

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 49 December 8 — December 14, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Maryland Grows More Politically Polarized, Like the Rest of U.S.

By VICKIE CONNOR, ROBBIE GREENSPAN, SAM REILLY and HANNAH LANG
Capital News Services

COLLEGE PARK, MD—While Maryland voted for the Democratic candidate in 2016 for the seventh straight presidential election, a deepening Republican loyalty in more rural areas of the state indicates increased polarization throughout Maryland, a Capital News Service analysis found.

While liberal-leaning urban areas helped Hillary Clinton secure Maryland's 10 electoral votes and Democratic candidates won all but one U.S. House seat

Tuesday, November 8th, the state's liberal base didn't perform according to expectations.

Donald Trump received a higher percentage of votes than Mitt Romney in 15 of the 18 Maryland counties that voted Republican in 2012, while Clinton failed to expand on President Barack Obama's coalition from 2012.

Of the six counties that voted Democratic four years ago, only two counties—Howard and Montgomery—supported Clinton at higher rates than they supported Obama.

Maryland counties voted the same way in 2016 as in 2012, ex-

See POLITICS Page A3

Will Trump Make Maryland's Transportation Great Again?

By VICKIE CONNOR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—While President-elect Donald Trump vowed to build a wall, Maryland lawmakers and officials are hopeful he will build up the state's roads, tunnels and public transit.

Trump has plans to invest in infrastructure. According to his website, he wants to pursue "an 'America's Infrastructure First' policy." Among other industries, like water quality, telecommunications and energy, the busi-

nessman wants to put money toward transportation.

According to Trump's website, he wants to "implement a bold, visionary plan for a cost-effective system of roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, railroads, ports and waterways, and pipelines in the proud tradition of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who championed the interstate highway system."

And this gives state leaders and legislators a glimmer of optimism.

See MD TRANSIT Page A7



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (3rd from left) with John Huggins, Prince George's County Emerging Leaders Instructor and the 2016 Washington D.C. Metro Area Small Business Administration Emerging Leaders graduates from Prince George's County.

SBA Certifies 31 'Emerging Leaders' as Next Top Companies in the Region

EDC President Jim Coleman Challenges Program Graduates to Create Social Programs for County Residents—Jobs

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

WASHINGTON, D.C. On November 9th, 31 local entrepreneurs were given the unique opportunity to graduate from the Washington D.C. Metro Area Small Business Administration (SBA) Emerging Leaders program. This enterprising seven month program consisted of two Emerging Leaders classes for 2016; one in Prince

George's County, Maryland and one in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority served as co-sponsors and host sites for this year's classes. The Prince George's County class was comprised of sixteen companies; 12 were from Prince George's County, and the remaining four came from D.C. or Montgomery

County. The remaining 15 companies were from the Fairfax area.

"I challenged these graduates to think past their bottom lines and to think about their legacies," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "The information and the expertise they received from this program mean nothing if they do not pay it forward to help their communities thrive. There is no better social program to uplift a com-

munity than a good, high-wage job; and that is just what these CEO's have to offer. The EDC is delighted to be a part of the SBA's Emerging Leaders program and we look forward to a great partnership to mutually benefit everyone."

The SBA Emerging Leaders Initiative is a federal training initiative that specifically fo-

See LEADERS Page A5

Prince Georges County Woman Receives Distinguished Service Award From Her Alma Mater

By PRESS OFFICER
Rice House

RICHMOND, VA—Some graduates' lives take surprising twists and turns after they leave the EKU campus.

Not so with Onyinyechi (Onyachi) Chuku, '06. From almost day one at Eastern, she blended a certain fearlessness and ambition with a heart for service as she took advantage of every opportunity to excel as a student-athlete, grow as a leader and make a positive difference in the lives of others. And this proud daughter of Nigerian immigrants is doing much the same today—back in her native Prince Georges County, Maryland, and across the globe as a humanitarian.

It should surprise no one that Ms. Chuku's "day job" as project manager and director of community relations for a public access television station and event manager and brand/marketing consultant for several small businesses barely begins to tell the story of her community contributions. It's a story that circles back to EKU even today.

A three-time recipient of the Gold-Level Presidential

Volunteer Service Award, bestowed by President Obama, for all her community service in Maryland, Ms. Chuku launched a "Fresh Start" mentoring program for graduating high school seniors and serves in many ways to empower youth. Meanwhile, she continues to work through the EKU Young Minority Alumni Group to network with fellow graduates, encouraging them to give back and mentor others who might be motivated by success stories. She is also co-founder of Minority Collegiate Connection, a student mentorship and leadership development organization.

"For me," she declared, "service isn't just what I do, but it's who I am. Daily I aspire to live a legacy of being a woman who had a desire to inspire, served others and learned that the key to a purpose-filled life isn't found in what you get, but in what you give."

Her role models at Eastern included former Assistant Track and Field Coach Tim Moore, former Associate Athletics Director Derita Ratcliffe, former Director of Multicultural Student Affairs



PHOTO COURTESY RICE HOUSE

Onyinyechi (Onyachi) Chuku, third from left, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was presented the Distinguished Service Award recently by the Eastern Kentucky University International Alumni Association for her efforts to mentor young people and help them achieve their educational dreams. Chuku, who graduated from EKU in 2006, is the first African American woman to receive the honor. Others, from left, are Dr. Tom Martin, president of the EKU International Alumni Association; Jan Barnes, vice president of the association; and Dr. Michael Benson, president of the University.

Zenetta Coleman, the late Kimberly Merritt and Delta Sigma Theta-Eta Rho Chapter Adviser Donna Moore. "I am a product of good mentorship and strong community support. I take the

time to mentor and do motivational speaking geared toward developing the next generation

See AWARD Page A5

Doctors Regional Cancer Center's Dr. Heather Lee Named Top Doctor

By PRESS OFFICER
Bonnie Henson

BOWIE/LANHAM, MD—Dr. Heather Lee, a board-certified radiation oncologist on staff at Doctors Regional Cancer Center, was named among the 2016 Castle Connolly Top Doctors. Lee earned her medical degree from New York University and did her residency at Thomas Jefferson University in radiation oncology.

Castle Connolly Top Doctors are selected by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. after being nominated by peer physicians. Nominations are open to board-certified doctors and each year tens of thousands of doctors cast tens of thousands of nominations. Honorees are selected from the nominees by the Castle Connolly physician-led research team based on criteria including their medical education, training and hospital appointments.

More than 44,000 physicians—approximately 5 percent of the nation's licensed physicians—have been selected as Castle Connolly Top Doctors in



PHOTO COURTESY BONNIE HENSON
Dr. Heather Lee

their regions for their specialties. Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. publishes its list of Castle Connolly Top Doctors online and in printed directories and partner publications.

Doctors Regional Cancer Center seeks to improve the quality of life for cancer patients

See DR. LEE Page A3

INSIDE

King Sends Letter to States Calling for an End to Corporal Punishment in Schools

In the long term, students who experience physical punishment in school are more likely to later grapple with substance abuse and mental health issues, including depression, personality disorders and post-traumatic stress.

Community, Page A3

Fidel Castro: A Legend Loved and Loathed

Shortly following his release after 27 years spent in jail as a political prisoner, Nelson Mandela made a trip to Havana to express his gratitude to Castro. Cuba under Castro opposed apartheid and supported the African National Congress, Mandela's political organization.

Commentary, Page A4

U.S. Department of Education Awards \$104 Million to Support Minority Serving Institutions

Institutions of higher education are deemed eligible to receive funds under the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions programs ...

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Doctor Strange

Directed by horror veteran Scott Derrickson (*Sinister*, *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*), *Doctor Strange* also boasts the best opening sequence of any Marvel film so far, in which Tilda Swinton (good) and Mads Mikkelsen (bad) and their respective cohorts fight in a gravity-defying, reality-skewing parallel version of London.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways I can get my college to be more green?

—Bill Ott, Troy, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Maryland Choral Society celebrates Christmas with carols at Mount Calvary

The Maryland Choral Society begins the 2016-2017 season with *Joyeux Noël*, a collection of holiday-inspired works at Mount Calvary Church on Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. The program includes carols of the season, particularly those of France, including Charpentier's beloved *Messe de Minuit pour Noël*.

General admission is \$20; seniors and students, \$15; children 10 and under, free. Mount Calvary Church is at 6700 Marlboro Pike in Forestville. For information or to purchase tickets, visit www.Maryland-ChoralSociety.org. Reserve your tickets for 15% discount; enter online code: MCS2016.

Artistic Director, Dr. Douglas Buchanan, will present *The Half Note*, a pre-concert discussion starting 30 minutes prior to the concert. This informal talk will focus on the music's historical context and what to listen for throughout the program. The *Half Note* is free for all concertgoers.

Hansel & Gretel Tea Party

Visit Darnall's Chance when it is decorated like a gingerbread house. Listen to the story of *Hansel and Gretel*, enjoy tea and dessert, and participate in a holiday craft activity on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. It's for ages 5 years and older.

Registration fee is required for all attendees. Capacity is limited; reservation and payment required in advance: resident, \$17, non-resident, \$22. Call 301-952-8010 or go to history.pgpc.com.

