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PHOTO COURTESY NOAA OFFICE OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH

The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research conducted a deep-sea exploration of the Baltimore and Norfolk Canyons in 2012.

Underwater Maryland Canyon Could See New Protections

By HANNAH LANG
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Less than 60 miles off the coast of Maryland, the ocean is peppered with bubblegum corals and mahi mahi in the Baltimore Canyon—one of 70 similar formations in the Atlantic created by ancient rivers.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore is working to pre-

serve this unique marine environment that reaches more than 11,600 feet deep—about 8.5 times the height of New York's One World Trade Center—and is pushing to designate the area as the nation's first urban national marine sanctuary.

The title would provide government protections from oil and gas exploration and military activities that could damage the canyon's marine ecosystem.

There are 13 designated marine national sanctuaries, but Baltimore Canyon would be known as an urban national marine sanctuary because of its connection and proximity to Baltimore City.

"This was an opportunity to say, you know what, we've got the Baltimore Canyon and we've got Baltimore, Maryland—an urban area—and why don't we think about connecting

our urban area to the deep seas?" said Kris Hoellen, the chief conservation officer at the National Aquarium.

A relationship between the canyon and the city could provide educational opportunities and research, of which there is very little, said Sandra Brooke, the director of coral conserva-

See CANYON Page A3

This Holiday Season Enjoy A Day at the Museum!

National History is Tremendous—Local History Matters Too!

By PRESS OFFICER
PGAAMCC

NORTH BRENTWOOD, MD—Did you know Prince George's County has the largest population of affluent African American neighborhoods, but at one time had the largest population of enslaved African Americans in the state of Maryland? The Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center preserves the history of community leaders, black townships and institutions that are still thriving today. While you're waiting to explore the National Museum of African American History and Culture, have you visited your local museum? As you are planning your holiday schedule with family and friends, come discover the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. We are located in Prince George's first historically Black incorporated township, North Brentwood. We offer a series of exhibits and tours for the entire family to enjoy! Schedule your tour today or stop by during our Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–5pm. Location: 4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, MD. 20722

History Exhibitions

Sharing Our Stories: Treasures From the Museum's Col-

lection is an exhibition featuring art and artifacts from the Museum's collection. The exhibit features a variety of donated objects since the Museum began its collection program in 2011. Through this program the Museum has collected over 1,000 objects including the call letters from Radio One's headquarters building when it was located in Prince George's County to the papers of an African American Soldier in World War I. At its core this exhibition is a collection of stories and objects about the rich history and culture of Prince George's County and its residents.

Footsteps from North Brentwood is an exhibition about Prince George's County's oldest African American incorporated town. The exhibit was presented by the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum in 1996 and features information, documents, pictures, interviews, and memorabilia about the history of North Brentwood. The exhibition was donated to the Museum in 2010 and the content of the exhibit was organized by the North Brentwood Historical Society.

Arts Exhibitions

Through Their Eyes—Art, Education and Influence: Cre-

See MUSEUM Page A3

Grand Opening Week at the New Laurel Library

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LAUREL, MD—The Laurel Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), located at 507 7th Street, Laurel, MD, enjoyed a robust Grand Opening week. Customers descended on the newly constructed branch in droves from the first day the doors opened to the public. Circulation checkouts totaled 1,923. With renewal transactions

added, the figure jumps to 2,022. During the first week of opening, circulation for the branch was 8,315, excluding renewals. That makes the Laurel Branch one of the busiest in the county.

Unique to the Laurel Branch collection are VOX™ books, which had 64 checkouts opening week. PGCMLS is the first library in the state of Maryland to offer audio-enabled VOX books

See LIBRARY Page A8

Free Holiday Cab Rides to Prevent Drunk Driving in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Combating that holiday period which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says is a "dangerous time to be on the road due to a high number of drunk drivers behind the wheel,"* a local nonprofit organization announced today that free cab rides

will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County, Maryland.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide® program will operate between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening through

See CAB RIDES Page A6

Building Bridges With Guaranteed Money

EDC Connects Local Businesses to Safe Foreign Contracts

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Being eager to make money with international contracts was the price of admission yesterday morning at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's Federal Contract Opportunities Forum yesterday. More than 150 local companies attended this game-changing event to get tips on how to get involved in procurement opportunities in foreign countries. Sponsored by Ve Water and, top officials with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and the Power Africa and Trade Africa Initiatives talked about the \$22 billion budget USAID utilizes to guarantee procurement opportunities that are stable and backed by the U.S. government. Highlights of the morning included testimonials from two prime contractors with USAID who shared specifics as to what local companies should do to position themselves to become subcontractors all over the world.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (2nd from the right) with Federal Contract Opportunities Speakers and EDC Team: right to left: Paul Rowe, Chief Operating Officer, PGCEDC; Martin Ezemma, Director of International Business, PGCEDC; Mauricio Vera, Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; Carlos Rivera, Chairperson, the Small Business Association for International Companies; Lisa Ashcraft, Vice President, Abt Associates; and Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC.

"We're building bridges from Prince George's County to the world," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "Most countries don't have what we have in the United States; clean

water, reliable power sources, access to health care. USAID is a great partner to transform our local companies into the contractors ready to go overseas, meet the needs of our foreign

neighbors and build the world out of Prince George's County." The USAID is the lead U.S.

See FORUM Page A5

INSIDE

New Report Details Impact of the Affordable Care Act in Maryland

Before the ACA, these Marylanders could have been denied coverage or charged an exorbitant price if they needed individual market coverage. Now, health insurance companies cannot refuse coverage or charge people more because of pre-existing conditions.

Community, Page A3

I Agree With Donald Trump

Each year the \$77 billion would cover — several positive proven steps: Expanding housing assistance for 70 percent of eligible families with incomes below 150 percent of poverty and for whom fair market rent exceeded 50 percent of their income who currently don't get help because of funding limits

Commentary, Page A4

EDC Partners With Top Local Developers to Boost County Retail Success

Many were pleased to recognize that the County is, in fact looking to change the retail attraction program and are developing initiatives that, in conjunction with the Convention, would have a stronger impact in showcasing the County.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Moana

The Rock provides the voice of Maui, who swiped the Heart of Te Fiti centuries ago, inadvertently unleashing a creeping darkness that now threatens to overtake the island. Maui, whose sentient tattoos act as his conscience, has been living in exile, his superpowers revoked though his ego remains undiminished

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is vegan leather made from, and how does it compare with conventional leather in regard to environmental impact?

—Katherine Sutton,
Washington, D.C.

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Pray in the New Year at Loyola on the Potomac

Loyola on the Potomac, a Jesuit retreat house in Faulkner, MD, invites you to join them as they pray in the New Year.

The retreat begins with dinner New Year's Eve at 6 p.m. (though you can arrive a couple of hours earlier) and is followed by a time of prayer and quiet reflection. At 11 p.m. there'll be Mass, followed by a wonderful social at midnight. The retreat is moderated by Father Bill Noe, S.J.

Spend the night in your cozy private cell, complete with twin bed, desk, dresser, comfy chair, toilet and sink. When you wake on New Year's Day there's time for prayer and breakfast before you head home ready to face 2017.

The fee is \$110. To reserve or for information, call 301-392-0800. (I have attended these New Year's retreats at Loyola—I love them!)

People

On December 7, I thought about Jerry Glaubitz, Morningside's longtime mayor, who was at Pearl Harbor in 1941 and back there on the 50th anniversary with his wife Jean. They were honored to escort President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush to services aboard the Arizona Memorial.

Betty Cottrell, of Skyline, turned 80 and family and friends celebrated her on Nov. 26 with a party at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, in Temple Hills.

Charles C. Rodney, of Camp Springs, is a talented rabbit-hunter, and writes for several hunting magazines. *Maryland Hunting Quarterly* has a photo of his lead dog Copper, a purebred beagle, who had to retire at 13 after "nine outstanding years of chasing rabbits ... Thanks to Copper for a job well done."

Students at St. Philip's School, in Camp Springs, celebrated Christmas with a concert featuring songs in the languages of the Philippines, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Hawaii, Malaysia, Latin America and, of course, English.

Carmina Young, a longtime resident of Camp Springs and a

Census retiree, died Dec. 19. She would have turned 89 on January 2. I'll pay tribute to her in next week's column.

My daughter, Therese Galleghos, has retired as a professor at the University of Texas in Brownsville, and is now free to travel. She recently drove here from Brownsville to spend several delightful weeks with me. Among other things, she fed me well and weeded my outdated canned goods and spices.

Her journey—in a new car—took her to Tennessee to visit Mary Ann (Ross) Stackhouse, formerly of Skyline; to West Virginia for a couple days with Cecilia (DuMais) and Jim Rohan, formerly of District Heights and Camp Springs; and my daughter Kathleen Shearer in West Chester, Ohio.

Changing landscape

La Colonia International Supermarket opened its doors on Dec. 22 at 4901 Allentown Road in Andrews Manor Shopping Center. They advertise fresh meats, seafood, produce and dairy, a bakery "And Much More." I'll check it out.

R.O.C.K. Outreach Ministries has opened at 6501 Suitland Road at the corner Randolph Road. For information, call 301-735-3336.

The County Redevelopment Authority announces plans to construct 137 apartments for senior citizens in the newly-planned Suitland Town Center. This six-story building will include market-rate and income-restricted units, as well as meeting rooms, a cyber cafe, fitness room and a rooftop garden. Move-in time should be spring 2018.

