financial firsts, such as signing a rental agreement, purchasing insurance or applying for a loan, and parents can share their experiences and advice.

Make your budget add up. Learning how to roll with the punches and live within your means are timeless skills. You'll have to balance academic obligations with a part- or full-time job to increase your income. But, there are often flexible on-campus jobs you can qualify for if you have a work-study grant as part of your financial aid package.

When it comes to saving, there are all sorts of ways to cut costs on necessities and indulgences. Consider the following three tactics almost any college student can use to spend less money.

- **Use student discounts.** Dozens of stores offer students discounts, validated with an official ID, or a .edu email address, and you may be able to save 10 to 20 percent off your purchase. Ask store employees or check online before to see if a store offers a student discount before checking out.
- **Save on textbooks.** Look for alternatives to buying new textbooks, such as renting textbooks, buying used books, purchasing or renting e-textbooks or using the library's reference copies.
- **Mobilize your savings.** If saving money is just one more thing you don't want to think about, you can save your spare cash via your smartphone. Thinking about buying a car next summer or saving money for spring break? There are mobile apps that will calculate how much money you can afford to save at a given moment—whether that's \$20 or ten cents—and will save it for you. You could also set up an automatic weekly or monthly transfer to your savings account through your bank. Chances are you won't miss the money, and you won't spend it if you don't see it in your checking account.

Make a practice of saving for the future. You'll want to figure out the best way to use your savings. If you've taken out student loans, you could allocate some of the money to early loan payments.

Private and unsubsidized federal student loans accrue interest while you're in school. Making a payment can help you avoid increasing your debt load and save you money on interest. Plus, unlike with some other types of loans, there's no penalty for making early student loan payments.

Bottom line. College is an ideal time to instill healthy financial habits. Ask your parents or other relatives for guidance, discuss student loans and budgeting with your college's financial aid office, learn a new skill online or attend a local personal finance workshop or seminar. While you set off on a series of firsts, take advantage of these resources to learn how to manage, save and wisely spend your money.



Governor Hogan Dedicates Portion of Rt. 97 in Memory of Montgomery County Police Officer Noah A. Leotta

Governor Details Life-Saving Impact of Noah's Law—Effective October 1 Unveils New Signs Along Georgia Avenue in Olney, Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan unveiled a new sign dedicating a portion of MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in the Olney area of Montgomery County to honor Police Officer Noah A. Leotta. Officer Leotta was struck by a drunk driver on December 3, 2015, while pulling over another suspected drunk driver during a holiday patrol. He died on December 10 as a result of his injuries. Following his tragic death, Officer Leotta's family, friends and fellow officers worked with state elected officials to pass Senate Bill 945, the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016 (Noah's Law). The governor signed the bill into law on May 19, 2016.

"Today as we unveil signs on MD 97 bearing Noah's name, along with the message 'Don't Drink And Drive,' we remember him and we say 'thank you,'" said Governor Hogan. "We thank Noah for his service, we thank him for his sacrifice, and we thank him, knowing that even in death, he will continue to save lives through the law which bears his name."

Noah's Law will take effect on October 1, 2016. It mandates the use of an ignition interlock for those convicted of drunk driving and will significantly increase administrative driver's license suspension periods. An ignition interlock is a device that prevents a vehicle from starting when it detects a certain level of alcohol on the driver's breath and requires the driver to retest at random points while they are driving.

"Noah was a dedicated police officer who had a passion for getting drunk drivers off our

roadways," said Officer Leotta's father, Richard Leotta. "His legacy of saving lives will continue with the enactment of Noah's Law. Starting October 1, 2016, Noah's on patrol."

Under Noah's Law, drivers are required to participate in Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program for the following convictions:

- Driving under the influence (DUI);
- Driving while impaired (DWI) while transporting a minor under the age of 16;
- Driving while intoxicated with an initial breathalyzer test refusal; and
- Homicide or life-threatening injury by motor vehicle while DUI or DWI.

"Drunk driving kills and ignition interlock is a key tool to end drinking and driving," said Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

Over the past five years, impaired drivers have accounted for roughly one third of all roadway deaths in Maryland. On average, there are 7,884 impaired driving crashes statewide, resulting in 171 fatalities and 4,026 injuries every year.

"Today, we are dedicating this roadway to Officer Noah Leotta, who lost his life while conducting drunk-driving enforcement to protect our community members," said County Executive Isiah Leggett. "This roadway, now named in his honor, serves as both a tribute to his passion to protect and a continuing reminder to always drive sober and safely to avoid any more tragic losses."

"This is a somber occasion as we dedicate a portion of Rt. 97 to Officer Noah Leotta, who, like 171 people on average every year in Maryland, was

killed by a drunk driver," said Delegate Ben Kramer. "But, this also is a time for hope as the start of Noah's Law on October 1 will save more lives through the expansion of Maryland's nationally-recognized Ignition Interlock Program. Ignition interlocks s ... period ... and through the law that bears his name, we will know that Officer Noah Leotta is still on the job and saving lives."

The passage of Noah's Law strengthens Maryland's already robust Ignition Interlock Program, making it one of the strongest programs in the nation. Maryland's program, which began in 1989, is monitored by the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). Today's Ignition Interlock Program is fully automated, which allows the MVA to efficiently monitor participants and take action against program violators. Maryland has the sixth highest number of ignition interlocks installed and the ninth highest usage rate in the nation. Noah's Law will add several thousand drunk drivers to Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program.

"Our dedicated law enforcement partners throughout the state are committed to removing impaired drivers from our roads," said Maryland State Police Colonel William M. Palozzi. "Thanks to Noah's Law, we have another tool to put an end to this deadly crime."

"Last December, Officer Noah Leotta was killed doing a job he loved," said Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger. "Because of Noah's Law, he is still saving lives. The signs we unveil today reminds all of us of Noah's service and sacrifice."

According to a 2012 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study, drivers who have interlocks installed in their vehicles are 35 to 75 percent less likely to have a repeat drunk-driving offense than convicted drunk-drivers who do not have a device installed. The study demonstrates that the ignition interlock device can help change behavior.

"Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program works and last year alone prevented nearly 4,000 drunk-driving trips," said MVA Administrator Christine E. Nizer. "This program saves lives, and thanks to Noah's Law, we will be able to save more lives."