Darnall's Chance House Museum is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro, on a hill overlooking School House Pond.

People

Jasmine Jones, who grew up in Upper Marlboro, recently won the Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 title. She attended Shadyside Elementary French Immersion School and James Madison Middle French Immersion School and graduated in 2007 from Frederick Douglass High School where she was a National Honor So-

ciety scholar, dance captain and Class President.

Tony and Sally Tanedo, of Camp Springs, recently vacationed in Spain and made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

Former Skyline resident Roy Thompson and his wife Patty have returned from a wonderful trip to Germany, including Oberammergau. Roy enjoyed driving really fast on the Autobahn, taking advantage of the fact that it has no speed limit.

In a recent column I wrote about the outstanding success of Jeff Kenney and his *Wimpy Kid* series. Since then I learned Jeffrey Kenney was born in 1971 at Andrews. His dad was an analyst at the Pentagon. Jeff went to Potomac Landing Elementary, Eugene Burroughs Middle and McNamara High School where he graduated in 1989. He attended Villanova on an ROTC scholarship, then transferred to the University of Maryland in the early '90s. His success continues with the recently-published *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down* (Book #11).

Changing landscape

The new MGM National Harbor opened today (Dec. 8) to great excitement. However, a traffic nightmare was predicted. If you manage to get there, call and tell me about it. Action Tag & Title has opened at 6901 Old Alexandria Ferry Road in Clinton. The sign on the door announces, "Discount for retired military and government." Call 301-379-7087 for information.

Work continues on the new regional campus of the College of Southern Maryland in Hughesville. The master plan includes five phases of growth. The first phase will be the construction of a 30,000-square-foot Center for Trades and Energy Training. Other phases will include a Health Sciences building, Fine Arts Center, field house and athletic fields. Anticipated opening is spring 2017.

County Exec Baker attended the groundbreaking of the new Public Safety Pier at National

Harbor on Nov. 22.

Gov. Larry Hogan has announced plans to replace the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge in Southern Maryland. It would be 1.7 miles from the existing bridge, which has one lane of traffic in each direction. The new bridge will have two lanes each way and a barrier-separated bicycle and pedestrian path. It could open by 2030.

May they rest in peace

Joseph Martin Messina, Jr., 44, a 1993 graduate of Potomac High School who participated in SPRED at St. Philip's Parish for 35 years, died Nov. 14. He was born in Washington to Regina Bias and Joseph Messina Sr. After graduation, he worked in the restaurant industry. He was involved in Holy Family Church as altar server and member of the Men's Club. Survivors include his father, sister and brother-in-law Felicia and Conrad D'Haiti, and other relatives. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Benjamin Lee "Ben" Thompson, 89, of Mechanicsville, died Nov. 4. He was the brother of longtime Skyline resident Corben Thompson. Ben served in the Merchant Marines and the Army and for 30 years worked as a lineman for Pepco. And as his nephew Roy Thompson said, "He raised tobacco all his life on his farm." He was the husband of Shirley and father of six.

Milestones

Happy birthday to John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud and Sen. Mike Miller, Dec. 3; Mark Witherow, Jr. and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Es-kew) Simms, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Sandra Mickey and Brian Doyle, Dec. 7; Crystal Pruitt and Charles Boxley, Dec. 8; Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Sharon Fowler and Diane Zirkle, Dec. 10; Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11; Bernie Barbour Pace, Thomas Shipman Jr. and Jim Trexler, Dec. 13.

Happy 14th anniversary to Johnny and Helen Richardson, Dec. 14.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Westphalia United Methodist Church will celebrate their Annual Christmas Concert Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM. The church is located at 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Rev. Dr. Timothy West is the Senior Pastor. The church website is www.westphaliau.org.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

The Prince George's County Family Justice Center is an initiative of the Circuit Court "seeking justice, restoring hope." Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. The Center Family Justice Center is located across from the Commissioner's entrance to the Courthouse and has free parking. The address is 14757 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-780-8008. The Center is also accessible by public transportation on Bus 20, 21, or 51.

Some of the goals of the Center are to foster a countywide cul-

ture of dignity and respect for all. To provide coordinated, easily accessible help and resources to adults and children exposed to abuse. To foster a countywide awareness of violence prevention. There are other goals for the Prince George's County Family Justice Center that I did not list.

CHANGE THE WAY YOU AGE

Seniors 60 or older who reside in Prince George's County can obtain a free Community Center/Fitness room ID card. Bring proof of age and residency to any M-NCPPC community center during operating hours. Many programs and activities offer reduced rates for seniors. You can visit www.pgpc.com and click on the SMARTlink logo to browse through classes.

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Celebrating 30 years is a can't miss event for the whole family featuring a dynamic choir in a 30-foot tree, live orchestra, thousands of twinkling lights and a heartwarming holiday drama. Come and join us De-

ember 9-11 (Friday 7:30 PM, Saturday 1:30 and 6:00 PM) at Riverdale Baptist Church. The address is 1177 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774.

Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 Seniors/children 10 & under). You can purchase tickets online at livingtreetickets.com or call 301-249-9111. Reserved seating, tickets limited, group pricing available. Live nativity opens an hour prior to each performance.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

UNITY Economic Development Corporation provides free workshops to families who may be experiencing financial trouble with their mortgage and need help in assessing affordable and sustainable homeownership. Workshops are held once a month on the 3rd Thursday of each month 3:00 PM-5:00 PM at 5801 Allentown Road, Suite #308, Suitland, Maryland 20746. Registration is required. Please call 301-505-0331. Know your options, assessing short-term, long term, and permanent options to continuing home ownership or letting it go and moving on.

Neighborhoods

Hospital Offers Lectures, Screenings and Support Groups to Help People Improve and Maintain Their Health

LANHAM, MD—Throughout the year, Doctors Community Hospital offers numerous lectures, screenings and support groups. These services are designed to help people maintain and improve their overall health. Some of its upcoming offerings include:

Free Bariatric Surgery and Weight Loss Lecture
Mondays: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, October 2, November 6, December 4 at 9:00 a.m.
Fridays: December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, September 29, October 27, November 17 and December 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Doctors Community Hospital 8116 Good Luck Rd. Professional Office Bldg., Suite 210 Lanham, MD 20706

Obesity is often linked to diabetes, sleep apnea, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, arthritis and other conditions. In many cases, losing weight reduces or eliminates the need to use some of the medications taken to manage such conditions.

Doctors Community Hospital's free bariatric surgery and weight loss lectures are presented by Dr. Hitesh Amin, MD, board-certified surgeon and medical director, Bariatric and Weight Loss Center. In addition to general information about weight management and behavior modification, Dr. Amin educates people about advanced surgical procedures that are covered by most insurance plans. One such bariatric surgery procedure uses the daVinci® robot, which may result in reduced pain, shorter hospitalization and faster recovery.

For more information or to register, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968). Also, visit DCHweightloss.org.

Free Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Colon or colorectal cancer is often preventable and curable. However, it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Maryland. Regular colon cancer screening (colonoscopy) is one of the best ways to prevent this disease or identify it early—when it is most treatable. We offer free colonoscopies to Prince Georgians who are:

- Ages 50 or older
- Ages 50 or younger with a family history of colorectal cancer
- Uninsured or underinsured

All colonoscopies are performed by experienced gastroenterologists at Doctors Community Hospital, which is located at 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

Free Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program

Regular medical screenings are among the best ways to prevent many forms of cancer or detect them early—when they are most treatable. We offer free breast and cervical screenings to Maryland residents who are:

- Women ages 40 or older
- Uninsured or underinsured
- Insured but not screened
- Limited income

Women should be screened for breast cancer at:

- Ages 40 and older—have mammograms and clinical breast exams yearly
- Ages 20s and 30s—have clinical breast exams as part of regular health assessments at least every three years
- Ages 20 and older—perform breast self-exams and notify doctors of any changes immediately

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

Free Breast Cancer Support Group

Third Tuesday of each Month 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital 8100 Good Luck Rd. North Bldg., 4th Floor, Room 415 Lanham, MD 20706

From managing the side effects of treatments to coping with body image anxieties, women who are diagnosed with breast cancer sometimes encounter physical and emotional challenges. However, they don't have to face that battle alone!

Doctors Community Hospital's breast cancer support group was designed to empower women within a nurturing and compassionate environment. At monthly meetings, women are encouraged to:

- Share their experiences—providing hope and encouragement to others
- Learn about the latest healthcare innovations—becoming well-informed survivors
- Develop friendships—creating comradeship among those who have similar experiences

For more information, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968). Also, visit www.DCH-web.org/breast.

Free Breast Cancer—Male Caregiver Support Group

Third Tuesday of each Month 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital 8100 Good Luck Rd. North Bldg. 5th Floor, DSE Room Lanham, MD 20706

For many men, caring for their loved ones who have breast cancer can cause feelings of fear, anxiety and uncertainty. However, they don't have to face those challenges alone.

That's why Doctors Community Hospital offers a free support group for male caregivers of those who have breast cancer. It encourages men to:

- Share their experiences—providing encouragement to others
- Develop friendships—creating comradeship among those who have similar experiences
- Learn about breast cancer and coping techniques—enriching the effectiveness of the care they give to loved ones.