Update for the New Regional Medical Center & Primary Health Care Strategic Plan will take place in the Largo Student Center at Prince George's Community College on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. You are invited.

Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient Carter-Bey dies at 66

Walter Harrison Carter-Bey, 66, of Temple Hills, Vietnam veteran and engineer, died Oct. 20. He was born in Charlottesville,

Va., only child of the late Harvey and Margaret Rozelle Carter. He grew up in Long Branch and Asbury Park, N.J., earned an associates degree in engineering from Virginia Commonwealth University and joined the Army. He saw action in Vietnam, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He moved to Washington in 1972, worked for Stanton Glen Apartments and later as Chief of Security for Kaiser Permanente. In 2012 he started the Carter-Bey Home Improvement Co.

Bey (as he is known) is survived by his wife Shirley and former wife Stacie Branham-Smith; five children, Deljuan, Walter, Edna, Renee and Michelle; and 11 grandchildren. Services were at Hunt Funeral Home with burial at Quantico Cemetery in Triangle, Va. The Repast was at the home of Stacie and John Smith, in Skyline.

May they rest in peace

John Nelson "Jay" Robbins, Jr., 78, a teacher who began his career as a fifth grade teacher at Forestville Elementary School, died Dec. 11. He went on to have great success in public television, as an award-winning producer, author and artist.

Rev. Matthew E. Thompson, 78, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington and an associate pastor at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Camp Springs in the late 1980s, died Dec. 12.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Amy Anthony and Robert Tretler, Dec. 30; Pat Spry, Dec. 31; Sister Haimanot, Dorothy Cullinan and Bridget Vilky, Jan. 1; Evelyn Lozano, her 96th on Jan. 2; Gene Desmarais and Courtni Bland, Jan. 3; Proprietor of G I Liquors Jennifer Jung, J.B. Thomas and Christa Neale, Jan. 4.

Happy 17th anniversary to grandson David and Nina McHale on Dec. 30; to Tom and Monique Laws, Jan. 3; my grandson Conor and Heather McHale, their 13th on Jan. 3; and my son John and Michelle McHale, their 20th on Jan. 4.

And to you all, a

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

THE LEGACY OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

Save the date January 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Preserving and promoting the Legacy of Frederick Douglass. The address is 8000 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Our first graduating class (1936) will not be our last. Please come and join the conversation.

The conversation will be hosted by PTSA and Alumni Association of Frederick Douglass High School. Email: Parents FDHS@yahoo.com or simarshall@comcast.com for more information.

2017 CAPITOL CITY CLASSIC CHEER & DANCE COMPETITION

Varsity Spirit, National Cheerleaders Association, and the National Dance Alliance 2017 Capitol City Classic will be at the Show Place Arena. This will be a full day of competition on Saturday, January 7, 2017 8:00 AM-6:00 PM. The cost for adults is \$15. Free for children 7 and under. Cash only.

Address is the Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

20772. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

SENIOR DAYS

Let's move and get fit. Seniors who are Prince George's County residents only are allowed use of both the pool and fitness center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM-12 Noon. Ages are 60 and up. The cost is free.

Location is the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland 20785. Contact number is 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483 if you need more information.

PETER FRANCHOT COMPTROLLER AWARD

Brian Harper who is a member of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland accepted his new position as the Director of the Board for the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce.

Brian presented Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN) with a \$500 donation on behalf of the organization which he works for at a luncheon held at Chartwell Golf & Country Club. The keynote speaker was Peter Franchot, Comptroller of

the State of Maryland. Brian received the Peter Franchot Comptroller Award in recognition of Excellence, Service and Sacrifice. Congratulations Brian.

GAME NIGHT

Join us for game night Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM for good fellowship at Immanuel Church Hall in Baden, Maryland. There will be games for children and adults.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to George Brooks, Stephone Contee, Jessica Farmer, Clara Hawkins, Atherine Jackson, Melvin Jackson, Christopher Makle-Lewis, Ellen Scott, Juanita Turley, Tiffany Walls, Rosie Wilkerson, Alice Wright, Tiana Banks, John Hawkins, Jr., Andrea Holland, Rev. Antoine Love, Sharon Robinson, Phyllis Slater, and Anthony Taylor who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of January.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the Honor Students who were recognized at Gwynn Park Middle School program in Brandywine, Maryland on Friday, December 17, 2016.

Neighborhoods

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Emergency Legislation to Repeal "Road Kill Bill"

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan reaffirmed that the administration's top legislative priority for the 2017 session of the Maryland General Assembly will be the immediate and full repeal of House Bill 1013, more commonly known as the Road Kill Bill. At a State House press conference, the governor joined Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete Rahn in announcing the administration's plan to submit emergency legislation to repeal the Road Kill Bill and return the prioritization of transportation projects back to local jurisdictions. The bill was passed and became law over the governor's veto during the 2016 legislative session.

"Today I am here to announce that we will submit emergency legislation for our top priority for this legislative session, which is to push for the full and immediate repeal of this disastrous bill which will absolutely be responsible for the elimination of nearly all of the most important transportation priorities in every single jurisdiction all across the state," said Governor Hogan. "It will wreak havoc on the entire state transportation system and usurp important authority away from local governments and away from the executive branch of state government, giving authority instead to lobbyists and special interest groups."

"The repercussions of this law are quite simply disastrous for our state, and I can assure you that on behalf of our citizens, I will not stop fighting until this catastrophic bill is repealed," the governor continued.

Due to an extremely flawed and biased scoring system implemented by the law, major priority transportation projects will be canceled in every jurisdiction in the state. Under the legislatively mandated scoring system, 66 out of 73 transportation projects are fully canceled, including pivotal projects such as:

• **Anne Arundel County:** Widening of the Severn River Bridge, Upgrade of MD 3 from US 50 to MD 32, Traffic flow improvements to MD 175 from MD 295 to MD 170, Expanding capacity on MD 198 from MD 295 to MD 32, Widening of MD 295 from MD 100 to I-95 and Hanover Road interchange

• **Baltimore County:** I-795 interchange at Dolfield Boulevard, Widening of I-695 from I-83 to I-95, Widening of I-695 from I-95 to MD 122, Widening of MD 140 northbound from Painters Mill Road to Garrison View Road, Study to replace I-70/I-695 Triple Bridges

• **Frederick County:** Capacity improvements on MD 180 & MD 351, Improvements to US 15 between I-70 and MD 26, Widening of MD 85 from English Muffin Way to Grove Road, Widening of MD 85 from Crestwood to Spectrum Drive, Widening of I-70 to six lanes between Mount Phillip Road and I-270

• **Howard County:** Improvements to US 1 from the Prince George's County line to the Baltimore County line, Widening of MD 32 from Linden Church Road to I-70, Capacity improvements on MD 32 from MD 26 to I-70, Con-

gestion relief on I-70 from MD 32 to US 29, Widening of US 29 from the Middle Patuxent River to Seneca Drive

• **Montgomery County:** Watkins Mill Road interchange on I-270, Safety, capacity, and operations improvements to MD 28/MD 198 between MD 97 and I-95, Capacity improvements to I-495 at the I-270 Spur and Virginia line, US 29 interchange at Musgrove Road and Fairland Road, MD 97 interchange at MD 28

• **Prince George's County:** Upgrades to US 301 through Waldorf, including improvements at MD 5 and at MD 228/MD 5BU, Upgrades to MD 3 from US 50 to MD 32, Capacity improvements to US 50 from the D.C. line to MD 704, Upgrading MD 5 to a multi-lane freeway from US 301 at T.B. to north of I-95/I-495, Capacity improvements on MD 201/US 1 from Capital Beltway to north of Murikirk Road, Improvements to MD 210 intersections from I-95/I-495 to MD 228, Widening of US 301 from north of Mount Oak Road to US 50, Upgrading MD 4 to multi-lane freeway from MD 223 to I-95/I-495

Earlier this year, at a November 18 legislative hearing, Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Rahn outlined the law's severe and fatal flaws and strongly advocated the need for full and total repeal. Under questioning by legislators, the secretary repeatedly stated that there is no possible method by which the department could create regulations implementing the law that would not result in the vast majority of these priority of projects being cancelled.

"The one-size-fits-all ranking system mandated by this law is wrong for Maryland drivers, wrong for employers relying on needed improvements to local roads and bridges, wrong for tourists and visitors traveling to our state, and wrong for Maryland taxpayers who expect their dollars to be spent in an fair and equitable manner on projects that will improve their daily lives," said Secretary Rahn. "This administration is committed to funding top priority projects in all regions of the state, and the only way that can happen is if this deeply misguided law is repealed."

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Introduces New Neurosurgeon, Steven Spitz, MD

CLINTON, MD—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center welcomes new neurosurgeon, Steven Spitz, MD. Dr. Spitz joins doctors Anaizi, Sandhu and Voyadzis in a neurosurgery practice that treats the full spectrum of brain and spine cases. Dr. Spitz will perform procedures that include spine oncology, minimally invasive spine surgery, nerve decompression surgery, nerve reconstruction surgery, cervical disc arthroplasty and laminoplasty and cervical, thoracic and lumbar surgeries.

Prior to joining MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Dr. Spitz completed a Spine Fellowship at Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia, where he honed his treatment philosophy.

"I believe healthcare decisions should be a collaboration

between myself and the patient," said Dr. Spitz. "I'm not here to tell a patient what to do, but to make a plan with them. I make sure they have the information they need to make informed decisions."