Because of Noah's dedication to public safety and passion for arresting impaired drivers, Montgomery County state elected officials requested a portion of MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in the Olney area be dedicated in his memory. The dedication request was reviewed and recommended by the Maryland Transportation Commission and approved by Secretary Rahn. While Noah was not hit along MD 97, he was raised in the Olney community, attended school there and his parents continue to reside in this area. The section of MD 97 to be dedicated in his honor covers approximately a half mile from the Intercounty Connector interchange to Emory Lane, which includes the portion of roadway next to the cemetery where Noah is buried. The dedication signs will include the wording: Don't Drink and Drive to remind motorists to always make a plan to have a safe and sober ride home.

For more information on Noah's Law and Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program visit the website www.towardzerodeathsmd.com/noah.

Statement From CEO on Disciplinary Actions Related to Head Start Program Incidents

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Over the past two weeks, I have carefully reviewed the circumstances surrounding the loss of our federal Head Start Program grant. From the beginning, I have pledged to hold those who violated our students' rights and

dignity and betrayed parents' trust fully accountable.

Today, I have taken disciplinary action against six individuals directly involved in the incidents cited in the Administration for Children and Families report, including certified teachers, classroom aides and an administrative supervisor. These individuals will no longer be in front

of any child in Prince George's County Public Schools.

Our message is clear: We will not tolerate this type of behavior. Our schools will cultivate teaching and learning environments that prioritize students' well-being—and we will act swiftly to remove individuals who do not uphold these ideals. We are continuing to implement system-

wide recommendations from the Student Safety Task Force, steps that will improve our protocols around reporting and transparency at all levels of the system. Every day, we will work diligently to fix the culture and conditions that led to past incidents and abuses.

Our children and community deserve nothing less.

Teacher from A1

special education students who do not give up on their dreams despite life's challenges."

As a winner of the Presidential honor, Lazaro will receive a certificate signed by President Obama during an awards ceremony on September 8 and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. She

will also attend several educational and celebratory events, take part in professional development opportunities, and visit with members of the President's administration.

"Lazaro's name is added to a growing list of Prince George's County Public Schools educators who are receiving national recognition for the work they're doing in the classroom and be-

yond," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools. "I am proud of her recent success and motivated by the daily impact she's making in her students' academic lives."

Lazaro has been a special education teacher at Buck Lodge Middle School since 2005. She teaches students in grades six through eight, and has served as

Science Department Chair since 2008. Lazaro uses a variety of strategies to address the different learning styles of her students, including using pictures, visuals, and manipulatives; incorporating hands-on activities; and embedding video/technology presentations. She is committed to learning, and frequently takes part in professional development opportunities.

Support from A1

lation, loss of control/hope that often accompany a cancer diagnosis. Based on participant surveys and feedback from oncologists, people who take part in our programs have decreased levels of depression, develop effective ways to manage stress and side effects, and actively participate with their health care teams."

The arrival of this multifaceted resource in Prince George's County has been greeted with great enthusiasm by members of the community, business leaders and county officials. According to Pamela Creekmur, director of the Prince George's County Health Department, "Hope Connections fills a tremendous void for people in the county who up to now either had to travel a long way to find—or do without—these all-important services."

Hope Connections Prince George's County programs for 2016, All Free of Charge:

Orientations (required for participation in support groups and mind/body programs)

- Mondays at 11 a.m. & 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Support Groups

- All Cancer Support Group—Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Caregiver Support Group—Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Mind/Body Programs

- Gentle Yoga—Tuesdays, 10–11 a.m.

Educational Workshops

- Breast Cancer Update—Thursday, 10/6, 6:30–8 p.m.
- Precision Medicine—Thursday, 11/10, 6:30–8 p.m.

Social Program

- Holiday Potluck Dinner—Friday, 12/9, 6–8pm

Hope Connections for Cancer Support helps people with cancer and their loved ones deal with the emotional and physical impact of cancer through professionally-facilitated programs of emotional support, education, wellness and hope. Programs are available to anyone affected by cancer, regardless of their diagnosis, stage of disease, age, economic status, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or where they receive their medical care. Thanks to the generous support of many individuals, corporations and foundations, all programs are provided free of charge.

For more information on the many programs available, please call Hope Connections for Cancer Support at (301) 634-7500.

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Announces More Than \$930,000 in Federal Funds to Reduce the DNS Backlogs in Maryland

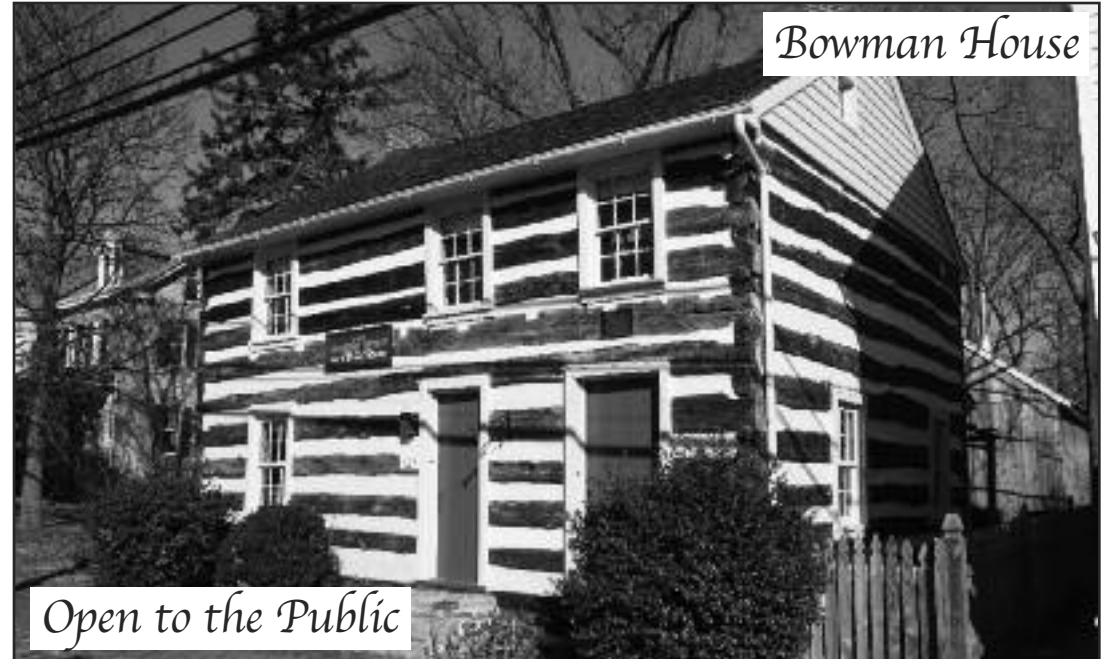
Federal Grant Will Help Maryland Law Enforcement Efficiently Prosecute Crimes, Protect Communities