For more information, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968). Also, visit www.DCH-web.org/breast.

Free Diabetes Support Group

Third Monday of each Month 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital 8100 Good Luck Rd. North Bldg., 5th Floor,

DSE Room Lanham, MD 20706

Diabetes is a disease in which the body is unable to properly use glucose for energy. Poorly managed diabetes can lead to complications such as heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage or limb amputation.

Doctors Community Hospital hosts a monthly diabetes support group. Experts from its Joslin Diabetes Center share useful information about diabetes management, nutritional tips, treatment options and lots more.

For more information, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968). Also, visit www.DCH-web.org/breast.

Free Lymphedema and Chronic Swelling Education and Support Session

Tuesday, December 14, 2:00–4 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital 8100 Good Luck Rd. North Bldg., 5th Floor Lanham, MD 20706

Lymph is a fluid containing white blood cells that fight infections and tumor growth. Covering the body like a net, the lymphatic system is a network of blood vessels, tissues and organs that help lymph flow throughout the body.

When the lymphatic system is damaged or blocked, fluid can build up causing swelling in the arms, legs, face, neck or abdomen. This swelling is known as lymphedema—a chronic, yet treatable, condition that is sometimes triggered by surgeries, infections, musculoskeletal injuries, underdeveloped lymphatic systems at birth, and chemotherapy or radiation cancer treatments.

Doctors Community Hospital's Lymphedema Center provides reliable education and compassionate support to help people maintain or improve their health. Join the hospital at its free lymphedema education and support group where it provides:

- An experienced team of certified lymphedema therapists who educates people about both traditional and the latest treatment techniques
- Special guests who share information about various medical topics to support overall health goals
- A caring environment where participants can share their experiences and receive encouragement

For more information, visit www.DCHrehab.org.

For more information, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968). Also, visit www.DCH-web.org/breast.

WSSC GM/CEO Gives Keynote at COMTO's 6th AEDTL Luncheon

LAUREL, MD—November 18, 2016—WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid was the keynote speaker today at the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials' (COMTO) 6th Annual Economic Development and Transportation Leadership Luncheon. The event was held at The Conference Center at Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Md.

See LUNCHEON Page A5

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Focus on Credit Factors, Not Credit Scores

You should want to know your credit score. After all, your credit can be incredibly important to your financial future. It could impact your likelihood of getting approved for a loan and the interest rate you'll get on new financial products. However, understanding the factors that influence your credit score can be even more important than knowing the score itself.



There are five key factors that influence your credit scores. Fair Isaac Corporation's FICO credit scores are used for most lending decisions in the U.S., and the latest FICO base scoring model has a 300 to 850 range. The score depends on the information in a person's credit report, and the lower the score the more likely the person is to pay late.

Past credit mistakes can stay on your reports for seven to 10 years. While the impact of negative marks diminishes over time, the credit-building process can be slow. However, just as a rising tide lifts all boats, improving your core credit factors could help raise all your scores over time.

FICO shares the five key factors that you should focus on to build healthy credit and the approximate weighting of each.

1. Payment history—35 percent. A history of on-time payments can help your credit, while late payments, collection accounts, bankruptcies or other negative payment-related items could hurt it.

Some types of accounts, such as utility or mobile phone contracts, don't generally report positive activity (on-time payments) to credit bureaus. But if the account gets sent to collections, that could still hurt your credit.

You might want to open an account that reports your payments to the credit bureaus if you don't already have one (you can call the issuer and ask). Some people start with a secured credit card or a credit-builder loan from a credit union, but consider what type of account best fits your situation.

2. Amounts owed—30 percent. The amount you owe versus your available credit, known as your utilization rate, is another important factor. A lower utilization rate often leads to better credit.

If you're able to pay down credit card debt, that could quickly improve your utilization rate. Increasing your cards' credit limits and keeping credit cards open even when you don't regularly use them could also help.

3. Length of credit history—15 percent. FICO looks at the age of your oldest account, newest account and average age of all your accounts. A longer history is usually better than a short one.

Keeping accounts open, and ideally in good standing, can help you increase your length of credit history. Even when you close an account it will remain on your reports and count towards your credit history for seven to 10 years.

4. New credit—10 percent. The new credit section considers how many new accounts you have, what types of accounts they are and recent inquiries into your credit.

Hard inquiries generally occur when someone requests your credit report to make a lending decision or rental screening. A single inquiry will generally drop your score by a few points for several months, while multiple inquiries could have a larger negative impact.

However, credit-scoring agencies let you shop for a loan without a penalty. Multiple hard inquiries for some types of loans, such as auto loans, could count as a single inquiry for credit-scoring purposes if they occur within a 14- to 45-day period.

Soft inquiry, which can happen when you check your credit or a company pre-qualifies you for an offer, don't hurt your credit at all.

Try not to open new accounts unless you need them and avoid new hard inquiries in the months leading up to applying for an important loan.

5. Credit mix —10 percent. Your experience with different types of credit, such as revolving credit and installment loans, could impact your score, particularly if there isn't a lot of information in your credit report.

Having at least one credit card could help your credit mix, although that's not necessarily reason enough to apply for a card.

Bottom line: Learn which factors matter the most to your credit scores, and try to make a habit of practicing credit-building behavior. Creating a system that'll help you make on-time payments and only using a small portion of your available credit are good starts.

Dr. Lee from A1

through radiation therapy. Accredited by the American College of Radiology, the center has locations in Bowie and Lanham, Maryland, and serves the communities of Prince

George's, Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties. Doctors Regional Cancer Center is a joint venture of Doctors Community Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Adventist Health-Care. (www.doctorsregionalcancercenter.com)

Proudly Serving Prince George's County
Since 1932

King Sends Letter to States Calling for an End to Corporal Punishment in Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Education Secretary John B. King Jr. sent a letter today urging state leaders to end the use of corporal punishment in schools, a practice repeatedly linked to harmful short-term and long-term outcomes for students.

"Our schools are bound by a sacred trust to safeguard the well-being, safety, and extraordinary potential of the children and youth within the communities they serve," King said. "While some may argue that corporal punishment is a tradition in some school communities, society has evolved and past practice alone is no justification. No school can be considered safe or supportive if its students are fearful of being physically punished. We strongly urge states to eliminate the use of corporal punishment in schools—a practice that educators, civil rights advocates, medical professionals, and researchers agree is harmful to students and which the data show us unequivocally disproportionately impacts students of color and students with disabilities."

There is a wide consensus from teachers' groups—including both the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association—as well as the National PTA, medical and mental health professionals, and civil rights advocates that corporal punishment has no place in our schools. Eighty organizations, include the National Women's Law Center, are releasing a letter this week calling on states and policymakers to end this practice.

"It is a disgrace that it is still legal in states to physically punish a child in school. Students are subject to corporal punishment for something as minor as cell phone use or going to the bathroom without permission. And students of color and students with disabilities are disproportionately victims of physical punishment," said Fatima Goss Graves, Senior Vice President for Program at the National Women's Law Center. "Not only does corporal punishment inflict pain and injury, it also stifles students' ability to learn. Policymakers must eradicate violence against school-

children and instead foster learning environments that are safe and productive. This barbaric practice must end."

In the short term, students who receive this form of punishment show an increase in aggressive and defiant behavior—the opposite of the intended outcome.^[i] In the long term, students who experience physical punishment in school are more likely to later grapple with substance abuse and mental health issues, including depression, personality disorders and post-traumatic stress.^[ii]

Corporal punishment in school is also associated with poorer academic outcomes. Research has shown, for example, that corporal punishment can affect students' cognitive functions,^[iii] lessening brain development,^[iv] verbal ability,^[v] problem-solving skills in young children,^[vi] and lowering academic achievement.^[vii]

Corporal punishment has been banned in 28 states and D.C. and has been abandoned by individual districts in many others. Despite that progress, more than 110,000 students across the country were subjected to corporal punishments in 2013–14, according to the latest version of the Department's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).

What's more alarming is that the CRDC shows that corporal punishment is used overwhelmingly on male students and is much more commonly administered to African American students of all genders. In nearly all of the states where the practice is permitted, students with disabilities were subjected to corporal punishment at a higher rate than students without disabilities.

For more on the CRDC data, the Department is also releasing new maps that show where the use of corporal punishment occurs across the country.

The letter from the Secretary was sent to governors and chief state school officers and provides links to resources that can be promoted by those state leaders and adopted by district and school leaders.

The letter builds on the Obama Administration's work with states and districts through its Rethink Discipline campaign, which has focused attention on the importance of school disciplinary ap-

proaches that foster safe, supportive, and productive learning environments in which students can thrive. These efforts include

• **Supportive School Discipline Initiative:** In 2011, the Departments of Education and Justice announced the launch of a collaborative project to support the use of school discipline practices that foster safe, supportive, and productive learning environments while keeping students in school. A cornerstone of this Initiative is the School Discipline Consensus Project, managed by the Council of State Governments and supported by various philanthropic organizations. The Consensus Project brought together practitioners from various fields to develop consensus recommendations to dismantle the "school-to-prison pipeline."