Dr. Spitz earned two undergraduate degrees, a bachelor of science in biology from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, and a bachelor of science in medical technology from Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. He also earned his medical degree at Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. His residency in neurosurgery took place at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC. Dr. Spitz became a Post Doctorate Fellow at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland and is a member of the American Medical Association and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

"MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center is thrilled to welcome Dr. Spitz onto our team of gifted neurosurgeons," said President Christine Wray. "He earned impressive accolades during his education and has also been the recipient of teaching awards at MedStar Georgetown. His expertise is in demand and patients here will appreciate his warm demeanor and collaborative approach to care. Dr. Spitz will be a great addition to our hospital."

To refer a patient or make an appointment, please call 301-856-2323.

GEICO Foundation Supports Midweek Matinee Series at Public Playhouse

CHEVERLY, MD—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County continues its partnership with GEICO to deliver Midweek Matinee series for 2016-2017, to provide free concerts to underserved youth in Prince George's County.

The GEICO Philanthropic Foundation gave the Parks and Recreation Foundation a \$30,000 grant donation to fund the series, which are available free of charge to students at Title I schools in the county who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the magic of live theatre.

The Parks and Recreation Foundation helps position the Department of Parks and Recreation to use less of its overall operating budget for projects, services and programs due to donations from individuals, corporations and businesses.

"The Parks and Recreation Foundation is excited to continue the relationship with GEICO which supports and promotes the arts in Prince George's County," said Steven Carter, Director of the Parks and Recreation Foundation. "GEICO's generous annual donation makes it possible for children in the county to experience the wonder of live theater at the Public Playhouse."

The GEICO Gecko and GEICO executives will present the Parks and Recreation Foundation with the donation at the Public Playhouse (5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784) at the live

See **GEICO Page A5**

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Prepare for Medicare Part A and B Price Changes in 2017

If you're eligible for Medicare, or will be in the coming year, there are a few changes you should know about for 2017.

An increase in the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI) means there'll be an increase in Social Security benefits and Medicare Part B premiums. For most recipients the increases almost offset each other, but those who aren't covered by the "hold harmless" provision (about 30 percent of recipients) face a larger Part B premium increase.

These changes, along with several others, will go into effect soon and you should consider how they could affect your budget.

A slight increase in your Social Security benefits. Since 1975, Social Security benefits have an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The adjustment depends on the CPI and helps keep your benefits in line with the rising cost of goods.

There wasn't a COLA for 2016 benefits, but there is a .3 percent adjustment for next year. Meaning, you'll get an additional \$3 per \$1,000 you receive in benefits. The estimated average monthly benefit for all retired workers is expected to increase \$5, from \$1,355 to \$1,360.

Medicare Part B premiums will also rise. The COLA also affects Medicare Part B premiums, the part of Medicare that covers some types of procedures and medical equipment. However, for about 70 percent of Medicare recipients, the Social Security Act's "hold harmless" provision prohibits an increase to Medicare B premiums of more than the previous year's COLA adjustment.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, held harmless recipients will pay \$109 per month, an increase of \$4.10.

If you aren't held harmless, Part B premiums could increase by about 10 percent. The remaining 30 percent of Social Security beneficiaries will have their Part B premium increase by about 10 percent. You could fall into the non-held-harmless group if you:

- Are a new enrollee
- Enrolled in Medicare but don't receive Social Security benefits
- Get billed directly for Medicare Part B
- Receive Medicare and Medicaid benefits and your state Medicaid programs pay your Part B premium
- Are a high-income earner subject to an income-adjusted premium

For the non-held-harmless group, the premium depends on the recipient's (or couple's when filing a joint tax return) adjusted gross income (AGI).

- The lowest monthly premium, for individuals who have an AGI of \$85,000 or less (\$170,000 for couples), will increase from \$121.80 to \$134 a month per person.
- On the high end, for recipients with an AGI over \$214,000 (\$428,000 for couples), the monthly premium will increase from \$389.80 to \$428.60 per person.

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will also increase. Most people don't have to pay Medicare Part A premiums, but you could still have to pay a deductible or coinsurance for some Part A benefits.

- The deductible for inpatient hospital coverage, which helps cover the first 60 days of care, will increase from \$1,288 to \$1,316 per benefit period.
- Daily coinsurance for the 61st through 90th day of treatment will increase from \$322 to \$329.
- Daily coinsurance for day 91 on will rise from \$644 to \$658.
- Each day past day 90 counts towards your lifetime reserve. You have a maximum of 60 lifetime reserve days; after which you could be responsible for all costs.
- Skilled nursing facility care is completely covered for your first 20 days.
- Daily coinsurance for day 21 to 100 of skilled nursing care will increase to \$164.50.
- You could be responsible for all costs beyond day 100.

The Part B annual deductible will also increase, from \$166 to \$183. Generally, after you've met your deductible, you'll pay 20 percent of Medicare-approved costs for services covered by Part B.

Bottom line: Social Security benefits, Medicare Part B premiums and Part A and B deductibles and coinsurance will increase in 2017. Whether you're held harmless or not, take steps to understand which changes could affect you and alter your budget accordingly.



New Report Details Impact of the Affordable Care Act in Maryland

Hundreds of Thousands of Marylanders Have Gained Coverage, and Millions More Have Had Their Coverage Substantially Improved

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. DHHS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an extensive compilation of state-level data illustrating the substantial improvements in health care for all Americans over the last six years. The data show that the uninsured rate in Maryland has fallen by 42 percent since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted in 2010, translating into 278,000 Marylanders gaining coverage. And, in addition to residents who would otherwise be uninsured, millions more Marylanders with employer, Medicaid, individual market, or Medicare coverage have also benefited from new protections as a result of the law.

"As our nation debates changes to the health care system, it's important to take stock of where we are today compared to where we were before the Affordable Care Act," said Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "Whether Marylanders get coverage through an employer, Medicaid, the individual market, or Medicare, they have better health coverage and care today as a result of the ACA. Millions of Americans with all types of coverage have a stake in the future of health reform. We need to build on our progress and continue to improve health care access, quality, and affordability, not move our system backward."

Highlights of today's data release include:

Employer Coverage: 3,700,000 people in Maryland are covered through employer-sponsored health plans. Since the ACA was enacted in 2010, this group has seen:

• **An end to annual and lifetime limits:** Before the ACA, 2,251,000 Marylanders with employer or individual market coverage had a lifetime limit on their

insurance policy. That meant their coverage could end exactly when they needed it most. The ACA prohibits annual and lifetime limits on policies, so all Marylanders with employer plans now have coverage that's there when they need it.

• **Young adults covered until age 26:** An estimated 41,000 young adults in Maryland have benefited from the ACA provision that allows kids to stay on their parents' health insurance up to age 26.

• **Free preventive care:** Under the ACA, health plans must cover preventive services—like flu shots, cancer screenings, contraception, and mammograms—at no extra cost to consumers. This provision benefits 2,953,834 people in Maryland, most of whom have employer coverage.

• **Slower premium growth:** The average premium for Maryland families with employer coverage grew 5.2 percent per year from 2010–2015, compared with 6.7 percent over the previous decade. Assuming Maryland premiums grew in line with the national average in 2016, family premiums in Maryland are \$2,000 lower today than if growth had matched the pre-ACA decade.

• **Better value through the 80/20 rule:** Because of the ACA, health insurance companies must spend at least 80 cents of each premium dollar on health care or care improvements, rather than administrative costs like salaries or marketing, or else give consumers a refund. Marylanders with employer coverage have received \$81,221,444 in insurance refunds since 2012.

Medicaid: 1,252,304 people in Maryland are covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, including 592,836 children and 83,164 seniors and people with disabilities covered by both Medicaid and Medicare. The ACA expanded Medicaid eligi-

bility and strengthened the program for those already eligible.

• **115,000 Marylanders have gained coverage through Medicaid:** An estimated 115,000 Marylanders have health insurance today because Maryland expanded Medicaid under the ACA. Coverage improves access to care, financial security, and health, resulting in an estimated 13,000 more Marylanders getting all needed care, 16,400 fewer Marylanders struggling to pay medical bills, and 140 avoided deaths each year.

• **Thousands of Marylanders with a mental illness or substance use disorder are getting care:** Thanks to expansion and improved access to treatment, an estimated 11,000 fewer Marylanders are experiencing symptoms of depression.

• **Maryland is saving millions in uncompensated care costs:** Instead of spending \$120 million on uncompensated care, which increases costs for everyone, Maryland is getting \$1 billion in federal support to provide low-income adults with much needed coverage.

• **Children, people with disabilities, and seniors can more easily access Medicaid coverage:** The ACA streamlined Medicaid eligibility processes, eliminating hurdles so that vulnerable Marylanders could more easily access and maintain coverage.

• **Maryland is helping seniors and people with disabilities live in the community:** The ACA provided Maryland with a new option to help promote community integration through long-term services and supports, providing seniors and people with disabilities an alternative to institutional care.

Individual market: 135,208 people in Maryland have coverage through the Marketplace. Individual market coverage is dramatically better compared to before the ACA:

• **No discrimination based on pre-existing conditions:** Up to 2,542,844 people in Maryland have a pre-existing health condition. Before the ACA, these Marylanders could have been denied coverage or charged an exorbitant price if they needed individual market coverage. Now, health insurance companies cannot refuse coverage or charge people more because of pre-existing conditions.

• **Tax credits available to help pay for coverage:** Before the ACA, only those with employer coverage generally got tax benefits to help pay for health insurance. Now, 100,844 moderate- and middle-income Marylanders receive tax credits averaging \$243 per month to help them get covered through HealthCare.gov.