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) today announced \$938,864 in federal funding to reduce DNA backlogs in Maryland. The Baltimore City Police Department has been awarded \$349,850, Prince George's County has been awarded \$171,258, Baltimore County has been awarded \$167,756, Anne Arundel County has been awarded \$125,000 and Montgomery County has been awarded \$125,000 to reduce forensic DNA sample turnaround time and help get violent offenders off the streets. The grants are being awarded through the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

"Our state and local law enforcement work around the clock to keep our communities safe," said Senator Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee which funds the DOJ. "These funds in the federal checkbook will be used to reduce untested DNA evidence backlogs in Maryland's crime labs, effectively solve and prosecute crimes, and make sure we put the right bad guys behind bars. I will continue fighting to make sure Maryland law enforcement has the tools it needs to keep our families safe."

The funding was awarded through the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program, which provides state and local government crime labs performing DNA analysis with resources to bolster their capacity through investments in infrastructure and expanding analysis capacity. Crime labs use these funds to process DNA samples efficiently and cost effectively. The grants are also used to identify and test backlogged forensic DNA casework samples. These improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs, catching the right criminals and taking them off of our streets, and helping Maryland use the full potential of DNA technology.

As Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Mikulski works each year to put funds in the federal checkbook for law enforcement, assuring local and state authorities have the resources necessary to protect Maryland's families. Senator Mikulski included \$125 million in grant funding to state and local entities to reduce DNA backlogs and increase forensics testing capacity as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.



Bowman House

Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: ACROTHERION

BOWMAN HOUSE

The Bowman House, built by Jacob Powles during the first half of the 19th century, is typical of log houses built in Western Maryland. In 1868, John E. Bowman purchased the log house and established the Boonsboro Pottery. His kiln was about 75 feet to the rear of the building. The pottery closed in 1908, succumbing to mass-produced materials. The building is now the office of the Boonsboro Historical Society. Located at 323 North Main Street. Open May to October on the fourth Sundays, 1 PM to 4 PM. Call 301-432-8410.

Child Watch
 by Marion Wright Edelman



Ending Child Poverty: A Moral and Economic Necessity

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory ... all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats ... Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'"

—Matthew 25:31-36

"[The contemporary tendency in our society is] to compress our abundance into the overfed mouths of the middle and upper classes until they gag with superfluity. If democracy is to have breadth of meaning, it is necessary to adjust this inequity. It is not only moral, but it is also intelligent. We are wasting and degrading human life by clinging to archaic thinking. The curse of poverty has no justification in our age."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*

Forty-nine years after Dr. King wrote this in his last book, we are still fighting to end the curse of poverty in rich America. Every new sign of progress gets us one step closer—but we must keep going and never give up until we reach the finish line.

Poverty data just released by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal child poverty declined last year to 14.5 million poor children from 15.5 million in 2014, one million fewer but still higher than before the recession began in 2007. The national child poverty rate declined from 21.1 percent in 2014 to 19.7 percent in 2015, a statistically significant decrease but nearly one in five children. Child poverty rates declined for White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian children and that is good news. Yet despite the good news, children of color are still disproportionately poor and comprise nearly

70 percent of poor children in America. One in three Black children and more than one in four Hispanic children were poor in 2015, compared to one in eight White children. They live in another America. In 2020, the majority of children in our country will be children of color, so when we deny them the basic necessities of life we are threatening all of our futures.

Do we really want to continue to jeopardize the futures of our next generation and our national military and economic security which is being formed in the bodies and minds of our children today—all of them? It is a moral disgrace that children remain the poorest age group in the nation and one in three poor people in America is a child, and the one in five children who are poor continue to struggle with odds stacked against their success. The younger children are in America the poorer they are: in 2015 more than one in five infants, toddlers and preschoolers were poor during their years of greatest brain development. Nearly half of poor young children live in extreme poverty—at less than half the poverty level. Poverty hurts and the damage can last a lifetime. The research

is so clear that the early years are critically important in laying a foundation for early childhood and adulthood. Why don't we do what we know works and what is right to do? There is no more urgent need than ensuring a high equality early childhood development system for our children and this should be at the top of the agenda for all of our presidential and Congressional leaders.

While we applaud that one million children escaped poverty in 2015, America must stop having two classes of children with millions living in third world conditions. It is a national moral disgrace that millions of poor children languish and fall behind in our rich land of opportunity for some. Poverty is defined as an annual income below \$24,257 for a family of four. Extreme poverty is half of the annual poverty level, or less than \$12,129 for a family of four. There are more than 6.5 million extremely poor children in America—more than the combined populations of Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, and the District of

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Connecticut Education Ruling is Endorsement for Main Street Marshall Plan

"A spending scheme really can't be said to be aimed at elementary and secondary school education when the state doesn't even enforce a coherent idea of what these words mean. The state's definition of what it means to have a secondary education is like a sugar-cube boat. It dissolves before it's half launched."

—Connecticut Superior Court Judge Thomas Moukawsher

Connecticut Superior Court last week didn't just tell the state to fix its broken funding system—it essentially relegated the system to the ash heap of history. Instead of trying to even out the funding gap, Judge Thomas Moukawsher told the General Assembly to figure out how to even out the achievement gap, then fund that.

Moukawsher's ruling echoes the education plan of the National Urban League's Main Street Marshall Plan, which calls for increased federal funding to local school districts to help eliminate resource equity gaps. Moukawsher's ruling also endorsed universal high-quality preschool, another plank in the Plan.

In Bridgeport, one of Connecticut's poorest cities, the graduation rate is 63 percent. Many fifth-graders read at a kindergarten level and some high-schoolers arrive reading at a third-grade level. The district cannot afford school buses. While Bridgeport spends about 88% of what neighboring wealthy Fairfield spends per-pupil, the funding gap is not enough to explain the achievement gap.