• **Joint Federal Policy and Legal Guidance:** Education and Justice jointly released a School Climate and Discipline Guidance Package in 2014 to provide schools with a roadmap to reduce the usage of exclusionary discipline practices and clarify schools' civil rights obligation to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the administration of school discipline.

• **Rethink Discipline Convening and Public Awareness Campaign:** The Departments of Education and Justice launched Rethink Discipline at the White House in July of 2015, convening school district teams, including superintendents, some law enforcement practitioners, and justice officials from across the country and sparking a national dialogue around punitive school discipline policies and practices that exclude students from classroom instruction and targeted supports.

• **Rethink School Discipline—Resource Guide for Superintendent Action:** As a part of Rethink Discipline, the Department of Education developed a resource guide with a set of potential action items to help school leaders implement safe, supportive school climate and discipline by engaging stakeholders, assessing the results and history of existing school climate and discipline systems and practices; implementing reform; and monitoring progress.

• **Support for State and Local Educational Leaders and**

Partners from Other Systems: In 2015, the Department of Justice launched the National Resource Center for School Justice Partnerships to advance school discipline reform efforts and serve as a dynamic resource hub for schools, law enforcement agencies, and others to support school discipline reform efforts at the local level.

• **Fostering Safe and Supportive Learning Environments:** In 2016, the Department of Education released the ED School Climate Surveys and the Quick Guide on Making School Climate Improvements to help foster and sustain safe and more nurturing environments that are conducive to learning for all students.

• **Addressing Implicit Bias and Discipline Disparities in Early Childhood Settings:** In 2016, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services announced a new investment of \$1 million in the Pyramid Equity Project to establish national models for addressing issues of implicit bias, and uneven implementation of discipline, including expulsions and suspensions, in early learning programs.

• **Providing Guidance to Schools on Ensuring Equity and Providing Behavioral Supports to Students with Disabilities:** In 2016, the Department of Education announced the release of a significant guidance document in the form of a Dear Colleague Letter, which emphasized the requirement that schools provide positive behavioral supports to students with disabilities who need them. It also clarified that the repeated use of disciplinary actions may suggest that many children with disabilities may not be receiving appropriate behavioral interventions and supports. Also included was a Summary for Stakeholders.

• **Transforming School Climate:** In the 2016 Investing in Innovation Program, the Department supports innovative approaches to creating a supporting school climate. This priority builds on the #RethinkDiscipline campaign to increase awareness about the detrimental impacts of exclu-

See **SCHOOLS** Page A6

Politics from A1

cept two that flipped allegiances. Unlike the last presidential election, Anne Arundel County voted Democratic by a small margin, yet Somerset County voted Republican by a significantly larger margin.

Maryland House Speaker Mike Busch, D-Anne Arundel, attributed the change in his county to the Republican candidate.

"Citizens were turned off by the rhetoric and bigotry of Donald Trump and they voted for Hillary," Busch said.

And while Somerset County has "always been Republican," said Matt Adams, chairman of the Somerset County Republicans, the county shifted nine points to the Republican side since 2012.

In the past, the county has appeared Democratic because of the presence of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, in Princess Anne, Adams said.

"(The students) don't live here," he said. "They came from somewhere, (where) they truly live, and they should vote absentee in our opinion from the county in which they lived in prior to going to college."

In the last weeks of voter registration in the state of Maryland,

employees at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore—a historically black college—arranged for voting registration officials to visit campus, where about 200 students were able to register, said William Robinson, the director of public relations at the university.

On Election Day, about 150 students took a campus shuttle bus to the nearest polling places, and about 125 other students used their own transportation, Robinson said.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Cockeysville, was re-elected as the representative for Maryland's 1st Congressional District, which includes Somerset County, and will remain the only Republican representative from the state.

"The whole first congressional district has been gerrymandered to be the Republican district in the state of Maryland, so Andy always does well here," Adams said.

Harris's conservative views have mobilized Republicans, he said.

In his victory speech at the Maryland Republican headquarters, Harris said he looked forward to bringing "Maryland back to the red column."

"In one of my precincts up in Baltimore County—Catonsville—there was a line around the corner at 10 p.m. at night because people can hardly wait to get out and vote for Donald Trump and drain the swamp in Washington," he said Tuesday night.

A 2014 *Washington Post* article identified both Maryland and North Carolina as tied for the title of most-gerrymandered state.

"How the districts are drawn really gives the impression that Republicans live in certain places and Democrats live in other places, and while there seems to be some trends in that respect—Montgomery County for example is very heavily Democratic—I think it distorts our perception somewhat," said Carin Robinson, an associate professor of political science at Hood College in Frederick.

While the numbers signal a stark polarization in Maryland between political parties, it may not be an accurate representation, she said.

"There is polarization, but redistricting and how the congressional lines are drawn accentu-

ates it and over-emphasizes it in a way that probably doesn't highlight the fact that we still have diversity within the state," Robinson said.

Gerrymandering has eradicated battleground districts in the state, which works in favor of Democrats, said Delegate Herbert McMillan, R-Anne Arundel.

"Basically, I see gerrymandering is contributing a lot to politics in Maryland," he said. "It's really sad. What happens is in the primary, there is no middle left."

Councilman Michael Peroutka, R-Anne Arundel, said he thinks voters had their own agendas and motives for the county's blue vote.

"I would just speculate that there are so many people in our county who work directly for, or work as, a contractor for the federal government," Peroutka said. "I think they vote Democrat because they are voting for a big spigot of federal spending that would stay on."

Other factors, such as shifting demographics in gerrymandered districts, may also contribute to

See **POLITICS** Page A8

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski, Collins Introduce Bipartisan Resolution Honoring 75th Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) today announced they have introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring the 75th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). During World War II, the CAPs provided homeland security and national defense, flying more than 24 million miles over 18 months.

“The achievements of the Civil Air Patrol are important to this country and our history as Americans,” Senator Mikulski said. “My very own team has a CAP who serves among us. Mrs. O nobly trained as a Civil Air Patrolwoman. Now she serves the people of Maryland in my front office. She’s the kind of social glue we need more of in our communities and in Congress, living by the principles of her faith and a commitment to helping others and to public service. We must continue to promote and recognize our nation’s heroes and their outstanding bravery.”

“Since its founding 75 years ago, the Civil Air Patrol has been integral to America’s national security. Two coastal patrol bases located in Maine contributed to our nation’s defense during World War II, and today, hundreds of Civil Air Patrol members in Maine serve in a variety of roles, from search and rescue to disaster relief. Over the past 75 years, thousands of patriotic volunteers have helped keep our country safe. Our resolution honors the 75th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol and commends these individuals for their dedication to our nation,” Senator Collins said.

The CAPs of World War II was founded on December 1, 1941. They provided homeland se-

curity and national defense, flying more than 24 million miles over 18 months and reported at least 170 possible submarine sightings. CAPs were among the first to allow woman and African Americans to fly in service to their country. Today, CAP is the primary Air Force resource for conduction search and rescue operations, as well as providing disaster relief support, drug interdiction operations, live organ transport, aerospace education, cadet programs and Reserve Officer Training Corps orientation flights. CAPs were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on May 30, 2014 to recognize their military service and exemplary record.

Barbara O’Malley is a long-time aide to Senator Mikulski, serving the Senator and the people of Maryland for 29 years. Affectionately known as Mrs. O, she is a fixture on Capitol Hill. Mrs. O trained as a Civil Air Patrol during World War II, serving from 1943 to 1945 and rising from the rank of Private to Lieutenant. She described her time with the CAPs as, “The best years of my life!”

The text of Senator Mikulski’s statement for the record is available here.

The text of the resolution follows:

Title: Recognizing the vital role the Civil Air Patrol has played, and continues to play, in supporting the homeland security and national defense of the United States.

Whereas, on December 1, 1941, a new civil defense organization known as the Civil Air Patrol was founded, which was to rely on volunteer civil-

See CIVIL AIR PATROL Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Fidel Castro: A Legend Loved and Loathed

“We know that this moment fills Cubans—in Cuba and in the United States—with powerful emotions, recalling the countless ways in which Fidel Castro altered the course of individual lives, families, and of the Cuban nation. History will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him.”

—President Barack Obama, Statement on the Passing of Fidel Castro, November 26, 2016

Since the announcement of his death, the significance and impact of Fidel Castro’s legacy has been subjected to heated and polarized debate. Castro’s admirers will rightly point to his unprecedented reforms in healthcare and education on the island-nation of Cuba—nearly eradicating illiteracy and reaching record lows in infant and maternal mortality rates—as the work of a leader devoted to the well-being of his people. His detractors will rightly point to his denial of basic political freedoms and human rights abuses—including suppressing free speech and the torture and executions of political opponents—as the work of a ruthless dictator concerned only with power and its preservation.

Whether history will ultimately absolve or condemn this man, it is clear that Castro was a towering figure of the 20th century. His place in the pages of history is secured and his political and social justice influence in Cuba, the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and beyond, can neither be denied nor—for better or worse—forgotten.

The course of Cuban and world history changed forever in 1959 as Castro, thronged by rebel fighters and cheered on by the Cuban people, rode into Havana after overthrowing the brutal military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. During his 49-year reign, Castro oversaw dramatic changes in Cuban society. With his revolution came important accomplishments and advances in racial equality, housing, education and healthcare for Cubans—but the revolution did not stop at Cuba’s borders. Castro exported his revolution and Cuba’s material and intellectual resources to other parts of the

world—injecting itself into the world’s disasters, emergencies and conflicts.