• **Women pay the same as men:** Before the ACA, women were often charged more than men just because of their gender. That is now illegal thanks to the ACA, protecting roughly half the people of Maryland.

• **Greater transparency and choice:** Before the ACA, it was virtually impossible for consumers to effectively compare insurance plan prices and shop for the best value. Under the ACA, Maryland has received \$9 million in federal funding to provide a more transparent marketplace where consumers can easily compare plans.

Medicare: 960,848 people in Maryland are covered by Medicare. The ACA strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund, extending its life by over a decade. In addition, Medicare enrollees have benefited from:

• **Lower costs for prescription drugs:** Because the ACA is closing the prescription drug donut hole, 86,073 Maryland seniors are saving \$100 million

See **HEALTHCARE** Page A7

Canyon from A1

tion at the Marine Conservation Institute and a researcher at Florida State University.

Brooke participated in the Atlantic Canyons Undersea Mapping Expeditions project in 2012, where she and other researchers explored both the Baltimore and Norfolk canyons—the latter is off the coast of Virginia.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which regulates fishing in the area has ranked these two canyons as the most important habitats for coral in the region.

"We had sort of glimpses of the fact that there may be some deep coral ecosystems down there, but we didn't really know very much about it," she said. "Most of the information that we have about the Baltimore Canyon came from this most recent effort, so we still haven't been able to thoroughly explore it."

Through the mapping project, the research team found colonies of lophelia pertusa, a reef-building species that was previously only known to exist in Canada and around the Gulf of Mexico, in addition to a methane cold seep—a rare biological phenomenon that cultivates an abundance of marine organisms.

The cold seep remains the largest known seep in the western North Atlantic area, according to the National Aquarium.



PHOTO COURTESY DEEPWATER CANYONS 2013—PATHWAYS TO THE ABYSS, NOAA-OER/BOEM/USGS
During a deep-sea exploration to the Baltimore Canyon, researchers found large populations of octocorals, including the bubblegum coral.

However, human activity—such as fishing—compromises the unique marine environment of the canyon. When Brooke visited the canyon in 2012, she noticed fishing lines and trash had accumulated at the heads of the canyons, underwater.

"We're in danger of losing things before we even know they're there by exploiting underexplored habitats, and so annexing representative ecosystems such as those found in the canyons and putting them aside and protecting them from human exploitation kind of creates a buffer for us," she said.

Maryland's "burgeoning tech hub" could help provide solu-

tions to protect the canyon's aquatic landscape from pollution and overharvesting if the Baltimore Canyon becomes an urban national marine sanctuary, said Hoellen.

"(Baltimore City and Baltimore Canyon are) both areas that have been underinvested in and we have an opportunity here, a unique opportunity, to designate our first urban national marine sanctuary where we can connect urban youth and citizenry to the deep seas via technology," she said.

Project leaders envision more opportunities for students to get involved with research and technology to encourage ocean lit-

eracy, hoping that the "urban" designation would help bridge the connection between the public and marine analysis. The National Aquarium has already started discussing possible collaborations with technology partners, Hoellen said.

"We're fortunate that we have so many researchers and technology companies and educators in Maryland—and it's only attracting more—that we can harness those partners and also national attention as well to create our first national marine sanctuary," she said.

See **CANYON** Page A6

Museum from A1

Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) Programs at Suitland and Northwestern High Schools. "Through Their Eyes" celebrates the achievements of our County's brightest artistic talents while also advocating for arts education as an integral part of the learning process.

October 12, 2016–
January 31, 2017
Showcases the work of select alumni of the Center for

ative Expressions Inspired by Prince George's County CVPA Alumni

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



As Tax Reform Talks Loom in 2017, Cardin Reintroduces a Comprehensive, Progressive, Pro-Growth Approach

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, has reintroduced groundbreaking legislation that would eliminate income tax liability for most Americans and reduce corporate income tax rate to one of the lowest among industrialized nations.

Cardin's bill, S. 3529, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act (PCTA), changes the way the federal government raises revenue. Rather than taxing income, the Progressive Consumption Tax (PCT) generates reasonable revenue by taxing the purchase of goods and services. Designed to be at least as progressive as today's tax system, low- and middle-income families would be protected from unfair consumption taxation through a rebate, and important benefits would be retained in a much simpler income tax code. A revenue circuit breaker, tied to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is built into the Cardin system to set reasonable limits on the amount of income generated by the new progressive consumption tax.

Since the original introduction of the Progressive Consumption Tax Act in 2014, many policymakers, including in Congress, have become increasingly interested in moving to a border-adjustable consumption tax base.

"Our tax code should be fair for families and employers. It should help make American-based businesses more competitive and our Nation's economy stronger. And it should provide a way to responsibly and reliably collect reasonable revenues. Our current, 1980s-style tax code simply cannot accomplish these goals," said Senator Cardin.

"Credible tax reform is critical to America's economic competitiveness. Every other developed country in the world, including all other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, have a consumption tax. The Progressive Consumption Tax Act puts this country on a competitive playing field with other nations by providing for a broad-based progressive consumption tax, or PCT, at a rate of 10 percent. The PCT would generate revenue by taxing goods and services, rather than income.

"The PCT is not simply an add-on tax. The revenues generated by this new system would be used to eliminate an income tax liability for most American households," said Senator Cardin. The PCTA's income tax exemptions, called "family allowances," are set at \$100,000 for joint filers, \$50,000 for single filers, and \$75,000 for head of household filers. The family allowances are indexed for inflation.

Those who do still have an income tax liability would see a much simplified income tax with their marginal rates reduced—the top marginal individual income tax rate, applying to taxable income over \$500,000 for joint filers, would be 28 percent versus the current top marginal rate (applying to taxable income over approximately \$450,000 for joint filers) of 39.6 percent. Four important tax benefits remain: (1) the charitable contribution deduction; (2) the state and local tax deduction; (3) health and retirement benefits; (4) the mortgage interest deduction.

See **TAX REFORM** Page A5

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Successfully Secures \$255 Million in Continuing Resolution Spending Bill for New Consolidated FBI Headquarters

Newly Secured Federal Funds Brings Project Funding Half Way Towards Fully Consolidated FBI Headquarters

"I've gone to bat for the FBI and a new fully consolidated headquarters so that they have 21st century resources to take on 21st century threats," Senator says

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, today announced that she successfully secured \$255 million in federal funding in the recently-passed Continuing Resolution spending bill for a new fully consolidated headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The federal funding builds upon \$390 million Senator Mikulski previously secured in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and, together with proceeds from the sale of the current J. Edgar Hoover FBI Headquarters building, about half of total project funding has been secured.

"I've fought tooth and nail for the men and women of the FBI, just as they fight each day to keep our communities safe from criminals and terrorists. With this second down-payment, we are now half way towards funding a new consolidated FBI headquarters so that they have 21st century resources to take on 21st century threats," Senator Mikulski said. "A fully-consolidated headquarters must consider the costs of operations, security needs, convenience of location for staff, transportation options and infrastructure that will serve the FBI for the next 50 years. This is a headquarters that belongs in Prince George's County. I challenge the 115th Congress to provide the remaining funding required no later than April, keeping our country and the American people safe while working for new jobs in Maryland."

In the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016*, Senator Mikulski successfully secured \$390 million billion to use towards design, construction and preconstruction activities including land acquisition and site preparation for a new FBI headquarters.

Senator Mikulski has continued to work with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to get the project back on track, ensuring OMB followed through on its commitment to support the FBI's request to establish a new, fully-consolidated headquarters that is safe, secure and suited to their needs. As then-Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski included bill language accompanying the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015* that requires a full consolidation for a new FBI headquarters to bring together staff and resources currently dispersed at 14 annex offices throughout the National Capital Region. The Hoover Building, which was built 40 years ago, no longer meets the needs of the FBI. This builds on her action to include report language in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014* providing a legislative directive requiring full consolidation.

On November 6, 2015, the GSA released the draft environmental impact statement for the project. Presently, two proposed sites in Prince George's County, Maryland—Greenbelt and Landover—are on the OMB/GSA short-list of eligible sites to serve as the future home of the FBI. A final site location decision is expected in 2017.

The new FBI headquarters will be home to 11,000 jobs. According to a Maryland state report, approximately 40 percent of the FBI's employees at the current headquarters already live in Maryland.

The National Capital Trolley Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, D.C. and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 5pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm (March 15–May 15; June 15–July 15; and October 1–November 15). Admission is \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children (17 and under) and Seniors (65 and over). For more information, visit <http://www.dctrolley.org/>.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



I Agree With Donald Trump

The hugely over-budget F-35 fighter jet program recently returned to the headlines when President-elect Donald Trump tweeted that "The F-35 program and cost is out of control. Billions of dollars can and will be saved on military (and other) purchases after January 20th." Initial projections from 2001 had these planes being combat ready and in full production by 2012, but the most recent estimates don't have the planes being combat-capable until 2018, and a recent memo from the Pentagon's Director of Operational Testing obtained by *Bloomberg News* suggests it could take even longer unless there are additional increases in development funding. A recent Government Accountability Office report also illustrates how costs for development and acquisition have spiraled upward from initial projections. Total program costs are likely to exceed \$1.37 trillion, with \$379 billion set aside for acquisition of planes and another \$1 trillion projected to be needed for fleet maintenance. If President-elect Trump keeps his promise to save billions of dollars on military programs like this one, where else could that money be invested with increased dividends?