What Moukawsher's ruling means is legislators should not focus on raising Bridgeport's per-pupil spending to Fairfield's level, but raising Bridgeport's student outcomes to Fairfield's level.

The ruling has implications for the entire country, where disparities are even greater than in Connecticut. A recent analysis found that sixth-graders in the nation's wealthiest school districts read at a

level four full grade levels above those in the poorest districts.

In a well-known illustration that has become a symbol for the plaintiff in this case, Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding, three children of differing heights are depicted standing on boxes of equal height, trying to peek over a fence. Only the tallest child is able. The caption: "Equality." In the second panel, children of differing heights are depicted standing on boxes of varying heights, each lifted enough to see over the fence. The caption: "Equality."

Judge Moukawsher essentially told the General Assembly is, don't consider simply the size of the boxes, but whether the boxes are boosting the children high enough.

The Urban League Movement has been focused on the issue of equity in education for many decades. Last year's State of Black America included a state-level education equality index. Our research found reading proficiency gaps among children of color that ranged from 80% in Hawaii—where 100% represents parity with white students—to 19% in the District of Columbia. Only 14% of Black fourth-graders in D.C. tested at or above proficient in reading. Math proficiency gaps ranged from 69% in West Virginia to 21% in Wisconsin. The relatively small gap in West Virginia, however, is due to lower achievement among students of all races. Only 35.6% of white West Virginia fourth-graders tested at or above proficient in math, compared with 24.7% of Black fourth-graders.

In addition to increased federal funding to address educational inequities, the Main Street Marshall Plan also calls for universal early childhood education. But policies have to address other socioeconomic barriers to achievement as well. Check out the full Main Street Marshall Plan at www.stateofblackamerica.org, and urge your elected representatives to support it.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Seeking Mental Health Help is Not Something to Be Ashamed Of

If you simply ignored a physical ailment, like a high fever or a broken bone, people would be dumbfounded if you don't get the help of a medical professional.

Yet many people refuse to see a mental health issue as just as serious and normal a problem as any physical ailment. Instead, they create a stigma that characterizes someone seeking help for a mental health problem as weak, or unstable, or possibly dangerous.

While such reactions are becoming less common, they still exist and keep millions of Americans from seeking the readily available professional help that would make them healthier and happier.

Instead, many people avoid seeking mental health help out of fear of being "labeled" with a mental illness, feeling family and friends won't understand, or that it could lead to discrimination at work or school. They may see mental health problems as a sign of personal weakness, and mistakenly believe that they should be able to control whatever is wrong without outside help.

The reality is that people who seek needed help aren't weak, but are instead showing real strength in trying to correct a very fixable problem. Just as getting to a doctor for the right medicine to stop that high fever makes good sense, so does finding a professional counselor who can help someone overcome the problems he or she is facing.

And such problems are very common. It's estimated that one in eight adolescents is suffering from depression. Current statistics find that about 117 Americans take their own lives every day. Yet only a small percentage of people needing mental health help seek treatment.

Mental health issues are not a reason for shame, but rather simply a condition that requires treatment by a professional. Anxiety, depression, panic attacks, eating disorders, social phobias and similar problems are not signs of personal weakness nor reasons for shame. They are simply conditions that can, in most cases, be treated successfully and can result in a happier, healthier and more productive life.

If you or someone you know is suffering from a mental health issue, don't give in to the stigma, but rather take action for better health. Talk to a friend or family members about what's bothering you and look to a professional counselor for assistance. Seeking mental health help is as logical and right as seeking out that trained doctor when you have that fever.

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

Revenue from A1

more income for the 2018 fiscal year, which begins in July.

These projections are unrealistic without budgeting money correctly, according to the Maryland Center on Economic Policy.

"Unless the state makes investments in things that will grow our economy—like improving our schools, roads, and transit networks—continuing to expect state revenues to grow 3 or 4 percent a year may be too optimistic," Benjamin Orr, executive director of the economic policy center, said in a statement.

David Brinkley, Board of Revenue Estimates member and secretary for the Department of Budget and Management, said

Gov. Larry Hogan's commitment to fiscal responsibility is prudent, but said spending-mandate relief is necessary in the upcoming General Assembly session.

Hogan spokeswoman Amelia Chasse said these types of budget problems will remain as long as "the Majority Leadership" does not make spending reforms. Democrats control the state Legislature; Hogan is a Republican.

Franchot, a Democrat, said policymakers must exercise restraint in order to avoid imposing additional burdens on Marylanders who are already struggling economically.

"The budgets, spending bills and fiscal policies enacted in this town have a real impact on people's financial well-being," he said.

"Education Matters Summit" for Prince George's County Students and Parents

Students and parents are invited to attend the FREE "Education Matters Summit-Part 1" on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Prince George's Community College, Largo, Maryland. Representatives from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCFF) will be present. Students and parents will learn about scholarship opportunities, financial aid, preparing for the SAT, how to prepare a well-written essay and much more.

The event is **FREE**, but pre-registration is required.

For more information, visit: www.pgcacdst.org

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Research Center Roundtable Sparks Farming Revolution

Coleman Speaks on Exclusive Panel at Inaugural Maryland Agricultural Business Roundtable

By Lori Valentine
PGCEDC

BELTSVILLE, MD—More than 40 nationally renowned scientists and researchers from the agricultural business community, along with state and local officials came out to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) on September 9th to participate in the inaugural Maryland Agricultural Business Roundtable. The goal of the Roundtable, created by Dr. Ellen Harris, Director of BARC, is to ignite a farming revolution, to educate the agricultural science community about the entrepreneurial side of their research, and connect scientists with the business community in an effort to bring their research to the masses. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was among the distinguished panelists who talked about avenues for connecting BARC research to the agricultural business community in Prince George's County and beyond.

"The EDC is proud of the matchmaking it does in the business community, regardless of the industry sector," said Coleman. "This County is on fire with possibilities and has access to a host of incentives and grants at the federal, State and local levels that can be utilized in the farming industry to help get Prince George's County residents back to work. As the great-grandson of a farmer, I know that qualified labor is very important. I am personally committed to being BARC's partner for the farming revolution, and that commitment starts today!"