Shortly following his release after 27 years spent in jail as a political prisoner, Nelson Mandela made a trip to Havana to express his gratitude to Castro. Cuba under Castro opposed apartheid and supported the African National Congress. Mandela’s political organization. Cuba was the only country in the world to send soldiers to fight in the anti-apartheid struggle. In stark contrast, the United States supported the South African apartheid government, placing Nelson Mandela and the ANC on a terrorist watch list until 2008; refused to impose sanctions on the apartheid regime; and in 1986, President Reagan vetoed the Anti-Apartheid Act.

At the time, I was a leader in New Orleans of the Free South Africa movement that advocated for comprehensive economic sanctions and succeeded in lobbying Congress to override President Reagan’s veto.

It is no wonder that Mandela described Castro’s revolution as “a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people.” Cuba was an ally in many African independence movements and, despite its country’s poverty and U.S. backed sanctions, managed to provide resources, including doctors and teachers, to poor countries in need.

Castro’s revolution also failed in many respects. His strides in social policy were woefully unmatched in the political arena. Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International, described Castro as “a progressive but deeply flawed leader.” Human rights were trampled under his leadership. Early-revolution promises of free elections were never kept; free speech was, and continues to be, suppressed; political opponents were executed; and thousands were jailed or forced into exile.

Castro erased illiteracy and tuberculosis in Cuba—an unattainable feat in better-resourced nations. But, Castro summarily denied the people of Cuba their basic political and human rights. That is the paradox of Fidel Castro—a paradox that can, and will, teach us all valuable lessons for decades to come.

Allen Pond Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOWIE

ALLEN POND PARK

One of Bowie’s main park facilities, Allen Pond Park hosts numerous events including open-air concerts, Fourth of July fireworks, and several community festivals. In addition, it is home to Opportunity Park, which offers 100% accessible experiences at its tot lot, school-aged playground, fitness cluster and fishing pier.

Bowie is also home to three community centers, an ice arena, a skate park, a gymnasium, a playhouse, a senior center, and an 18-hole golf course. Enjoy all the ways to play, relax, explore and recreate in the City of Bowie!

Cong. Chris Van Hollen

House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen Testimony at Hearing on Drastic Premium Hikes for Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen submitted testimony at a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee hearing investigating recent drastic premium spikes for some enrollees in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. Congressman Van Hollen requested the hearing in August, and has repeatedly expressed concern about the program’s bidding process and the Office of Personnel Management’s failure to communicate changes to beneficiaries.

“Today, I want to give a voice to the hundreds of Marylanders in my district who are facing outrageous premium hikes without any warning. We must take action to reform this program so that we can protect working Americans from future spikes in premiums and improve the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)’s oversight,” Congressman Van Hollen said in prepared testimony. “It is deeply concerning that federal employees and retirees have been faced with such shocking premium hikes without adequate notice or justification.”

The full text of his testimony follows:

“Chairman Meadows, Ranking Member Connolly, and Subcommittee Members, thank you for your response to my request for a hearing on the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). Today, I want to give a voice to the hundreds of Marylanders in my district who are facing outrageous premium hikes without any warning. We must take action to reform this program so that we can protect working Americans from future spikes in premiums and improve the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)’s oversight.

“As you know, in July 2016 the OPM announced that it awarded a new seven-year contract to the sole bidder, John Hancock Life Health Insurance

Company (John Hancock), to once again administer FLTCIP. A total of 264,000 federal employees and retirees were faced with an unexpected and unacceptable average premium increase of 83 percent, and some even up to 126 percent, which went into effect on November 1, 2016. This is especially burdensome for retirees who are on fixed incomes. Enrollees bear the full cost of their premiums and were given just over two months to make the decision to reduce their benefits, drop their coverage that many have had since the inception of the program over a decade ago, or face significant financial hardship and pay the increased premium in order to maintain their benefits.

“The FLTCIP, created in 2002, was designed to provide stable and affordable long-term care insurance to federal employees and retirees. In fact, a 2002 brochure provided by OPM stated that “premiums have been set to remain constant for life, unless you in-

crease benefits. Your premiums can change only with OPM’s approval and only on a group, not an individual, basis.” Several enrollees purchased coverage based off of flawed actuarial predictions. It is alarming that this is the second contract cycle in which enrollees have faced an enormous increase in their rates. While actuarial predictions are never certain, there need to be additional oversight procedures to ensure that future projections are sound.

“I have heard from hundreds of my constituents facing the outrageous premium spikes. They are angry and scared—many experiencing the maximum premium increase of 126 percent. Enrollees were blindsided, as OPM failed to inform enrollees until just before the start of the 11-week open enrollment period and did not give adequate justification for the increases.

See INSURANCE, Page A8

The Prince George’s Post

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

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

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Keeping Alcohol Under Control During the Holidays

The holiday season brings increased amounts of stress and pressure. It also brings many opportunities to escape that stress. From office parties to family gatherings, the holidays offer lots of chances to be with people we like and enjoy a drink or two ... or, too often, more.

Holiday drinking can be a very real problem for many reasons. One is that there are more occasions to consume alcohol, and often in situations that encourage excessive consumption.

In addition, holiday parties may push people to drink who seldom do so at other times. Such people may have lower alcohol tolerance, meaning just a drink or two can leave them quite intoxicated. One drink can be too much if you get in trouble because of it.

The holiday season also produces high numbers of alcohol-related traffic accidents and deaths. And even a driving drunk citation will carry serious implications.

But excessive holiday drinking can also produce other stress-inducing problems. Just one unthinking comment or improper action at an office holiday party has sabotaged more than one promising career. And who hasn't experienced a horrific family gathering when Uncle Fred starts drinking and sharing his feelings about family members?

The key is to keep holiday alcohol consumption under control. Here are some tips on how to make that easier:

- Remember that you have choices. A holiday party is an opportunity to socialize and have fun, not just drink. You get to choose whether to drink or not, and when to stop drinking.
- Feel self-confident enough to say no. Just because alcohol is available, or a host is pushing drinks, doesn't mean you have to indulge. There's nothing embarrassing about asking for a non-alcoholic drink. If someone tries to shame you into drinking, realize the problem is his, not yours.
- Use a designated driver. Even small amounts of alcohol can impair driving ability. Why take chances? No designated driver? Then call a cab.
- If you're going to drink alcohol, decide ahead of time how many drinks are right for you. Choose a number that keeps you in control and then stick to it.

Don't add to holiday stress and pressure with alcohol related problems. You have the ability to make choices to drink wisely. And if alcohol is a problem you can't control, seek help. Your physician, local hospital or a professional counselor can help you attack the problem.

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

Luncheon from A2

The annual event honors today's leaders within the transportation community and helps guide tomorrow's leaders by also serving as a fundraiser supporting COMTO's scholarship program.

"It is truly an honor to have been chosen to be part of this event filled with amazing leaders, including Dr. Eugene DeLoatch, as well as all the young people who will lead us into the future," said Reid. "WSSC and COMTO share similar philosophies, which make us great partners. We both are committed to serving our communities as well as helping provide business opportunities for small,

local and minority businesses in our region."

Reid shared stories about her professional success over her 20-year career. She highlighted the importance of hard work, dedication and building relationships and trust with organizations and individuals to help land a dream job or contract.

COMTO also honored the service of Dr. Eugene DeLoatch, longtime dean of the School of Engineering at Morgan State University.

Established at Howard University in 1971, COMTO provides opportunities in the transportation industry for minority participation and advancement through advocacy, training and professional development.

Award from A1

of 21st century leaders because I can never forget the countless people who have poured into me. Whether small or great,

those mentoring moments are my defining moments.

"I am honored to be the first African American woman to be the recipient of such a prestigious award."

U.S. Department of Education Awards \$104 Million to Support Minority Serving Institutions

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Education today announced the award of more than \$104 million to Minority Serving Institutions. These five-year grants provide resources to 104 institutions, in 13 states, to improve and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic, Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander, and low-income students.

"All students deserve the resources to enhance their knowledge and skills in order to compete in today's 21st century careers," said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "These grants will help build a stronger pathway for some of our country's hardest-working, low-income students, allowing them to unlock their unique potential, and contribute to the development of our country's future."

Institutions of higher education are deemed eligible to receive funds under the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions programs, if at the time of submission, undergraduate enrollment of Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander students was at least 10 percent. Under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions—Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics and Articulation program, eligible applicants include Hispanic Serving Institutions with an undergraduate full-time enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students, at the end of the

award year immediately preceding the date of application.

The grant programs provide additional layers of student supports and resources via institutional aid to advance the postsecondary attainment rates of both minority and lower income students.

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Grant

The Department awarded \$4.7 million in new grant funds. These five-year grants provide resources to 14 institutions, in five states to improve and expand their capacity to serve Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander, low-income students. The maximum grant award is \$350,000 per year for five years for a total award of \$1,750,000. The average award ranges from \$300,000–\$350,000 per year.

