

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 1 January 5 — January 11, 2017 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

REPORT: Advancing Equity for Women and Girls of Color

By PRESS OFFICER
The White House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the White House Council on Women and Girls released a report and will host a forum on the Administration's work to advance equity for women and girls of color and highlight the innovative solutions and exciting place-based work that is happening throughout the country. The forum will bring together a range of stakeholders from the academic, private, government and philanthropic sectors to discuss ways that we can break down barriers to success and create more ladders of opportunity for all Americans, including women and girls of color. The event will be livestreamed at www.whitehouse.gov/live and the full report is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/2016%20CWG%20WGOC%20REPORT%20.pdf>.

The Council on Women and Girls, since its inception, has focused on the needs and challenges of all women and girls. In 2014, as part of the effort to take into account the distinctive concerns of women and girls, the Council on Women and Girls launched a specific work stream called "Advancing Equity" to ensure that policies and programs across the federal government take into account the unique obstacles faced by

women and girls, including women and girls of color and women and girls from marginalized communities.

In November 2014, the Council on Women and Girls released a report titled *Women and Girls of Color: Addressing Challenges and Expanding Opportunities* to identify barriers and disparities facing women and girls of color. This report addressed work done over the first six years of the Administration to improve the lives of women and girls of color. It discussed important issues, such as educational attainment, economic security, health and safety, violence against women, and criminal and juvenile justice. It also included a call to action for the establishment of a federal interagency working group to develop opportunities for advancement, which commenced in March of 2015.

One year later, in November 2015, the Council released a new report *Advancing Equity for Women and Girls of Color* to highlight some of the additional steps taken by the Administration on issues faced by women and girls of color from 2014 through 2015. In that report, the Council on Women and Girls identified five data-driven issue areas where interventions can promote opportunities for success at

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ROBBIE GREENSPAN
Greg Dorsch's falcon Glory, a northern goshawk, spreads her wings as she attempts to fly on Nov. 13, 2016, in Mt. Airy, Maryland. Dorsch is holding string between his fingers that is connected to Glory's talons, preventing her from flying away. Falconry is the sport of hunting wildlife through a trained raptor.

While Not Mainstream Sport, Falconry Has Dedicated Following

By ROBBIE GREENSPAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—With blood on her beak and her prize between her talons, Glory looked up, pleased with herself.

The search for the rabbit had been going on for about 10 minutes, but the hunt itself lasted less than two seconds.

Two seconds of flight time for Glory, a northern goshawk, to catch and kill her prize.

After 20 years in falconry, Glory's owner, Greg Dorsch, is still amazed by what the birds can do.

"Goshawks will fly underneath (other) birds of prey to force them up, because (the birds of prey) are not as strong

of fliers," Dorsch said. "They will catch up to them and then flip over and grab the prey with their talons."

Dorsch isn't just a man with a bird; he's part of an exclusive group of Maryland residents involved in falconry.

Falconry is the sport of taking wildlife by means of a trained raptor, according to

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. More simply, it is hunting, but instead of using a gun, the falconer uses a bird.

While not a mainstream sport, there are still a number of people in Maryland who partake in falconry.

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Artist Spotlight: A Legacy of Service

Rush Baker Exemplifies a New Generation of Artists in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG African American Museum

NORTH BRENTWOOD, MD—Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center's most recent exhibition, *Through Their Eyes—Art, Education, and Influence*, features works by some of today's most prominent visual artists, all of whom honed their skills in the Prince George's County CVPA (Center for Visual and Performing Arts) Programs at Suitland and Northwestern High Schools. Rush Baker IV, one of the exhibition's featured artists, is a testament to the impact of arts education in the County. As a native Prince Georgian and the son of the current County Executive, Baker is deeply connected to the Prince George's past as well as its future. From his contributions as a renowned visual artist to his work as Assistant Director of the Brentwood Arts Exchange, Baker's dedication is equal parts creativity and public service.

Baker credits his experiences as a student in Suitland



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
Rush Baker sits among several of his paintings.

High School's CVPA Program as the catalyst for his later career. This year, Suitland CVPA marks its 30 year anniversary and has shaped careers of many of today's known talent such as J. August Richards of ABC's *Notorious* and Daniel Harder of Alvin Ailey Dance Company. Baker states "These programs—from dance and theater to TV production, graphic design, and the visual arts—attract young talent and cultivate a love and respect of our chosen professions from an early age,"

Baker reflects. "I definitely came out of the program with a bit of a head start."

Baker's artistic reach has since expanded across the country. After earning a BFA from Cooper Union and an MFA in Painting/Printmaking from Yale, he has gone on to be featured in exhibitions from Los Angeles to New York City. But it was Baker's experiences in the Suitland High School

See RUSH BAKER Page A3

CEO's Proposed FY2018 Operating Budget Builds on Key Initiatives

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell presented his Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Proposed Operating Budget on Thursday, a \$2.05 billion plan that builds on accomplishments and funds key initiatives.