The Children's Defense Fund's 2015 report *Ending Child Poverty Now* shows how we can shrink overall child poverty by 60 percent, Black child poverty by 72 percent, rural child poverty by 68 percent, and improve the economic circumstances of 97 percent of poor children simply by investing more in programs that we know work like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing subsidies, subsidized jobs, the Child Tax Credit, child care subsidies and others. Doing this will improve the lives and futures of millions of children, help close the huge unjust opportunity gaps, and eventually save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars annually. The \$500 billion a year it costs our nation now to keep more than 14.5 million children in poverty is six times more than the \$77 billion investment we propose to reduce child poverty by 60 percent. Child poverty is way too expensive to

continue especially when we have other clear choices.

From the same \$1.37 trillion the Pentagon is projected to spend on the non-working, grossly over-budget F-35 program, the nation could take steps to reduce child poverty by 60 percent for nearly 18 years—the entire life of a generation of children. Each year the \$77 billion would cover—several positive proven steps: Expanding housing assistance for 70 percent of eligible families with incomes below 150 percent of poverty and for whom fair market rent exceeded 50 percent of their income who currently don't get help because of funding limits. Increasing the value of SNAP benefits for families with children by 30 percent. Making the lowest-income families eligible for the full \$1,000 Child Tax Credit for each qualifying child regardless of earned income. Expanding child care subsidies to all families under 150 percent of the poverty line. Boosting the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income workers with children. Doing this would improve the life chances of millions of children. With the exorbitant costs of the F-35 program under new scrutiny the obvious solution is right in front of our eyes. What will we do with it?

President Eisenhower, a former five star general, reminded us that: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies ... a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hope of its children." Yet we are spending \$46.7 billion a month; \$10.7 billion a week; \$1.5 billion a day; \$64 million an hour; \$1.1 million a minute; and \$17,757 a second on the military. Let's agree with President-elect Trump on this one and seize this opportunity right now to make another choice by putting children first.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Holiday Depression Can Be A Very Real Problem

While the holiday season is a happy time for most people, for many it can be a time of sadness and even depression. Holiday depression can be caused by many things, but it also can be relieved.

Near the top of the list of what makes us depressed are the unrealistic expectations many of us place upon ourselves during this season. Constant exposure to media images of the "ideal" holiday can create fantasy goals impossible to achieve.

We may start feeling that we lack some important quality because we're not invited to the best parties or aren't having the "perfect" holiday we imagine others are enjoying. Comparing ourselves to how things "ought to be" leaves us feeling that we're constantly getting cheated. This can be especially true if holiday gift desires are fast outpacing your financial situation.

Holiday depression can also have its roots in the changed lifestyle many of us experience during this season. Our diets may change, usually including more candy, cake and alcohol.

We also often exercise less. Busy holiday schedules coupled with less daylight and colder temperatures make it harder to stick to that regular workout regimen.

Combine the mood swings that go with a high-calorie, high-sugar diet with being more sedentary and depression can easily occur. We may feel more lethargic, and perhaps guilty as a couple of extra pounds show up around our waistlines.

Fortunately, correcting the holiday blues usually isn't impossible. Simply recognizing that the media-promoted "perfect holiday" images and limitless gifts aren't realistic is an important first step.

Refuse to compare yourself to that TV "family" or the neighbors you imagine having that rosy "ideal" holiday. Instead, focus on the good and positive in your own life and those people and things you really enjoy during this season.

Making a conscious effort to get back to a healthier diet and to increase your amount of exercise can also do a great deal to overcome holiday depression.

Lastly, don't wallow privately in your depression. Go meet with friends, not to share your blue mood but just to enjoy them socially. Friends and family can do a great deal to lift your spirits.

But if you find that your holiday depression is not going away despite your best efforts, try talking with a professional counselor. Serious depression is not a health problem to be ignored.

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

Tax Reform from A4

In addition, the bill would slice the corporate rate by more than half, to just 17 percent.

"A cornerstone of the Progressive Consumption Tax Act is its progressivity. Rebates and the family allowance will practically eliminate the consumption tax burden for lower- and moderate-income families and provide similar support as programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Like the EITC and CTC, individuals and families who do not have an income tax liability would still be able to receive these rebates," Senator Cardin added.

The Progressive Consumption Tax Act sets the PCT at a single rate of 10 percent. It is

designed as a "credit invoice" method consumption tax that would be compliant with WTO rules. Since the U.S. is a low-tax country compared to other advanced-economy countries, the final PCT rate—if any change is made—will likely be set at a rate well below the current OECD average (about 19 percent).

The updated Progressive Consumption Tax Act contains several refinements based on stakeholder input received since 2014. It was reintroduced in the current Congress to provide an opportunity for further review and to show what responsible legislation that moves towards a consumption-base could look like as tax reform discussions move forward in 2017.

son and a demonstration of how to create vocal harmonies.

The Publick Playhouse is owned and operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Department of Parks and Recreation acquired and began restoration of the Playhouse in 1975. The Playhouse serves as a venue for the performing arts, concerts, dance, theater and community events and is one of the two surviving Art Deco theatres in Prince George's County.

Call 301-277-1710 for details or visit <http://buff.ly/2haAG8y>.

GEICO from A2

showing of *Snow Day* on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. Department of Parks and Recreation executives will be in attendance to celebrate the occasion.

Young audiences will be mesmerized by, *Snow Day*, this dynamic vocal quintet that performs upbeat songs and moving rhythms as they trace the history of a cappella singing (singing without instrumental accompaniment). The performance includes an audience-participation vocal drumming les-

Economic Development Corporation Partners With Top Local Developers to Boost County Retail Success

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Last month, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman announced that the EDC will be joining forces with top local developers in the region to bring more well-known retailers to Prince George's County. Through a public private partnership, the EDC and local developers are planning to roll out the red carpet to key retail executives by bringing them to Prince George's County and exposing them first-hand to the feel, smell, touch and opportunities available in the County. Michael Amann with Forestville Plaza, Howard Biel, Sr., Vice President of Echo Realty, Trey Proctor with G.S. Proctor and Associates, Kent Digby, Vice President Peterson Companies/National Harbor and Jeffrey Berman, Vice President of Berman Enterprises were among the 17 local developers invited to brainstorm on how to best showcase Prince George's County to the world.

"Today, we heard from the 'movers and shakers' of the Prince George's County retail and real estate establishment. Like our residents, these developers deserve to have major retailers like Apple Computers, Saks Fifth Avenue, Capital Grille and Morton's Steak House in the County, and we want to help them get it," said Coleman. "We want to invite the CEO's and CFO's from the major retail outlets to not just meet with us when we go to the ICSC shopping center convention in Las Vegas, but to bring them to see the Prince George's County up-close and personal. I see no reason why Louisville, Kentucky, with a smaller population and lower median household income than Prince George's County has a Ruth's Chris Steak House, and Prince George's County doesn't. With the strong community in-

Forum from A1

government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. Established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the USAID invests in ideas that work to improve the lives of millions of men, women and children around the world. The USAID works with U.S. small and large businesses to assist them in this effort. By utilizing small businesses in their procurement contracts with foreign countries, it furthers America's interests in improving lives in the developing world and provides small businesses with the revenue they need to grow and create jobs. As a result, the federal government is given the opportunity to work with some of the most innovative and nimble small businesses and the USAID can contribute to the congressional mandate that small businesses receive 23% of federal prime contracting dollars.

"Our mission is to end extreme poverty and to assist the most needy around the world," said Mauricio Vera, Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in the USAID. "We do that work through partners, both in the public and private sector. Today, we are very excited to be establishing a partnership with the



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman talking with local developers about new attraction strategies for premium retailers.

terest and the development community working with us, I'm betting on the house that Prince George's County can bring in more premium retailers with our hands on approach to enhancing the County's retail community."

In recent years, through its participation at the annual International Council of Shopping Centers Convention (ICSC) in Las Vegas, the County has successfully attracted retail outlets such as Harris Teeter, Nordstrom Rack, Krispy Kreme and Tanger Outlet. These "wins were part of the County's collective efforts to highlight the land, local support and incentive tools that developers community and the County are willing to contribute to ensure retailers success.

"I'm really happy that the County is reaching out to the business community, and developers in particular to gage us on how they should they should facilitate retail in the County. Many retailers are not aware of the purchasing power in Prince George's County," said Berman. "As people begin to understand what County Executive Baker and his team have done to change and enhance the regulatory environment, and to become more business friendly, I believe we will have more national and regional presence in the County. My fam-

ily has been developing in this County for generations, and this is the best it has ever been. Now is a great time to bring national brokers to Prince George's County to experience firsthand what the County is all about."

Attendees complimented the County on its ability to showcase Prince George's County at the ICSC conventions and were also shared concerns about the changing face of retail. Many were pleased to recognize that the County is, in fact looking to change the retail attraction program and are developing initiatives that, in conjunction with the Convention, would have a stronger impact in showcasing the County.

"Our goal is to showcase the genuine opportunities that exist throughout Prince George's County," said EDC Business Development Director, Larry Hentz. "Building on our past successes, our partnership with the development community will take us to the next level. We believe that by actually seeing these great opportunities, people will come to the realization that Prince George's County is a great place to do business."

Several of the developers shared their own challenges in doing business with the County in the past, and credited the

tenacity and cooperation of County Executive Baker's office and the Economic Development Corporation with making their businesses successful. As a development community, it seemed it was important for them to ensure that other retailers had the opportunity to become a part of the dynamic business environment that is synonymous with Prince George's County.