The grant funds can be used to increase student retention and progression through college level courses by re-engineering student support services and supplemental instruction, or providing enhanced faculty professional development. It can also be used to develop summer programs to bridge the gap between two-year and four-year colleges and universities, strengthen assessments and integrate academic advising, academic support and academic enrichment, or developing endowment funds to meet ongoing costs for maintenance or upgrades to technology.

Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Grant

The Department awarded \$7.2 million in grant funds.

These five-year grants provide resources to 19 institutions, to improve and expand their capacity to serve Native Americans and low-income individuals.

Grants awarded under this section shall be used by Native American nontribal-serving institutions to assist such institutions to plan, develop, undertake, and carry out activities to improve and expand such institutions' capacity to serve Native Americans and low-income individuals.

Types of projects may include:

- Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;
- Renovation and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities;
- Support of faculty exchanges, and faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the faculty's field of instruction;
- Curriculum development and academic instruction;
- Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials;
- Funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;
- Joint use of facilities such as laboratories and libraries;
- Academic tutoring and counseling programs and student support services; and
- Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students or the students' families.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions—STEM Grant

The Department awarded \$92 million in new grant funds. These five-year grants provide resources to 91 institutions, to increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students attaining degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; and to develop model transfer and articulation agreements between two-year and four-year institutions in such fields.

Funds may be used for: improving academic quality of STEM programs through curriculum revision and development, or faculty development; developing research opportunities for students in STEM fields; providing or improving student services including counseling, tutoring, mentoring or establishing learning communities; encouraging secondary students to pursue STEM degrees and careers through outreach activities; and improving STEM facilities and equipment needed for science instruction and computer laboratories.

The Obama Administration has taken a number of steps to widen access to higher education by empowering students to choose the best institutions for them through the College Scorecard, boosting Pell Grant funding, streamlining the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and maintaining low interest rates on federal subsidized Stafford Loans.

The grant programs are funded by the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965.

Leaders from A1

focuses on executives of businesses poised for growth in historically challenged communities. The initiative provides local executives with the organizational framework, resource network and motivation to build sustainable businesses and promote economic development in urban communities. By being situated so close to the hub of government contracting activity, with this new certification, these local companies are uniquely situated to take advantage of the \$460 billion the government spends each year.

Now in its third year, the Washington D.C. Metro Area SBA Emerging Leaders program has been touted by current and former graduates as the best thing they have ever done for their businesses. The business executives were challenged to learn more about the 'business of business' by examining and setting goals for their business, updating their growth plans, and learning how to market and sell the business, identify real customers, and how to properly hire people. One of the most important components of the class was understanding financing. Executives learned the

finer points of financing and revenues, understanding the right questions to ask and who to ask for help when it is needed. Their final project was to present a growth plan based on what they learned in the program to a panel of industry experts. Executives who did not finish the growth plan could not graduate from the program.

"It is important for every business to participate in a program like 'Emerging Leaders' to gain 'business knowledge' if they are interested in building sustainable operations," said John Huggins, President of Last Mile Broadband and Prince

George's County Emerging Leaders instructor. "I believe in the value of programs that give businesses that 'business knowledge' which most of them are missing. Building a sustainable business or establishing legacy wealth is simply a dream without increasing your business knowledge. Companies must make the time to understand business so that they can continue to grow and create legacy wealth."

For more information on starting or growing small business, contact Kisha Logan, EDC Small Business Development Manager at 301-583-4650 or kvlogan@co.pg.md.us.

Civil Air Patrol from A4

ian aviators who would fly in support of the homeland security of the United States;

Whereas with the attack on Pearl Harbor 6 days later and the entry of the United States into World War II, the Civil Air Patrol would find itself serving the United States in ways that were not imagined at the time of the conception of the Civil Air Patrol;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol initially engaged in coastal patrol operations that were considered critical to the United States war effort, piloting aircraft that in total flew 24,000,000 miles over 18 months, reporting 173 possible enemy submarines, and dropping 82 bombs or depth charges;

Whereas Civil Air Patrol civilian volunteers flew privately owned light aircraft armed with military bombs at the expense of the volunteers, often at low altitude, in bad weather, and 60 miles or more from shore;

Whereas Civil Air Patrol civilian volunteers undertook other vital World War II missions nationwide, which included border patrols, search and rescue operations, courier and cargo services, and air defense and pilot training;

Whereas, unlike many organizations at the time, the Civil Air Patrol welcomed

women into its ranks to fly for the Civil Air Patrol, with over 1/2 of the women later joining the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (commonly known as "WASP") after having first flown with the Civil Air Patrol;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol was open to all pilots interested in flying for the Civil Air Patrol, which allowed African Americans an opportunity to serve and fly for the United States well before the adoption of the integrated Armed Forces;

Whereas, in 2016, the Civil Air Patrol continues its critical mission in service to the United States, now as a vital partner for the Air Force, serving as the auxiliary force, and, since 2015, as an official component of the total force;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol remains one of the premier inland search and rescue organizations of the United States, and was credited with saving the lives of 69 individuals through search and rescue operations in 2015;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol continues to fulfill many other vital missions, including helping train interceptor pilots and unmanned aerial vehicle operators under realistic conditions, aerial observation missions, counterdrug operations, disaster relief sup-

port, live organ transport, aerospace education, cadet programs, and Reserve Officer Training Corps orientation flights;

Whereas the continued work of the all-volunteer force of the Civil Air Patrol offers vital support to homeland security and defense missions; and

Whereas the weekly youth and aerospace education programs of the Civil Air Patrol continue to introduce young students to the field of aviation and instill within the students the values of national service and personal responsibility: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the Civil Air Patrol for 75 years of continuous service in times of peace and war;

(2) recognizes the critical emergency services, training support, and mission capabilities that the Civil Air Patrol offers State and national homeland security agencies as well as the United States Armed Forces; and

(3) commends the more than 23,500 youth and 32,500 adult volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol, who hail from a range of professions and across the United States, and dedicate their time to the service of their communities and the United States.

The
Prince
George's Post

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Your Newspaper
of Legal Record

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

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Doctor Strange

Doctor Strange
Grade: B+
Rated PG-13, some violence
and intense sequences
1 hr., 55 min

With its trippy inter-dimensional mysticism and heady philosophy, *Doctor Strange* marks the first time in a while that a Marvel Cinematic Universe™ movie has offered anything new to look at or think about. It's yet another origin story (and similar to *Iron Man's* at that), but the mind-bending aesthetic trappings give it a lift. And like *Guardians of the Galaxy*, it stands alone with no direct connection to the *Avengers* while establishing tantalizing possibilities for future interactions.

Directed by horror veteran Scott Derrickson (*Sinister*, *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*), *Doctor Strange* also boasts the best opening sequence of any Marvel film so far, in which Tilda Swinton (good) and Mads Mikkelsen (bad) and their respective cohorts fight in a gravity-defying, reality-skewing parallel version of London. We don't know yet who these people are or how this world works, but we understand enough to be drawn into the action, riveted by the *Inception*-like visuals of buildings and streets folding and collapsing on themselves.

Grabbing the audience's attention right out of the gate is a smart choice anyway, but it's especially shrewd here, since otherwise there isn't much action for a while. In New York City, the brilliant but self-centered neurosurgeon Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), his precious hands shattered in a nasty car accident, turns in desperation to Eastern medicine for healing. A sarcastic fellow from the "House M.D." school of medicine (right down to the phony-sounding American accent), Dr. Strange is crestfallen to discover that the "doctor" he's been referred to, a Nepalese



A disgraced former surgeon named Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) becomes a powerful sorcerer under the tutelage of a mystic known as the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton). Rachel McAdams, Mads Mikkelsen, and Chiwetel Ejiofor co-star in this entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Directed by Scott Derrickson (*Sinister*). ROTTENTOMATOES

mystic named The Ancient One (that's Swinton) who lives in a remote hideaway called Kamar-Taj, isn't a doctor so much as a sorcerer. Her assertion that he can only regain the full use of his hands through spiritual healing outrages him. "There is no such thing as spirit!" he declares. Then The Ancient One knocks his spirit out of his body for a few seconds so he can see the astral plane. That shuts him up.

He learns that the multiverse has countless alternate dimensions, some pleasant and some terrible. Practitioners of the mystic arts can open portals between dimensions, bending the laws of space and sometimes even of time. The Ancient One and her team of sorcerers are tasked with protecting our dimension from "mystic threats," which now include Kaecilius (that's Mikkelsen), an immortality-obsessed former Kamar-Taj pupil who stole a forbidden spell and intends to use it to merge our di-

mension with a dark one where time has no meaning (insert DMV joke here). Dr. Strange wants to learn the mystic arts to heal his body, not save the world, but you can guess where things are heading.

The Ancient One's second in command, rule-stickler Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor), and Wong (Benedict Wong), Kamar-Taj's librarian and protector of ancient secrets, assist in training Dr. Strange, who turns out to be a natural. Derrickson and his computer wizards do a grand job of making the mystical feel plausible, blending fantasy with reality and scoring some easy laughs with the juxtaposition. (Is the magical-looking word written on a card some kind of mantra? No, it's Kamar-Taj's Wi-Fi password.) This middle sequence goes on for too long, but things pick up again when the battle with Kaecilius begins in earnest and we're treated to more fantastic manipulations of time and space.