The Roundtable represents the first time that the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the business community have come together to showcase how they can mutually help each other be successful. The scientists learned about technology transfer grants that they can access to move their research to commercialization. They also heard from the Chair of the Friends of Agricultural Research - Beltsville, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the research accomplishments coming out of BARC. Scientists briefly shared their research projects and discussed the benefits to agriculture and everyday living.

Kim Lewers, a USDA, Agricultural Research Service scientist, working on genetic improvement for fruits and vegetables, has been working on developing a strawberry plant that will bear fruit for nine months or more, instead of the typical three weeks common in this part of the country.

"I am grateful to Dr. Harris for bringing this group of people together who are interested in economic development through agriculture in this region," said Lewers. "I believe that a lot of potential has been discovered through the presentation Mr. Coleman gave, which can help local growers reach out to retailers to move their produce. This was very exciting."

Dr. Harris created the Roundtable to generate a discussion that will bear fruit for both the scientific and business community.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman speaks with scientists from the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center during Maryland Agricultural Roundtable.

"Today's inaugural Maryland Agricultural Business Roundtable was absolutely wonderful thanks to the support of the EDC," said Harris. "We had amazing presentations from my scientists, who I am so proud of, and local business leaders who will make great partners. Because we had, not only businesses, but also State and county officials to talk with our scientists, our goal for this roundtable has been met."

Key officials in attendance included State Senator Jim Rosapepe, Greenbelt Mayor Emmitt Jordan, Prince George's Department of Environment Director Adam Ortiz (representing County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III), and Maryland Department of Commerce Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship Director Peter O'Neill, and several national program leaders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I found today's Roundtable to be very refreshing. Governor

Hogan has made it clear to the Commerce Department that agricultural development is very important. Having the opportunity to come to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center to learn about their research, which is critical to food production in the State and the country, represents a unique opportunity to partner with many entities to work on this issue," said O'Neill. "A partnership with the EDC must happen if we are to deploy programs relevant to entrepreneurs, and larger companies. This is a jewel of a program."

For more information about how the EDC can assist in matchmaking between the agricultural community and businesses, please contact David Lewis, EDC Business Development Director at (301) 583-4650 or dklewis@co.pg.md.us. Also, be sure to follow the Prince George's County EDC company page on LinkedIn (click here) to stay informed about key business news.

Theater from A1

to their favorite artists and special events. With Live Nation, our exclusive booking partner, we'll deliver an experience unlike any other in the region."

Slated to host world-class concerts, comedy shows, UFC, cabaret-style acts and boxing events, among others, The Theater at MGM National Harbor will debut its first act following the resort's opening later this year. The venue's opening schedule will be announced in the coming weeks.

Ted Mankin, vice president of Booking for Live Nation US Concerts - East, said, "Together Live Nation and The Theater at MGM National Harbor will open up a whole new array of live entertainment offerings to the DC area. The scale and flexibility of the venue gives our team the opportunity to demonstrate their comprehensive talent booking skills. Live Nation and MGM are both focused on providing our fans and guests with the best experiences possible, which makes this exclusive partnership a very natural fit."

Find the Perfect Seat

Setting itself apart in the market, The Theater at MGM National Harbor will feature reconfigurable seating options that deliver prime sightlines for every guest. Advanced telescopic seating will allow the MGM National Harbor team to create custom arrangements for each event, from a traditional concert layout to a 360-degree configuration for boxing. The venue's flexibility allows for a capacity of 3,000 guests for reserved-seating events with slightly more than 4,000 for general admission shows.



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR
The Theater at MGM National Harbor will allow for a capacity of 3,000 guests for reserved-seating events.

All levels of the theater will offer guests a wide range of food and beverage options for mid-show libations and bites.

Meeting and convention planners can coordinate top-notch banquets and speaking engagements using the venue's scalable chair and table designs. The resort's catering department can assist with creating a gourmet food and beverage experience.

Live the Suite Life

For those looking for a night of luxury, The Theater at MGM National Harbor will house seven VIP suites. Guests will enjoy the view of a lifetime in private boxes and can indulge in the following amenities:

- Private entrance
- VIP lobby featuring a full-service bar and stylish décor

- Personalized catering offerings
- The Theater's three center suites can be combined to create the ultimate party destination for up to 200 guests

Experience MGM National Harbor

Taking it beyond a typical dinner and a show, guests of The Theater will be able to experience MGM National Harbor's stunning amenities. Whether it's feasting at a celebrity chef eatery, staying in a luxury suite or strolling through MGM National Harbor's public fine art collection, the resort will allow event-goers to create the ultimate night on the town. Resort amenities include:

- 308 rooms, including 74 premier suites

- Restaurants from world-renowned chefs Marcus Samuelsson, Jose Andrés and the Voltaggio Brothers, in addition to many other world-class culinary concepts
- Destination spa and salon
- A 125,000-square-foot dynamic casino offering slots, table games and poker
- Two nightlife venues with unrivaled cocktail programs
- The MGM National Harbor Heritage Collection featuring artwork inspired by the Capital Region's rich heritage

For additional information and renderings for MGM National Harbor, please visit newsroom.mgmnationalharbor.com.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Pete's Dragon

Pete's Dragon
Grade: A-
Rated PG,
a few perilous moments
1 hr., 43 min



ROTTENTOMATOES

A reimagining of Disney's cherished family film, *Pete's Dragon* is the adventure of an orphaned boy named Pete and his best friend Elliott, who just so happens to be a dragon. *Pete's Dragon* stars Bryce Dallas Howard (*Jurassic World*), Oakes Fegley (*This is Where I Leave You*), Wes Bentley (*The Hunger Games*), Karl Urban (*Star Trek*), Oona Laurence (*Southpaw*) and Oscar (R) winner Robert Redford (*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*). The film, which is directed by David Lowery (*Ain't Them Bodies Saints*), is written by Lowery & Toby Halbrooks based on a story by Seton I. Miller and S.S. Field and produced by Jim Whitaker, p.g.a. (*The Finest Hours*, *Friday Night Lights*), with Barrie M. Osborne (*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Great Gatsby*) serving as executive producer. For years, old wood carver Mr. Meacham (Robert Redford) has delighted local children with his tales of the fierce dragon that resides deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. To his daughter, Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard), who works as a forest ranger, these stories are little more than tall tale ... until she meets Pete (Oakes Fegley). Pete is a mysterious 10-year-old with no family and no home who claims to live in the woods with a giant, green dragon named Elliott. And from Pete's descriptions, Elliott seems remarkably similar to the dragon from Mr. Meacham's stories. With the help of Natalie (Oona Laurence), an 11-year-old girl whose father Jack (Wes Bentley) owns the local lumber mill, Grace sets out to determine where Pete came from, where he belongs, and the truth about this dragon.