"As a development community, we are doing well attracting new retailers and we are trying to achieve further momentum," said Digby. "There is a lot of energy in the County. It is very refreshing to see Jim Coleman and the EDC bringing developers together in these type of forums. Having worked in the County for more than 11 years, this is the best I've seen the County and the business community working together. We want to continue to make things happen in Prince George's County."

The EDC and the County will attend the ICSC Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada from May 21st through 24th, 2017. For more information on retail business development or to become a part of the Prince George's County delegation to ICSC, contact Larry Hentz (lhentz@co.pg.md.us) or call 301-583-4650.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation who will help us identify small business partners who are interested in doing business with USAID and help us accomplish our mission around the world."

Mr. Vera, along with the other panelists were extremely impressed by the number of Prince George's companies that expressed interest in international business. Attendees at today's forum were encouraged to think big, not small when it comes to working with the federal government. With small businesses being a vital part of the U.S. economy, USAID has found that even small businesses can do big things. Education, health, research and development and IT services are some of the procurement areas that the agency is currently soliciting for are in Tanzania and other countries in Africa. Agriculture and energy are also key industry sectors of interest.

"This USAID outreach event was very informative," said Hussein Sharaf, President and Chief Technology Officer for Metrolink Networks, a technology consulting company in National Harbor, MD. "We were able to learn a lot about the different areas that they are working in, as well as the different opportunities that our company may have to partner with USAID. We were also made aware

of the right contacts we need to follow up with, and we will be doing that right away."

The panelists gave very simple and straight forward advice about doing business with USAID and other federal agencies. If a business is to succeed in the federal space, it must first do research on what the procurement is requesting, which may include investigating where the contract would be performed as well as what types of prime contractors are already working in that sector. Secondly, the companies must evaluate and analyze how the business can realistically contribute to the success of the contract and what types of prime contractors are already working in that sector of the world. By following these steps and partnering with prime contractors, local companies can become well positioned to be awarded federal contracts in foreign countries. Once contracts are awarded, USAID becomes another resource to ensure the companies success.

Attendees also heard from Gary Imhoff with the Power Africa and Trade Africa Initiatives who talked about the importance of energy in Africa. With so much of Africa not connected to an electrical grid, his Agency has worked diligently to create solar farms. Collectively, Power Africa has over 140 partners in the public and

private sector around the world, who recognize that energy development and trade needs to be available for all of the continent; not just a few countries. Prime contractors Carlos Rivera, Chairperson of the Small Business Association for International Companies (SBAIC) and Lisa Ashcraft, Vice President of Abt Associates also talked about how their companies work with small businesses to connect them to large businesses around the world.

"I have been a resident of Prince George's County for more than 30 years and I am so impressed with what is going on with the County," said Rita Rashad, a budding entrepreneur. "Today I learned to first do my research, then work on building my business. I am excited and want to be a part of all the new activity taking place in the County and I look forward to creating jobs for others as I grow my business."

Today's forum was graciously sponsored by Ve Water, the Joseph Greenwald and Laake Law firm, NAI Michael Companies and Berman Enterprises.

For more information on international business development and to get your business on the international stage, contact Martin Ezemma (muezemma@co.pg.md.us) or 301-583-4650 or go to our website www.pgcdec.com

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Moana

Moana
Grade: B
Rated PG, mild peril and
thematic elements
1 hr., 43 min

Moana is an animated Disney film about a headstrong girl in the middle of the ocean whose kingly, overprotective father fears the world beyond their realm and forbids her from engaging with it. But after singing a song about how she yearns for more, the girl disobeys her father, goes on a journey, and ends up saving the kingdom. And you're never going to believe this, but it's all from the directors of *The Little Mermaid!*

That'd be Ron Clements and John Musker. They also made *Aladdin*, *Hercules*, and *The Princess and the Frog*, and they've returned to apply the time-tested Disney formula to the myths of Polynesia. With a boastful sidekick, a "believe in yourself" message, and peppy songs (by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mark Mancina, and Opetia Foa'i), *Moana* fits comfortably in the mold of animated musicals without doing anything new. (Its most radical, though not unprecedented, deviations: Moana's mother isn't dead, and Moana doesn't have a love interest.) But as these very filmmakers have demonstrated in the past, a Disney cartoon doesn't need to be innovative to succeed; it just needs to hit the audience's heart and funny bone. *Moana* does that well enough.

The title character (voiced by newcomer Auli'i Cravalho) lives on the small, peaceful island of Motunui, where her father (Temuera Morrison) is chief and she's next in line. Moana's people sustain themselves through fishing, always obeying the chief's directive (helpfully repeated a few times) that "no one goes beyond the reef." But Moana is drawn to the ocean and wants to reclaim her ancestors' heritage as courageous navigators—which may be a necessity now that the reef's supply of fish is dwindling.



ROTTENTOMATOES

Three thousand years ago, the greatest sailors in the world voyaged across the vast Pacific, discovering the many islands of Oceania. But then, for a millennium, their voyages stopped—and no one knows exactly why. From Walt Disney Animation Studios comes *Moana*, a sweeping, CG-animated feature film about an adventurous teenager who sails out on a daring mission to save her people. During her journey, Moana (voice of Auli'i Cravalho) meets the mighty demigod Maui (voice of Dwayne Johnson), who guides her in her quest to become a master wayfinder. Together, they sail across the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds, and along the way, Moana fulfills the ancient quest of her ancestors and discovers the one thing she's always sought: her own identity. Directed by the renowned filmmaking team of Ron Clements and John Musker (*The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, *The Princess and the Frog*), produced by Osnat Shurer (*Lifted*, *One Man Band*), and featuring music by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mark Mancina and Opetia Foa'i.

Encouraged by her spiritualist grandmother (Rachel House), Moana learns that the ocean has chosen her to complete a mission that will restore the island's vitality. That's where Dwayne Johnson comes in. Typecast yet again as a hulking, beefy demigod, The Rock provides the voice of Maui, who swiped the Heart of Te Fiti (it's a small medallion) centuries ago, inadvertently unleashing a creeping darkness that now threatens to overtake the island. Maui, whose sentient tattoos act as his conscience, has been living in exile, his superpowers revoked though his ego remains undiminished.

(His amusingly vain introductory number is called *You're Welcome*.) And really, except for that one error in judgment, he did do a lot for mankind, back in the day.

At this point, the movie switches from the Provincial Girl Seeks Greater Purpose template to the Mismatched Characters Are Forced to Travel Together template, as Moana pressures Maui to join her in returning the Heart of Te Fiti and restoring order. This, finally, is what the movie really came here to do. Everything else was just prologue; the film is ultimately uninterested in Moana's relationship with her father. (The screenplay, of questionable struc-

ture, is credited to *Zootopia*'s Jared Bush, but at least eight other writers worked on it.) As Moana and Maui traverse the open seas, they face a variety of exciting monsters and foes, including a giant crab (Jemaine Clement) attracted to shiny objects and an army of wee pirate creatures who wear coconuts for armor and take inspiration from *Mad Max: Fury Road*. These perilous adventures make for smooth, breezy fun, accompanied by the expected bantering, bickering, bonding, life lessons and hugging. Nearly 80 years after *Snow White*, the old Disney factory is still crankin' 'em out better than anyone.

Canyon from A3

The National Aquarium had been looking at this designation for years as a way preserve the ecosystem of Baltimore Canyon while creating STEM career pathways, but the nomination process through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration just reopened in 2015 after two decades, according to NOAA.

The process starts with public support, which the National Aquarium decided to express with an online petition that was started when it announced the effort Oct. 24. The petition has garnered more than 1,700 signatures thus far.

The nomination will then be sent to NOAA for review by the end of the year, and if passed, will be placed on the inventory for potential marine sanctuary sites. If the Baltimore Canyon were to be selected from the inventory, it would then go

through a separate sanctuary designation process, which could take several years to complete, according to NOAA.

The public reaction to the project has been "overwhelmingly positive," Hoellen said.

"We're getting very positive favorable feedback from constituencies in the marine world, in the ecological world, the education community, in the youth development community and in the science fields," she said. "I mean this is something that brings everyone together, which was our purpose."

However, there has been concern from the sportfishing community that the designation will impact recreational fishing.

While the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulates fishing within 200 miles of the east coast, some fishermen have expressed concern that government regulations stemming from this designation could limit activity.

"What the sanctuary does, it puts those activities under a single umbrella and allows the sanctuary to regulate everything that goes on in there, up to a point of course," said Brooke.

Dan Stauffer, the captain of Finchaser Sportfishing Charters in Ocean City, Maryland, takes about 20 to 25 trips to the Baltimore Canyon during an average season to look for tuna, marlin, mahi mahi and wahoo, among other fish.

"I've heard (the designation) will only affect commercial fishery, but there are aspects of commercial fishery ... that greatly affect the charter fishing industry and recreational fishing industry," he said.

Red crab and lobster fishing, for example, require the use of large buoys to attract the crustaceans, but the buoys could be banned under the urban national marine sanctuary designation, which would be "a big detriment" to fishing, said Stauffer.

"I am very concerned how restrictive they might be or whether this could morph into something that begins at one level of restriction but yet morphs into something that would be totally restrictive," he said.

At other national marine sanctuaries, recreational activities have been permitted and even encouraged, but because Baltimore Canyon would be the first urban national marine sanctuary, different regulations might apply.

But the "urban" classification is imperative to the canyon's identity, because it would provide an automatic connection to the people of Baltimore, and hopefully spur public involvement in ocean research, Hoellen said.

"We are looking at our urban areas and looking at social justice issues, and I think that's where conservation becomes relevant and meaningful and it brings everyone together, and that's when you know you have a success," she said.