The essential components here are no different from most superhero stories: a damaged everyman, a secret power, a hidden enemy, an on-again/off-again girlfriend (fellow surgeon Christine Palmer, played by Rachel McAdams). But the screenplay, credited to Derrickson, *Sinister* co-writer C. Robert Cargill, and Jon Spaihts (Prometheus), succeeds by diving head-first into the deeply nerdy mythology established by 50 years of comic books. Rather than squeeze Dr. Strange into the Marvel Cinematic Universe™, the film expands the MCU™ to allow for such things as inter-dimensional travel, alternate realities, and perhaps even the existence of a Higher Power. These new concepts are more than just window-dressing; they represent a fundamental change in this movie universe's natural laws. It's breezy, wide-eyed, psychedelic fun that opens the door to unlimited possibilities.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Giving the Game Away: Trump Argues to Preserve Racist Reds**** Brand



For years, supporters of the the name of the Washington football team have provided the one sanctuary where it was socially acceptable to shout a dictionary defined racial slur from the top of your lungs. Donald Trump—in his relentless war against human decency—has changed that reality dramatically in the last year. Bully anyone at anytime, and if someone asks you to stop, then you are just being—altogether now—politically correct (although that passionate defense of saying what you like doesn't seem to apply to Trump's critics or victims).

That's why it shouldn't be surprising to hear Trump's closing argument in this election includes an entire commercial devoted to supporting the word "Redskins." The 30-second ad—which is also insulting to the thinking ability of non-native football fans—begins with four white guys, chugging brews and sitting down to watch the game, although no beer bellies on these fellas. They look like Abercrombie & Fitch models with spray-on stubble.

Then a low, rumbling voice: "Yeah, you thought you were safe, sitting in your recliner in your man cave, cold beer and a bowl of chips. Ha, you thought you'd escaped politics by focusing on football. Wrong. Hillary Clinton wants to mess up your football, too. Hillary wants to change the name of the Redskins."

It then plays an interview of Hillary Clinton being asked by another Trump avatar of "the other," journalist Jorge Ramos, who asks Clinton, "Almost 50 Democratic Senators sent a letter to the NFL saying that 'Redskins' is a racial slur," Ramos said. "Do you agree?" She responds, "I think it's insensitive, and I think that there's no reason for it to continue as the name of a team in our nation's capital."

The commercial then cuts off the part where she puts the onus on NFL owners saying, "I would love to see the owners think hard about what they coul ...". Ramos then cuts in with, "Any suggestions? Any different names?" She says, "No. No. I haven't thought a lot about that."

Her response is not dramatically that different from what Trump said when asked about the name last year: "Honestly, I don't think they should change the name, unless the owner wanted to." She thinks it's "insensitive." He thinks it's awesome. Both think it's not the government's concern. (Both are wrong about that. Bigotry should not be trademarked.)

But Trump is choosing to weaponize the name: one last racist wedge issue for the road.

I am glad Donald Trump made this commercial. Very glad, in fact. Those of us who have argued that the name is a dictionary-defined racial slur that, according to American Psychological Association, harms children and breeds ignorance, have always faced the pushback that we are politicizing something that's "not political." Some argue that the name represents, as team owner Dan Snyder has argued, "a badge of honor."

Snyder, of course, says this despite the dozens of tribal councils and organizations that have called for the name to change. Dan Snyder's wife has also donated funds to Donald Trump's campaign, and, thankfully, now we have this ad.

I write "thankfully," because it binds support for the team name with the most openly racist major-party candidate of our lifetime. It binds support for the team name with the laundry list of Trump's bigoted offenses of black people, Latino people, women, immigrants, the disabled, and of course Native Americans, about whom he has long relished insulting, saying things like, "I think I might have more Indian blood than a lot of the so-called Indians that are trying to open up the reservations."

It demonstrates that the people playing politics with this name are the people who stand to benefit the most from a resurgence of racism: the Donald Trump/Breitbart brigade and billionaire brander Dan Snyder.

Last summer I saw T-shirts in Ocean City, Maryland, with the Confederate flag and the Redskins logo side-by-side with "heritage not hate" written underneath. That's what this name is. That's who Dan Snyder is. And that's who Donald Trump is.

Every fight to change the name going forward should center this ad as well as the Trump-Snyder alliance to mainstream racism into US culture. Trump is now Dan Snyder's baggage and the baggage of everyone who defends this name. It's a load that will grow heavier with time. It's a load they are utterly unequipped to manage.

Schools from A3

sionary discipline, the Department's investment in School Climate Transformation Grants to help states and districts strengthen behavioral supports for students, and a school discipline guidance package to clarify schools' obligation not to discriminate on the basis of race in discipline.

• **Best Practices and Procedures for School Resource Officers:** In September of

2016, U.S. Departments of Education and U.S. Justice released new tools to assist states, districts and schools in the implementation of best practices for the appropriate use of school resource officers (SROs). The release is the result of collaborative work between both Departments to define the best use of law enforcement officers when utilized within a school environment. The Departments also jointly released the Safe,

School-based Enforcement through Collaboration, Understanding, and Respect (SECURE) Rubrics. These new resources are designed to help education and law enforcement agencies that use SROs to review and, if necessary, revise SRO-related policies in alignment with common-sense action steps that can lead to improved school safety and better outcomes for students while safeguarding their civil rights.

The letter also advances the goals of the President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which was launched in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

For more information about the Administration's work on school climate and discipline go to www.ed.gov/rethinkdiscipline.

Foot Notes

[i] Gershoff, E. T., *Spanking and Child Development: We Know Enough Now to Stop Hitting Our Children*, *Child Dev. Perspective* (2013), 7: 133–137, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3768154/>; Sheehan, M. J. & Watson, M. W., *Reciprocal influences between maternal discipline techniques and aggression in children and adolescents*, *Aggressive Behavior* (2008), 34, 245–255.

[ii] Afifi, T.O., et al., *Physical Punishment and Mental Disorders: Results from a Nationally Representative U.S. Sample*, *Pediatrics*, Volume 130, Number 2 (August 2012), available at <http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/content/early/2012/06/27/peds.2011-2947>; Gershoff, E.T., *Corporal Punishment by Parents and Associated Child Behaviors and Experiences: A Meta-Analytic and Theoretical Review*, *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. 128, No. 4, 539–579 (2002).

[iii] Straus, M.A., and Mallie J. Paschall, *Corporal punishment by mothers and development of children's cognitive ability: a longitudinal study of two nationally representative age cohorts*, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* (2009); 18: 459-483.

[iv] Tomoda, A., Hanako Suzuki, Keren Rabi, Yi-Shin Sheu, Ann Polcari, and Martin H. Teicher, *Reduced Prefrontal Cortical Gray*

Matter Volume in Young Adults Exposed to Harsh Corporal Punishment, *Neuroimage* (2009 Aug), 47(Suppl 2): T66–T71.

[v] MacKenzie, M.J., Eric Nicklas, Jane Waldfogel, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, *Corporal punishment and child behavioral and cognitive outcomes through 5 years-of-age: Evidence from a contemporary urban birth cohort study*, *Infant Child Dev.* (2012 January/February); 21(1): 3–33.

[vi] Talwar V., Carlson S. M. and Lee K. (2011), "Effects of a Punitive Environment on Children's Executive Functioning: A Natural Experiment," *Social Development*, 26 July 2011; see also Hyman, I. A., *Corporal punishment, psychological maltreatment, violence, and punitiveness in America: Research, advocacy, and public policy*, *Applied and Preventive Psychology* (1995), 4, 113–130.

[vii] Hyman 1995; see also Dupper, David R., and Amy E. Montgomery Dingus, *Corporal punishment in US public schools: A continuing challenge for school social workers*, *Children & Schools* 30(4) (2008): 243-250, available at http://ewasteschools.pbworks.com/f/Corporal_punishment_2009.pdf.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE in The Prince George's Post Call Today 301 627 0900

Calendar of Events

December 8 — December 14, 2016

Wellness: Healthy Holiday Cooking Series

Date and Time: Thursday, December 8, 7–8 pm
Description: The Department of Parks and Recreation invites you to stay well over the holidays with our free healthy holiday cooking demonstrations. Enjoy samples, take home new recipes and learn to prepare delicious meals that are good for you and your loved ones this holiday season.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All Ages
Location: Glenn Dale Community Center
11901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-352-8983; TTY: 301-699-2544

Platinum Movie: *Heaven Is For Real* (2014)

Date and Time: Friday, December 9, 2016, 11 am
Description: A small-town father must find the courage and conviction to share his young son's extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world. Based on the popular book by Pastor Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent, starring Connor Corum and Greg Kinnear.

Cost: \$2/person
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-699-2544

Breakfast with Santa

Date and Time: Saturday, December 10, 2016, 10 am–12 noon
Description: Come enjoy singing Christmas carols with your friends and neighbors. There will be arts and crafts, a great catered hot breakfast and of course photos with Santa for an additional fee of \$3 per photo.