Howard), a forest ranger, humors her dad and the children he tells tales to, but doesn't believe in things she can't see. (Theme alert!) When loggers stumble upon Pete and bring him to town, Grace, her logger fiancé Jack (Wes Bentley), and Jack's daughter Natalie (Oona Laurence) are fascinated by his matter-of-fact description of what they assume is an imaginary friend.

Lowery, co-writing with Toby Halbrooks (who produced some of his earlier films), gives the story the conflict it needs to be driven forward, but not at the expense of the sweet serenity that lies at the center of it. Yes, nobody believes Pete at first; yes, child protective services wants

to take Pete away; yes, as soon as Elliott's existence is confirmed, Jack's greedy brother (Karl Urban) wants to capture him. Lowery doesn't whip us into a frenzy over any of these complications, and he doesn't let them drag on longer than necessary.

Nor is he interested in raucous, rude action. Apart from a couple of wet dragon sneezes, there's very little in the way of rowdiness or clowning; though the film has humorous moments (and they work well), it's more a tender, dramatic adventure than a comedy.

The emotional element is likewise muted, with no histrionics or "big moments." Pete and Elliott's friendship is en-

chantingly simple (the dragon doesn't talk), and the new connections Pete forms with Grace and Natalie are pure and uncomplicated. This light touch pays off in the end, when the tears are earned rather than jerked. It shows respect for the young audience, not beating them over the head with the emotions they're supposed to feel.

Above all, this *Pete's Dragon* is humble and unassuming, as if unaware of its quiet power. Free of the flamboyance that marks so many kids' movies, and of the winking references to the past that plague so many remakes, Lowery's vision is wonderful and big-hearted, beautiful inside and out.

REDSKINS from A1

of career and college ready young people who will go on to contribute and benefit from our growing and thriving community," said Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer of Prince George's County.

By 2021, we anticipate that 2,775 students at Suitland, Oxon Hill, and High Point high schools will be career and college ready with another 400 graduates in the

pipeline every year thereafter.

These three high schools are part of the County's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI). It aims to improve the quality of life in six neighborhoods that face significant economic, health, public safety, and educational challenges.

"Ready for Work would not be possible without impactful investments like the one from the Washington Redskins Charitable

Foundation," said CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, Dr. Kevin Maxwell. "Their investment will directly support our work to prepare students for success after high school."

Ready for Work will create the long-term systematic change required to ensure Prince George's County graduates become successful, healthy adults who benefit from and give back to our community.



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The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

What the NFL Players' Union Chief Has to Say About Colin Kaepernick's Protest



On Friday night, August 26th, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick made the decision that he would not stand for the national anthem before his team's preseason game against the Green Bay Packers. Afterward, he gave the following statement to NFL media:

I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.

Kaepernick is of course not the first athlete to choose to protest during the anthem on anti-racist grounds. From the raised fists of John Carlos and Tommie Smith to NBA player Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf in 1996 to Manhattanville basketball player Toni Smith in 2003, such actions have always provoked not only controversy but ferocious backlash. In an era when more athletes are taking political stands, particularly around questions related to police violence, it was inevitable that activism and protest would play out in the NFL—football being the country's most popular sport and the NFL being a multi-billion dollar business highly dependent on black labor. Kaepernick's protest is provoking a predictably brutal reaction across social media as well as statements of support.

To help understand the waters Kaepernick will now be navigating, I did an exclusive interview with the executive director of the NFL Players Association, DeMaurice Smith. Below is a lightly edited transcript; the full audio interview follows.

Dave Zirin: What's your response to not only what Colin Kaepernick did, but also to his statement afterwards?

DeMaurice Smith: First and foremost, our players are members of their community and obviously they have their own personal views, personal passions. I know Colin is a passionate individual. When I read [his statement], I thought, first and foremost, that protests and demonstrations have always been a part of what's gone on throughout the history of sport.

Personally, I think the pregame celebration is important. I think honoring the flag is important. I know that one of the things that we always talk to our players about, is certainly, if you want to impact the political system, statements and things like this are important, but so is voting and so is getting people out to vote, regardless of your party affiliation.

Throughout our history, whether it's through sit-ins or demonstrations, whether those occurred at lunch counters or coming out on the football field, at the end of the day, I think the way in which we've impacted the political system the most is making sure that not only individuals vote, but making sure that everybody has that right to vote.

DZ: But Colin Kaepernick is speaking very directly about police violence, not voter registration. That's a different discussion.

DS: Well, I'm not sure it is because it is you raising an issue that is important to you. And again, we're reading and interpreting what he's saying, but I think there is a very small step that always needs to be taken from raising the level of consciousness about a certain issue and that next small step that I think everyone has to take is: What am I going to do instead of just talking about it or raising awareness?

For me, everything has historical antecedents. Thousands of people before me marched in the streets and thousands of people engaged in something like the Children's Crusade. The goal there was to raise awareness about all sorts of things. But the next step to that was, let's make sure that we engage in some sort of political action to make change. And I'm not saying that those two things are binary, but I do think that this idea of making sure that we take that next step on how are we going to impact the system is something that is important if not as important as raising awareness.

DZ: What would the union do to support any players in the future who take their protest to the field of play?

DS: I think, unfortunately, this is the part where you get the lawyer answer from me because it's a complicated, fact-specific question of when things take place. We do have rules that govern what players can wear, what they can't wear, what they can put on their shoes, what they can say, what they can't say.

Demonstrations like this are not protected union activity, obviously. Some issues of freedom of expression are probably going to be OK. I can certainly think of some that would probably run afoul of NFL rules. I think it's important not to get engaged in sort of a blanket statement about what's permissible and what's not. I do think that the real

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REMINDER:

Register for the Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County invites community organizations, schools and businesses to join us for the annual countywide Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up' on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

"'Clean Up Green Up' is an opportunity for residents to beautify their neighborhoods by coming together for a day of cleaning, weeding, mulching and litter removal," said Darrell B. Mobley, Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). "This event provides residents, schools and businesses with an opportunity to partner with Prince George's County Government, the Neighborhood Design Center, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, Prince George's County Public Schools and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to keep Prince George's County clean and green."