Cab Rides from A1

Sunday, January 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During the evening hours, between December 16th and January 1st, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-

free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless users can dial #WRAP for the same service.)

"Last December, nearly 1,500 (1,456) Greater Washington residents did the right thing and availed themselves of this life-saving service rather than possi-

bly driving home impaired," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "For SoberRide's hours of operation during just last New Year's Eve, alone, such ridership (580) translated into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from our shared roadways every 49-seconds."

SoberRide is offered in the District of Columbia; throughout

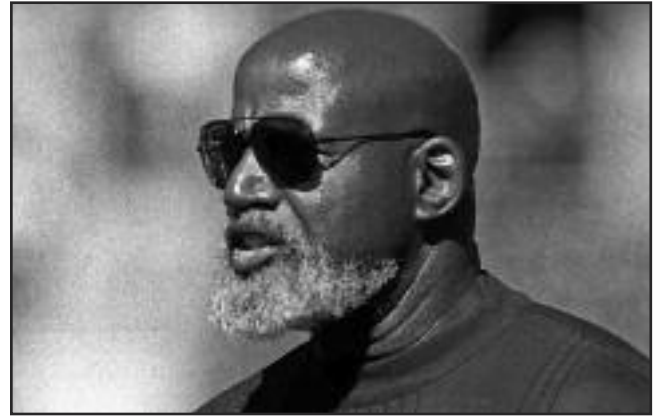
the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local resi-

See CAB RIDES Page A8

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

'We Have an Obligation to Fight This Madness'



This year has seen a remarkable renaissance of star athletes for the first time since the 1960s and 1970s using their hyperexalted platform to speak about politics. There's only one person who can speak about these eras like no one else, one person who played a role in advising activist athletes from Muhammad Ali to Colin Kaepernick. That would be legendary sports sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards. Here is an edited interview of my conversation with Dr. Edwards about the landscape for activist athletes in the age of Trump. People can listen to the interview in its entirety at the bottom of the page.

DZ: What are your impressions of the election results?

HE: I'm neither surprised nor chagrined at the outcome. The media, especially the mainstream media, in this country did not expose Trump because they never attacked him straight on, in terms of his racist, misogynistic, xenophobic policies. They gave him free time. Billions of dollars' worth of free time. They didn't expose him; they showcased him. And then, when I look at what was happening in American society, with black men, women, and children being shot down by police officers and nobody going to jail; when I looked at the way they treated the first African American president and his family ... I never deluded myself into thinking that somehow we were in some post-racial America. Yes, a lot of people were also simply turned off by the degeneracy of the process, they didn't see anybody that they could vote for who could make a difference. I think that's unfortunate because I think Hillary would've made a difference in terms of Supreme Court appointments. The issue, now, for me, is what do we do about it? And at one level, it's crystal clear that this situation can no longer be denied and we have to go to work.

DZ: Given how, as you put it, degenerate this whole election process has been, how do you think the Trump victory is going to affect the mood, the momentum, of what we've seen in terms of these athlete activists?

HE: I think it's going to accelerate it, I don't think it's going to kill it. The media will run a whole bunch of black Uncle Tom Trump sycophants across the stage to try to explain how what he intends to do or might do is in the best interest of black people in the black community. I think that they should be dismissed out of hand. The so-called black, Christian preachers who so publicly supported Trump, these handkerchief-head Jesus pimps should be dismissed out of hand.

Malcolm [X] used to call them "house Negroes." These are not house Negroes—these are outhouse Negroes who will be run across the stage to criticize athletes, to criticize other black people and they should be dismissed. These are people who are content to live in old master's toilet as long as they can be close to him and his money when he comes in to use the toilet.

All of that is going to boil up, it's going to be out there. But I think that athletes are going to continue to speak up and speak out. I think we're going to get many more women athletes involved because if Trump does what he says he's going to do, in terms of *Roe v. Wade*. This thing is going to ricochet throughout sports and I think that athletes will respond. I think we're looking at an escalation in terms of athlete responses to this systematic racism and most certainly to the misogynistic racist that a majority white population has put into the White House.

DZ: Now, you've been in several pro and NCAA locker rooms in the last week, I know. What's the mood of the players that you're talking to?

HE: The players that I have spoken with have been trying to figure out a way to express themselves and to anticipate what they might have to deal with as protests inevitably break out in their communities as well as on their campuses. The University of Missouri set a standard of what athletes are obliged to at least to consider, if not to do. So on a number of campuses that I've spoken on in the last three months, athletes are trying to figure out, where does this thing fall on our campus?

And suppose the students on the campus begin to organize and demonstrate around issues that impact them personally both on the campus and in the community and determine that the athletes have a role to play in that. How do we take that stand and stay unified as a team? Suppose it does come down to a threat of a boycott—are we all together? Is it a matter of democratic vote? Is it a matter of demographic vulnerability? If you're an African American, do you have any obligation to consider what the white players on the team think? Especially in cases where so many of them were Trump supporters. All of that has been discussed. They are already considering those issues and these are difficult problems for 18-, 19-, 20-year-olds to wrestle with. They are undertaking that challenge on the campuses and most certainly in the professional sports ranks.

See MADNESS Page A7

Calendar of Events

December 29, 2016 — January 4, 2017

30th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Date and Time: Through Sunday, January 1, 2017,
5–9:30 pm (daily)

Description: Bring a little twinkle to your holidays at the 30th Annual Winter festival of Lights! Don't miss this spectacular holiday drive-through event of more than one million twinkling lights! Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

Cost: (Cash only): \$5/cars and vans;
\$15/mini-buses and limos; \$25/buses;
\$10/multi-visit passes for cars and vans.

Ages: All ages

Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544

Holiday Tours

Date and Time: Through December 31, 2016, 11 am–4 pm

Description: See Montpelier dressed up for the holidays on these self-guided tours. Rooms will be decorated in greens by local garden clubs.

Cost: Regular tour prices apply.

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

Contact: 301-377-7817; 301-699-2544;
montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

Riversdale by Candlelight

Date and Time: Friday, December 30, 2016, 6 pm

Description: Residents from three eras of history welcome guests to the candlelit museum for tours, refreshments, live music, and children's activities.

Cost: Adult \$5; Children 12 & under free
with paid admission

Ages: All ages welcome

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

Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

Xtreme Teens: New Year's Skate Party

Date and Time: Friday, December 30, 2016, 7–10 pm

Description: Bring a friend and party with us as we skate our way into the New Year. Please wear or bring socks to participate.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Madden Tournament

Date and Time: Friday, December 30, 2016, 7–10 pm

Description: Show off your gaming skills and compete with other teens at the Madden Tournament. Arrive early, there won't be any late entries.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 13–17

Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD

Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Marietta House Museum Tours

Date and Time: Monday, January 2–Tuesday, January 31,
12 noon–4 pm (by appointment only)

Description: Call to arrange a special tour of our historic home to see our beautiful holiday decorations and view two of our special exhibits: *The Negroes Leagues of the Mid-Atlantic Region and Local Sandlot Baseball Teams* and *On the Homefront: Selected Home Furnishings from the 1940s*.

Cost: Fee: \$5/adult; \$2/ages 60 & up; \$1/ages 5-18

Ages: All ages

Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD

Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

HCC Free Drop-in After School Programs

Date and Time: Weekdays 5–7pm

Description: Come and join John Eager Howard Community Center for our free, drop-in, after school program. There will be arts and crafts, after-school clubs, and many more fun activities where you can be creative and learn new things.

Cost: Free

Ages: 13–17

Location: John E. Howard Community Center
4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD

Contact: 301-735-3340

New Year's Day Party

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 12 noon–4 pm

Description: Ring in the New Year New York Style with a balloon drop! Bring your family and friends and start the year off together. There will be live entertainment, music, and dancing. Enjoy a catered brunch and door prizes.

Cost: Advance Ticket Price: Resident: \$15;

Non-Resident: \$20

Door Ticket Price: Resident: \$20;

Non-Resident: \$26

Ages: 18 & up

Location: Temple Hills Community Center
5300 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hill, MD

Contact: 301-894-6616; TTY 301-699-2544

The Negroes Leagues of the Mid-Atlantic Region and Local Sandlot Baseball Teams

Date and Time: Monday–Saturday, January 5–30, 2017,
12 noon–4 pm

Description: Tour Marietta and visit our the special exhibit on Negro Leagues Baseball of the 1900's through the 1950's.

Cost: \$5/adult; \$2/senior (60 & up); \$1/student

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD

Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ...

How Does Vegan Leather Compare With Conventional Leather in Regard to Environmental Impact?

Dear *EarthTalk*:

What is vegan leather made from, and how does it compare with conventional leather in regard to environmental impact?

—Katherine Sutton,
Washington, D.C.

Leather is stylish, fashionable and wearable throughout the year, but its production takes a heavy toll on animal welfare and the environment. While many environmentalists and vegetarians swear off leather altogether, more and more are turning to vegan leather as a cruelty-free alternative. But even vegan (AKA synthetic) leather has its environmental problems, given the toxin-laden base materials it is typically made from and the harsh chemical tanning and dying processes it is subjected to in order to make it into the type of shiny, tough and stylish material we are have all grown to love.

Most vegan leather is made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polyurethane. According to Andrew Dent of Material ConneXion, PVC is a respiratory irritant and known carcinogen. And when it is exposed to high heat or landfilled, it releases dioxins linked to developmental, reproductive and other health problems.