The proposed budget is an increase of \$122.6 million, or 6.4 percent, over the current \$1.92 billion budget.

The spending plan invests in key initiatives aligned to the strategic plan—Academic Excellence, High-Performing Workforce, Safe and Supportive Environments, Family and Community Engagement, and Organizational Effectiveness.

During his budget presentation to the Prince George's County Board of Education, Dr. Maxwell described the strategic plan as the system's "roadmap to greatness."

"These five focus areas ground us and guide us towards our overarching goal: outstand-

ing academic achievement for all," said Dr. Maxwell. "When we invest in our students, we move them towards greatness."

Major budget recommendations include:

Academic Excellence (\$33.3 million)

- Add grade level to elementary Spanish language immersion programs for continuity
- Launch Pathways in Technology Early College

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Prince George's County Leads State in Property Value Increase

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Yesterday, the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation released their 2017 reassessments of 750,000 residential and commercial properties throughout the state. These properties, also known as "Group 2," are reassessed by the

State every three years. The Prince George's County residential and commercial properties assessed in this group increased 13.5% from their last assessment in 2014—residential property values increased by 14.2% and commercial properties increased by 11.5%.

"One of the major goals of my administration is to raise the property values for all Prince

George's County homeowners and businesses," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Each year, we have seen property values increase throughout the County. We attribute this to our decreasing crime rate, improvements in our public school sys-

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INSIDE

U.S. Education Secretary Announces Grant Competitions to Encourage Diverse Schools

Opening Doors, Expanding Opportunities is a new grant competition that will support districts in increasing socioeconomic diversity in schools, improving student academic achievement, and improving schools by increasing student diversity.

Community, Page A3

The Nomination of Senator Sessions and the Threat to Liberty and Justice for All

As it did three decades ago when Sen. Sessions testified before it, we expect and demand that the Senate Judiciary Committee conduct a thorough and complete examination to determine if Sen. Sessions is fit to serve in this crucial federal justice enforcement capacity.

Commentary, Page A4

IRS Warns Taxpayers of Numerous Tax Scams Nationwide; Provides Summary of Most Recent Schemes

Every tax season, there is an increase in schemes that target innocent taxpayers by email, by phone and online. The IRS and Security Summit partners remind taxpayers and tax professionals to be on the lookout for these deceptive schemes.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review:

The Edge of Seventeen

You can see the formulas at work here: the outcast smart kid, the relatable teacher, the parent who needs to grow up, the general despair of high school. But Craig overcomes the hurdle of familiarity by making Nadine, her mom, and her brother all into fully developed characters.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways environmentalists are using social media to further their causes?

—Sam Baskin,
Tullahoma, TN

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

She hailed from Puerto Rico, became a Census Bureau statistician

Carmina Fernández Young, a Census retiree and longtime Camp Springs resident, died December 19. She was 88.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Carmina studied at the University of Puerto Rico and at the University of Michigan where she received her doctorate in Math. She went to work for the Census Bureau, and it was there she met her future husband, Donald Eugene Young from Massachusetts who had done post-graduate studies at Boston University.

They were married June 8, 1960 in a nuptial Mass at San José Church in Villa Caparra, Puerto Rico. The groom's father was best man and the bride's mother was matron of honor. In 1966 the Youngs moved to Camp Springs.

They both had a career at the U. S. Census Bureau, in Suitland, where Carmina was a statistician. Donald retired in 1985 and Carmina in 1992.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 22 by Father Edward Hegnauer and Father Jeffery Samaha at St. Philip the Apostle Church where Carmina was a longtime and devout parishioner.

Her sisters, Josefina and Gladys, predeceased her. Carmina is survived by her husband of 56 years, Donald; daughter Donna, son Paul and his wife Mary Ann. She was adoring grandmother "Bita" of Ashley, Kyle, and Matthew. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Her nephew and godson, José Luis Martínez, gave a moving eulogy. And particularly appropriate to the season, he reminisced about what fun it was when Don and Carmina and their children came to Puerto Rico for Christmas.

Warming centers will be open, just in case

Twelve warming centers are available in Prince George's County, places where a resident can temporarily go during periods of extreme cold. Closest to

my area are the Camp Springs Senior Center, 6420 Allentown Road (301-449-0409); Suitland Community Center, 5600 Regency Lane (301-736-3518); and Temple Hills Community Center, 5300 Temple Hills Road (301-894-6616).

Residents should call the center to get specific hours of operation.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Alert Prince George's, the County's mass notification system that sends important information directly, before, during or after an emergency or disaster.

Coming up at the Surratt House

The house in Clinton where John Surratt served as postmaster and, later, his wife Mary was arrested in 1865, continues to offer a window back into Civil War times.

The Surratt House Museum is a historic property of The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, and offers tours and programs for the public. If you have not visited, you have missed something very special.