The Department of Public Works and Transportation will provide plastic gloves,

trash bags, safety vests, and a maximum of ten bags of mulch and litter grabbers for the 'Clean Up Green Up' for registered participants. Supplies and mulch will be available for pick up at the Maintenance Facility located at 8400 D'Arcy Road in Forestville on Wednesday, October 26 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and on Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The application deadline for the Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up' is Friday, September 16, 2016.

Students who participate in the 'Clean Up Green Up' will receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service are available at the schools.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call DPW&T's Office of Highway Maintenance at 301-499-8523 or e-mail Samantha Vannaseng at SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us.

Calendar of Events

September 29 — October 5, 2016

Film Screening: *Visions of Aztlán*

Date and Time: Thursday, September 29, 2016, 6:30–8:30 pm
Description: *Visions of Aztlán* explores the Chicano Art art movement that flowered amid the confrontations and turbulent street demonstrations of the 1960s. Directed by veteran Chicano filmmaker Jesús Salvador Treviño, *Visions of Aztlán* introduces us to a generation of Mexican-American artists who were inspired by the Chicano Civil Rights Movement to portray Mexican-American life at a time when the community was largely invisible in the popular culture. 2010, 58 minutes.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All Ages
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; 301-699-2544

Monarch Search and Tagging

Date and Time: Friday, September 30, 2016, 9 am–12 noon
Description: Search through various habitats for Monarch butterflies to tag with a small sticker as part of the Monarch Watch citizen science project.

Please bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Out of the Attic Appraisal Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, October 1, 2016, 9 am–12 noon
Description: Bring up to 4 items for evaluation by Weschler's of Washington, D.C. (Please no antiques, books, stamps, toys, or foreign coins.) This program benefits the Riversdale Historical Society. 9–10 am slots are open to members only.

Registration required by September 23.
Cost: General Public, \$15 per item;
RHS members, \$10 per item

Ages: Ages 18 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

Bicycle Nature Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, October 1, 2016, 1–3 pm
Description: Take a nature tour by bike to Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and enjoy the sights and sounds of the wetlands, birds, and more! Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own bike or call the park to reserve one of ours for your trip. Remember your helmet, water, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
Ages: Ages 12 & up
Location: Patuxent River Park Group Camp
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Fall Colors Boat Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, October 1, 2016, 3:30–5 pm
Description: Board a pontoon boat for a quiet cruise on the picturesque Patuxent River. Get a water view of the different fall colors of the wetlands and trees.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

36th Annual Kinderfest

Date and Time: Sunday, October 2, 2016, 12 noon–5 pm
Description: Enjoy an afternoon created especially for preschool and elementary-aged children. Great entertainment, games, fun activities, and more!

Cost: FREE (Nominal fees for food and some activities.)
Ages: All ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

Classical Recital: Peter Pakhomkin, Guitar

Date and Time: Sunday, October 2, 2016, 3 pm
Description: Hailed by the Baltimore Sun as an artist of “formidable talents,” Russian-American guitarist, Piotr Pakhomkin, is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after concert guitarists of his generation.

Among his numerous national and international performances, Piotr has been featured at the Kennedy Center and Millennium Stage in Washington, DC.

Following the recitals, please join us for a reception sponsored by CAAPA: Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

Cost: Free, \$5 donation is appreciated
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Andes Manta

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Description: This educational program features dozens of traditional instruments, from the lyrical sounds of the Quena (Andean flute) to the haunting tones of the six-foot-long panpipes.

The musicians' signature piece—“Causai Pacha”—weaves music into a trip to the Amazon Rain Forest, complete with chirping frogs and calling birds.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more
Ages: Recommended for grades 7–12
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Artificial Cloning: Unnatural and Inhumane, or the Savior of Endangered Species?

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are many environmentalists against artificial cloning of living organisms? Isn't it a good way to save endangered species?

—Louis Bachman,
Chico, CA

As many endangered species near extinction, cloning seems like a viable solution to rebuild populations. Using DNA from already deceased animals, cloning can even increase the diversity of a gene pool. There are only seven white rhinos confirmed to be alive today, for example, so adding only a few more through cloning could mean the difference between extinction and survival of the entire species. Why, then, do many environmentalists oppose the artificial cloning of endangered species?

Cloning is often thought of as unnatural and inhumane, but it was, in fact, the first method of reproduction and is still very common in nature today. Asexual reproduction, the oldest form of cloning, is used by aspens, stick insects and Kentucky Bluegrass.

Artificial cloning began in 1928, when Hilde Mangold took a first step: injecting DNA into an egg. By 1952, the first animal was successfully cloned. It was a tadpole. Per-

haps the most notable clone in recent history, Dolly the Sheep, was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell. The first endangered animal to be cloned was the Gaur in 2001. But along with these successes were many failed and forgotten clones. Even the cloning of common, well-understood animals is difficult. Dolly the Sheep was the result of the 434th cloning attempt and only lived to just over half the average lifespan of a sheep. When the animals are endangered and their reproductive physiology is not well understood, cloning gets even more difficult.

Cloning of endangered species has a wildly low success rate; usually under one percent. Even successful clones are often not able to themselves reproduce and usually live shorter than average lives. Because of the potential for reducing the already low numbers of existing population of endangered species, scientists often use close relatives for eggs and as mothers to gestate the cloned embryos. This often results in the mother rejecting the egg or if the clone is born, reproductive complications.

Due to such inefficiencies, most environmental leaders are not bullish on cloning endangered species. “The potential



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Dolly the sheep will forever be remembered as the first cloned mammal, but someday cloning could become our best hope for saving endangered species.

of cloning is intriguing, but it's been very little tested in terms of its practical application,” says Oliver Ryder, an endangered species expert at the San Diego Zoo. “The way to preserve endangered species is to preserve them in their habitat.”