Meanwhile, polyurethane-based synthetic leather isn't much better. Jody McCutcheon reports in *luxemagazine.com* that off-gassing from

polyurethane can cause lung irritation and trigger asthma attacks. And the solvents used to make it malleable like leather are highly toxic in their own right.

“When it does break down, vegan leather releases phthalates—initially added as a softening agent—which subsequently enter the food chain and the atmosphere, causing breathing problems, breast cancers, hormonal disruptions and birth defects,” adds McCutcheon.

Of course, vegan or synthetic leather does have one huge environmental advantage over conventional leather: no animals are directly harmed in its production. According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), most conventional leather comes from developing countries where animal welfare laws are either non-existent or unenforced. A PETA investigation in India found workers were breaking cows' tails and rubbing chili peppers and tobacco into their eyes “in order to force them to stand, get up and walk after they collapse from exhaustion on the way to the slaughterhouse.”

Of course, plenty of conventional leather comes from domestic sources as well. PETA says that millions of cows and other animals are killed for their skin every year right here in the U.S., with many of them forced to endure the horrors of factory farming such as extreme crowding, castration, branding, tail-docking, dehorning and other forms of control. PETA adds that



CREDIT: IKHLASUL AMAL, FLICKRCC

Even without the animal cruelty factor, vegan (or synthetic) leather has its environmental problems, given its toxin-laden base materials and the harsh chemical tanning and dying processes it is subjected to in order to make it shiny, tough and fashionable.

beyond its pollution burden, conventional leather also “shares responsibility for all the environmental destruction caused by the meat industry” including carbon emissions and the chemical agricultural inputs and waste of cropland to grow animal feed.

For the sake of both animals and the planet, stay clear of all leather, faux or real. Plenty of clothing brands are now embracing non-animal materials and cruelty-free sourcing while keeping up their fashion chops. One example is Olsenhaus,

whose faux-suede microfiber fabrics are made from recycled television film yet retain the softness, comfort and look of real suede. Another responsible choice is Dinamica, which makes its fabrics from 100 percent recycled PET bottles; the company's eco-friendly suede look-alike material produces 60 percent fewer carbon emission than so-called virgin polyester. For more animal- and environment-friendly clothing and fabric options, check out PETA's Cruelty-Free Shopping Guide.

CONTACTS: Material ConneXion, www.materialconnexion.com; Olsenhaus, www.olsenhaus.com; Dinamica, www.dinamicamiko.com; PETA, <http://features.peta.org/cruelty-free-company-search>

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Healthcare from A3

on drugs in 2015, an average of 604,509 Maryland seniors, or 76 percent of all Maryland seniors enrolled in Medicare Part B, took advantage of at least one free preventive service.

• **Free preventive services:** The ACA added coverage of an annual wellness visit and eliminated cost-sharing for recommended preventive services such as cancer screenings. In 2015,

604,509 Maryland seniors, or 76 percent of all Maryland seniors enrolled in Medicare Part B, took advantage of at least one free preventive service.

• **Fewer hospital mistakes:** The ACA introduced new incentives for hospitals to avoid preventable patient harms and avoidable readmissions. Hos-

pital readmissions for Maryland Medicare beneficiaries dropped 10 percent between 2010 and 2015, which translates into 3,789 times Maryland Medicare beneficiaries avoided an unnecessary return to the hospital in 2015.

• **More coordinated care:** The ACA encouraged groups of

doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers to come together to provide coordinated high-quality care to the Medicare patients they serve. 26 Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) in Maryland now offer Medicare beneficiaries the opportunity to receive higher quality, more coordinated care.

Madness from A6

DZ: It sounds like you've got an injection of hope by being around these folks.

HE: Absolutely. When you have no choice, the odds and the circumstances don't matter. It's like taking your next breath. You have no choice. Whether you wanted to get up this morning, whether you were feeling good, bad, whether you've had your coffee or not, you have no choice but to take that next breath. Under these circumstances that we're confronted with today, we have no choice. We are confronted with some possibilities that are unprecedented in American history with very, very few examples. When this man starts talking about loading up the buses and cattle cars and shipping 11 million immigrants and Latinos across the border into Mexico, we're back to the Japanese internment camps. We're back to the removal of Native Americans from their homelands to what, essentially, were concentration camps where they died by the hundreds of thousands. We have to begin to think about what we're going to do. If you've ever wondered what you would do in 1930s Germany, I'm awfully afraid that you're going to get a chance to find out. All of these issues are out there, not to speak of the circumstances of women, the circumstances of Muslims, is he really going to have a religious test to allow Muslims to come into this country? ISIS must be licking their chops for that to get underway. What are we going to do in order to defend America? Not to oppose him, but to defend America. Those are issues that we all now have to wrestle with out front. There's no way to hide what is

going on or what the potential outcomes could be.

DZ: I've defended Colin Kaepernick from some of the criticism he's received for not voting, but as someone who's worked with Colin and is connected to the 49ers' organization, I'd love to have your thoughts about what he's said about this election.

HE: I talk to Kaep two or three times a week, and one of the things I've stated is that if for no other reason, then you have so many oppositional interests who are trying to suppress the vote. You have so many people who died to secure the vote. You have so many issues down-ballot that are critically important to resolving and dealing with some of the varying injustices that you are concerned about. There's an obligation to vote.

If anybody in society knows how rigged these elections can be, it's black people. I mean, at one point we couldn't vote, then when we were able to vote, the districts were gerrymandered so our vote didn't count for nearly what they should've counted for and now we're dealing with voter suppression that is systematic and from the top. We know about rigged elections, but at the same time we must utilize every arrow that we have in our quiver, no matter how small or how short distance they may be geared to go.

We had that conversation. He has a right not to vote, we don't have a mandatory voting law in this country, but I think that he has to really think and sincerely consider what the impact of his not voting is, because, in this election, that was really a vote for Trump. Not only that, but what the impact of his not voting upon all of those other millennials and young people who look

to him for courage, direction, guidance, insight, and so forth.

DZ: In some of my darker moments, I've turned to Muhammad Ali, his example, what he would have said at a given moment. What does Ali have to teach us in the era of Trump?

HE: I think that Ali, along with a number of other outstanding black athletes—Jackie Robinson, in his last days, who said “I never had it made and, I'm sorry, I can't stand for either the national anthem or to say the Pledge of Allegiance”—they teach us that ultimately, it's not the odds that are against you, it's the magnitude of your courage and the caliber of your commitment that should guide and drive your actions and perspectives.

Trump is wrong for America. Trump is wrong for the world. We have an obligation at every level to organize, to mobilize, to establish coalitions to fight this madness.

The fact is that a majority of white Americans voted to put Trump in office and for him to bring in all of those other racists and sycophants and so forth that followed him down that path to the sewer.

We have an obligation to mobilize and to begin to organize against the impact of that on our communities, on our colleges and universities, on our lives. That is what Ali teaches us, irrespective of the personal and individual cost. Why? Because we have no option.

DZ: These are troubled times. What do you do for your mental wellness when, especially, things are this hot?

HE: Well, first of all, I read. I read everything that I can get my hands on that's going to be information. Malcolm X said that reading and studying are the activities

that best reward effort. If I were talking to a person today, I would tell them to go online and read articles by two of my protégés and former students, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and David Leonard. Read Kareem's article *What It Means to be Black During a Trump Administration* and read David Leonard's Undeclared blog, *Student Athlete 2.0*. I would start reading everything that I can get my hands on that informed me about developments, current and past, and how they were handled.

The second thing that I would do is surround myself with people who are similarly committed. We do not have time, really, for a lot of hee-hawing or shimmy-shammying and moonwalking and hand-wringing and so forth. We have got to begin to organize because now it's in our face. It's undeniable, it's the reality of America today.

I have a friend that I've been dealing with for years. He told me “Oh, we'll come out of this with some scars, but we'll come out of it.” Yeah, but come out of it as what? That is what the question is. So we need to go to work, but we need to inform ourselves. I've always been a scholar-activist because I believe that activism without scholarship is a formula for chaos and confusion, if not disaster. Scholarship without activism, doing a bunch of reading while doing nothing is empty. So read, get together with people who are similarly oriented and to begin to figure out ways where coalitions can be established, where people can be organized and mobilized to fight this madness, because that is what it's going to come down to. It's going to be we, the people, who are going to be the difference in what the next four years looks like.

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Library from A1

for young readers. The adding of audio to print reading increases comprehension by 75 percent.

Opening week also had a total of 140 attendees at four storytimes and 12 chess club participants.

The 53 new computers were also winners with our customers. The Library had 1,293 computer users in the first week of which 112 were students with LINK accounts.

These record numbers opening week, November 28–December 4, 2016, speak for themselves about the excitement surrounding the opening of this newly constructed branch. The Laurel Branch Library has a dinosaur-themed children's section with a glassed encased di-

nosaur fossil replica of a Nanotyrannus in its flooring. Other features are 53 computers, a computer lab, two meeting rooms, multiple study rooms and WiFi. The new building is nearly double the size of the old one. It also has an emergency shelter-in-place area equipped with backup generators. Green features include: (1) roof-mounted solar panels, (2) permeable pavers in the parking lot that filter storm water run-off, (3) two charging stations for electric vehicles, and (4) a living plant wall in the Whisper (quiet study) Room. "This state-of-the-art new library branch will meet community needs now and into the future," stated Library Chief Executive Officer Kathleen A. Teaze.

Cab Rides from A6

dents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 65,385 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Sponsors of this year's Holiday SoberRide offering include: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, MillerCoors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow

Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at the website www.soberide.com.

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