Cost: Resident: \$8/child (12 & under); \$10/child (13 & up) Non-Resident: \$10/child (12 & under); \$12/person (13 & up)
Ages: 2–12
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

Brentwood Arts Exchange Craft Fair and Beer Tasting Lounge

Date and Time: Saturday, December 10, 2016, 11 am–4 pm
Description: Don't get stuck at crowded malls this season buying generic gift sets for your loved ones?

Come to the Holiday Craft Fair and Beer Tasting Lounge! Craft artisans from our community will display their items for sale inside our warm and cozy gallery environs.

A wide selection of unique craft items will be available, including pottery, jewelry, textiles, glass, ornaments, and much more. While you finish your holiday shopping, stop by the beer tasting lounge.

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

Holiday Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, December 10, 2016, 12 noon and 3 pm
Description: Take a break from the holiday frenzy and relax with friends or family at Montpelier's Holiday Tea.

Enjoy a seasonal, prix-fixe menu of fine finger sandwiches, scrumptious cakes and pastries, buttery scones, and your choice of two quality loose leaf teas, all served on china and tiered stands.

Reservations and advance payment required.
Cost: \$29/person; \$25 for members of Friends of Montpelier. Price includes gratuity and self-guided tour of the mansion.
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7817; 301-699-2544; montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

Holiday Open House Wine Tasting

Date and Time: Saturday, December 10, 2016, 5–8 pm
Description: Set aside a special time to enjoy the season and holiday cheer with our Holiday Wine Tasting!

Light refreshments will be served in the historic dining room and musical sounds of the season will accompany you as you tour the beautifully decorated historic home.

Cost: \$10/person
Ages: 21 & up (ID required)
Location: Marietta House Museum,
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

A *Charlie Brown Christmas* With the Eric Byrd Trio

Date and Time: Sunday, December 11, 2016, 3 pm and 6 pm
Description: Back by popular demand, The Eric Byrd Trio returns to celebrate the music from the Peanuts' *Charlie Brown Christmas* show. By bringing fresh arrangements to these familiar songs, it gets everyone in the holiday mood. Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!

Cost: \$15/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Holiday Concert

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 10:30–11:30 am
Description: The Senior Holiday Concert will delight you with holiday tunes to get you in the spirit of the season!

Cost: Free
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Arts Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Green Colleges Encourage Sustainability On Campus and Beyond

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways I can get my college to be more green?
—Bill Ott, Troy, NY

In recent years, colleges and universities have recognized the capacity for their independent communities to lead the nation as examples of sustainable and carbon-neutral institutions. Colleges in the U.S. and around the world have introduced conservation measures to reduce waste, installed solar panels to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and promoted shared vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, among other initiatives.

Many colleges have followed the lead of Stanford University's "Green Campus" program by replacing disposable plastic utensils with organic alternatives. Cutlery made from potato starch and sugarcane allows students to simply put all waste in compost bins, including the utensils themselves. This compost is reintroduced in turn as fertilizer for use on university gardens.

Reusable mug programs accomplish similar goals. At Portland Community College in Oregon, bringing your own mug gets you a five-cent discount per drink, while other colleges with meal plans offer similar incentive programs. And efforts to reduce waste aren't limited to the dining hall. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Purdue University have part-

nered with Kimberly-Clark Professional's RightCycle program to recycle non-hazardous lab waste. Since joining the program in 2013, the colleges have redirected six tons of plastic waste from landfills for use as shelving, flowerpots and furniture.

Meanwhile, 48 different colleges—from Harvard to UC Santa Cruz—have signed on with the Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), which helps universities reduce waste through plastic-free initiatives, waste audits and move-in/move-out collections and subsequent sales.

Universities can also employ renewable energies to offset power demands from fossil fuels. Campus solar installations have risen dramatically in the past decade. Large, tall structures—the style of many academic buildings—are ideal locations for photovoltaic panels, especially as peak electrical production correlates with peak demand during daytime hours. And photovoltaic installations are not limited to sunny states; Colby College completed a 1.9 megawatt project in 2015 that is currently the largest system in Maine.

Other forms of renewable energy have also seen tremendous success on college campuses. A University of New Hampshire project provides over 80 percent of its energy using landfill gas. And Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana has replaced its outdated coal boilers with 3,750



CREDIT: ROBERT KEREN

Middlebury College students who complete a free class on bicycle repair are rewarded with a free discarded bike.

geothermal wells that utilize the Earth's interior temperature to regulate heat in campus buildings.

Colleges have also taken steps to green up transportation. Vermont's Middlebury College introduced its Yellow Bikes Cooperative in 2001 to offer public bicycles to students for just \$6 per year. And students there who complete a free class on bicycle repair are rewarded with a free discarded bike. Many colleges also now partner with Zipcar to offer student rates, reducing the

need for personal vehicles on campus. And dozens of colleges nationwide have replaced campus car and bus fleets with electric vehicles.

These are just a few examples of how higher education is walking the talk on the environment. If your school isn't already moving in the same direction, there's no time like the present to team up with students, faculty and administrators to initiate earth-friendly policies and encourage greener behaviors.

CONTACTS: Sustainable Stanford, sustainable.stanford.edu; Post-Landfill Action Network, www.postlandfill.org; RightCycle, www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

MD Transit from A1

Maryland State Highway Administration Administrator Greg Johnson said any talk of investment in infrastructure is positive. He pointed out Maryland's transportation funds are insufficient to fulfill needed projects.

Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican who did not endorse Trump, allotted \$14.4 billion in transportation investment for fiscal years 2017–2022.

"We have \$14 billion worth of funds for the next six years and our needs are \$75 billion," Johnson said about transportation spending in Maryland. "So if they can help close that gap, we're good."

In fiscal 2016, Maryland received about \$1 billion in federal money for transportation, which is about 8.8 percent of the \$11.6 billion the state received in federal funding. According to Maryland's Department of Legislative Services, federal funds for transportation have increased by \$240.3 million since fiscal 2007, experiencing an annual growth of about 3 percent.

Trump's infrastructure plan means Maryland's Purple Line light rail and the regional Metro system could have additional funds, as both are two of the state's largest federally funded programs.

Congressman-elect Jamie Raskin, a Democrat elected to the state's 8th District, said he is hopeful that Trump's background will allow massive reinvestment in Maryland's infrastructure, especially in Metro. The president-elect is a business and real estate mogul who has developed hotels and skyscrapers.

"We need national leadership here to reinvest in a Metro system befitting a great capital city and a great capital region," Raskin told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service Tuesday. "I know Donald Trump is a builder and developer and I think he should see the importance of a great Metro system, which ... is not only going to be near his office in the White House, but his hotel, which is a few blocks away."

Raskin said Maryland's bridges and roads could use the extra attention as well. Maryland's transportation secretary, Pete Rahn, said he also looks forward to Trump's effect on transportation. "I am encouraged to hear any conversation that's talking about additional investment in kind of the foundation of our economy and that's what our infrastructure represents," Rahn said.

While Rahn said it is too early to predict what effect

Trump might have on Maryland transportation, he said administration selections will be more telling.

"We'll know more, I think, when we see some of the selections for cabinet positions and what the philosophies are, because those cabinet secretaries then will be refining policies with the current president-elect," Rahn said.

Greg Sanders, vice president of Purple Line NOW!, agrees.

"We'll learn more when his pick for secretary of transportation is announced," Sanders said about Trump. Purple Line NOW! is a coalition of organizations that works with state officials with a mission to build the Purple Line light rail.

The Purple Line, which will run through Montgomery and Prince George's counties, is expected to cost about \$5.6 billion. Maryland is expected to pay about \$3.3 billion of this cost over three and a half decades, according to state officials.

But the Purple Line's progress is at a stalemate after a Judge Richard Leon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in August for the Federal Transit Administration to perform additional studies on the project. His decision put \$900 mil-

lion in federal funding for the project on hold.


Sanders also said that while Trump has vowed for surges in infrastructure, this may take time.

"The way infrastructure spending actually works in this country, it typically takes a few years of preparation, at least, before projects are ready to break ground and start producing construction jobs, let alone provide infrastructure benefits," Sanders told Capital News Service. "Surging infrastructure spending, to have any near-term effect, would mean building up on top of projects already in the queue rather than starting again from scratch."

In his victory speech, Trump reiterated on election night that he will rebuild a United States infrastructure that is "second-to-none."


And Maryland Senator-elect Chris Van Hollen said he and other Democrats will especially work with the new administration to bring infrastructure to the 21st century.

"We want to work with Donald Trump on the areas where there's common ground," Van Hollen said in a press release Tuesday. "Modernizing our national infrastructure—we know, around this area, how important it is."




Robert L. Baker, III
County Executive

IT PAYS TO RECYCLE



When you recycle you contribute to the County's revenue stream. Millions of dollars in revenue is generated for the County when residents and visitors recycle, but the County is not achieving its full revenue generating potential. Too many recyclables are tossed in the trash can or discarded as litter. Here are some easy steps to take to stop throwing money away and contribute to the County's revenue stream.

- ▶ Recycle at home, work and school;
- ▶ Don't litter and put cans, bottles and paper in the nearest recycling bin; and
- ▶ Encourage businesses in your neighborhood and community to recycle whenever possible.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Maryland's Green



COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S