Despite not being a viable current method for saving endangered animals, cloning could very well be effective in

the future. “Frozen zoos” in San Diego and Brazil hold the genetic material of extinct and endangered animals and could be used if need be and if the technology improves. In the meantime, and as Ryder points out, efforts to stop poaching and the destruction of habitats—rather than high-tech fixes like cloning—could go much further to preserve species.

CONTACT: San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, institute.sandiegozoo.org.

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issue is what's the conversation that we should be having with a group of players who have a tremendous platform and can have an ability to impact the political system. It's a certain level of gross naïveté to believe that you are somehow insulated from what's going on around us, politically. At its most crass level, we all know and the players know that the NFL spends a lot of money on public policy and lobbying and things like PACs and that's just the reality of where we live and the business that we're in. The players made a decision to create a PAC as well.

But I do think that the real issue has to be the conversation that I would want to have with our players: that in America where people have fought so hard for the right to vote, how do we prevent the creep back on that right, whether it is related to gender, sex, race, previous conditions. And those are real, tough conversations and we don't shy away from those in our locker room.

DZ: What do you have to say to the torrent of people who are saying that Colin Kaepernick should just shut up and play or keep his opinions to himself?

DS: We have fought against that mantra for years, right? The fan who believes that we should shut up and play... that means that you don't want to hear us, you just want people to entertain you. That because you've decided to buy a ticket, that somehow the people that you watch are relegated to just a two-dimensional person without a soul, without feelings, without rights. Well that's not the way that we approach it.

We love, certainly, the game of football, but when you turn the TV off and you stop seeing the players running around on the field, I can guarantee you that they continue to exist. They still come from the neighborhoods that they come from, they still experience the things that they've experienced. They still have to fight for the things that every American is entitled to and that doesn't mean that we're only talking about the field. We're a year away from a group

of cheerleaders who successfully sued the league and resolved issues of sex and wage discrimination. So I'm not sure that any father, son, mother, you know, brother whose family member is on that playing field would want to hear that their family member should just shut up and play because that reduces you to something less than human.

We don't think that way about coal miners who go into the hole, we don't think that way about our police officers, we don't think that way about our firefighters. I mean, one of the most repulsive statements I've seen in the last couple years in this business, was a statement by the, I guess she's a part owner of the Colts, who said, and I'm paraphrasing, if players are concerned about things like concussions, well they could always get another job. We don't say that when it comes to fireman and police officers and coal miners when we're talking about safety equipment.

DZ: I have little doubt that right now, as we're talking, Colin Kaepernick probably feels a little bit isolated, a little bit besieged. That's what usually happens when you say something and it blows up on social media, the way this has. Do you have a message for Colin Kaepernick? Is your phone there for him? Is the union there for him if he's looking for any help or support?

DS: The union is a family and we represent our players unconditionally. I know that I talked to Don Davis, our head of player affairs, today. He'll reach out to Colin today. He's got union reps, he's got my cell phone number. We'll reach out to him, as we always do with our players. We don't judge and I know the NFL likes to call themselves the family. The union is the only family our players have outside of their own families.

Regardless of what happens, it's important to us to make sure that they understand that we're here for them. We'll always be here for them and that's the message that they hear every day in their locker rooms.

DZ: You're a historically-minded person. What does it say about this country that, at least by my observation, a lot of the media members, not to

mention just regular sports fans who had a lot of beautiful things to say about Muhammad Ali when he passed away, could then turn around without thinking twice, absolutely trash Colin Kaepernick?

DS: Well, again, you talk about historical context, you and I remember how people reacted to what Muhammad Ali was doing in the '70's and the '80's and what the reaction was then. Unfortunately, it wasn't the outpouring of love that we saw when he died, right? I loved the tributes. I had an opportunity to go up to the Onondaga Nation this summer and spend time with Chief Oren Lyon who was one of the members who spoke at Ali's funeral. The conversations with him reminded me about just how radical and the level of vitriol and hate that was expressed towards Ali in the '60's, '70's and '80's when he was taking those stands.

We tend to always tell our stories backwards. We wait until someone has passed and then it's the glowing retrospective and then we like to frame it as, well that's where people are right now. That wasn't where a great majority of people were back then. But you talk about the personal courage of somebody like him, defying the draft notice and making a decision that he was going to exercise his conscientious objection. You go back and you read how every other case of a similarly situated individuals resulted in the granting of that conscientious objection except for him!

DZ: I'll read the words, some people try to say, yeah, well that was Ali in the 60's, you hear the words of Jackie Robinson, right before he died in 1972, he said “I can not stand and sing the anthem, I can not salute the flag. I know I am a black man in a white world in 1972 and 1947, at my birth in 1919, I know that I never had it made.”

So this is not new, what Colin Kaepernick is doing.

DS: No, and I had the pleasure of spending some time with Walter Beech, who was one of those NFL players who was in that iconic photo with Jim Brown and Muhammad Ali and he mentioned the exact same thing. So, to me, the beauty of

where we are right now is that we are dealing in conflicted times and the only beauty that we can elicit from this is to embrace the things that have kept our country surviving. Things like freedom of speech, freedom of expression. Those are things that don't necessarily come without cost, but things that we have tried to ensure and instill for generations to come.

When the conversation today is so pitched and so sharp and so polarizing where it's simply designed to drown out meaningful conversation, we're not necessarily in the world where, for the most part, it's that issue of government oppression on freedom of speech. The concern that I'm speaking about, not to say that those things don't exist, the concern that I'm talking about is the very freedom of expression is now being used to curtail expression and that's a bad place.

DZ: It's hard to have this discussion, also, without thinking of [NBA player] Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf who in 1996, didn't come out of the locker room for the national anthem and then he read prayers while it was being played. He certainly believes, his contemporaries certainly believe, that his actions during the anthem paved his way for getting bounced out of the league [NBA]. I feel like what I'm hearing you say, is that you're not going to allow that to happen to Colin Kaepernick.

DS: There is never going to be a day where this union is going to sit back idly and allow anybody to trample our players' rights. We've taken certainly stands that I'm sure haven't been popular across the board. The version of “shut up and play” that I hear is, why do these guys need a union to begin with? Well, they have one and we are always going to take the position of fighting for the rights of our players and if we believe that those rights have been violated, we're going to stand up and support every player and that's what we're going to do. My hope is that it doesn't get to that point in this case or any other case, we never pick a fight with anybody, but we certainly don't shy away from one if the league brings one to our door.

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