The House is currently closed to the public but will reopen Jan. 17 for tours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Then on Feb. 11, at 4 p.m., you can attend "Resurrecting Our Heritage: Alexandria's Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial." Audrey Davis, of Alexandria, will discuss how a long-forgotten cemetery was abandoned, paved over and developed—and then resurrected. Free.

The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. For information about tours, programs or their annual Conference, call 301-868-1121 or visit <http://www.surrattmuseum.org>.

African Dance classes

Would you like to "experience the cultural concepts of African dance while dancing to a variety of pulsating drum rhythms"? Marlow Heights Community Center is offering

African Rhythm & Dance beginning Jan. 12 through March 2. For ages 6 and older.

Classes are offered Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fees are \$42 for residents, \$55 for non-residents. Drop-in rate for residents is \$5 per class. The Center is at 2800 St. Clair Drive in Temple Hills. Info: 301-423-0505.

Intersection changes coming up

Transportation improvements are planned for the intersection of MD 4 (Pennsylvania Ave.) and Suitland Parkway. According to the Project Newsletter, "The project will address safety concerns and increase roadway capacity to meet existing and future demands along the MD 4 corridor."

Construction is due to start this spring and will take three to four years.

Morningside Memories: 1957

The Ladies Auxiliary to the MVFD held its first meeting of the year on Jan. 14, and elected the following officers: Hazel Loughmiller, president; Alma Broderick, vice president; Jeanne West, recording secretary; Jean Glaubitz, treasurer; Doris Young, corresponding secretary; and Renis Goff, membership.

The Fire Department also elected officers: G. Glaubitz, chief; L. Ditmar, assistant chief; L.D. Beardmore, captain; C. Loughmiller, fire marshal; E. Erhardt and J. Thorne, lieutenants; and L. L. Beardmore, superintendent of mach. J. L. Gelbman was elected president. Others elected were Rev. J. Carr, H. T. Richardson and G. Braasch.

The Ladies served refreshments after the installation. (This information from the Jan. 1957 Morning-Side-Lines.)

Milestones

Happy birthday to Suitland historian Darlie Norton, Ariel Thomas, Sarah Vilky and Terry Foster, Jan. 6; Eva Hugings and Charles Boxley, Jan. 8

Happy anniversary to Diane (Miller) and Steve Zirkle, on Jan. 9, and to David and Lori Williams, on Jan. 9.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CONGRATULATIONS

Reverend John W. Spann a 13-year employee and member of Friendship in North Carolina was born and raised in District Heights, Maryland. He is the youngest son of two children born to John and Rose Spann and married to Talicia Airline Spann. John received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW); a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School and became a Certified Public Accountant in 2004.

John received a full athletic scholarship to UNCW and was the first African-American to graduate with a Master's degree in Accounting from the University. He attended Duke University and was awarded the Calvin Hill Scholarship with other honors and awards. John simultaneously served as the Divinity School Student Body Treasurer and Black Student Union Treasurer while attending Duke.

John was licensed his first year at Duke and ordained after

graduation at his home church, Paramount Baptist Church, 4th Street SE, DC, where Rev. Ishmael Shaw is the Pastor.

After graduating from Duke, John was hired as the Church Accountant at Friendship. He serves as a member of the Executive Council and his current position is Minister of Finance overseeing the financial and accounting operations at Friendship in North Carolina. He is responsible for facilitating the annual budget process and the strategic financial management, as directed by the Senior Minister.

HEALTH & WELLNESS ZONE

All ages are welcome to participate in a variety of healthy activities that will improve the quality of your life Sunday February 26, 2017 from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM at Tucker Road Athletic Complex. The address is 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone number is 301-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544.

All ages are welcome to explore the QR Fit Trail; enjoy

skating, and beginner golf. Everyone will have the opportunity learn about the new Walk and Talk with the Doc program and Yoga in the Parks. You will be able to participate in fitness class demos and more.

PARCC PARENT NIGHTS

Prince Georges County Public Schools is hosting PARCC Night at two high school sites—Oxon Hill High School and Laurel High School. These nights are for parents to learn more about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. PARCC Parent Night is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at Oxon Hill High School and Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Laurel High School, from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM. Refreshments (light snack) will be available for sale during the PARCC Parent Night events. Visit <http://surveytracker.net/scripts/survey.dll?AHID=08A00G> to register.

Neighborhoods

HUD Awards \$48 Million to Maryland Homeless Programs

PHILADELPHIA, PA—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded today \$48.2 million to support 194 homeless housing and service programs in Maryland. These Continuum of Care program grants provide critically needed housing and support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness across the state.

This year, HUD continued to challenge state and local planning organizations called Continuums of Care to support their highest performing local programs that have proven most effective in meeting the needs of persons experiencing homelessness in their communities. Many of these state and local planners also embraced HUD's call to shift funds from existing underperforming projects to create new ones that are based on best practices that will further their efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

"Today marks another critical investment in support of those working each and every day to house and serve our most vulnerable neighbors," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "We know how to end homelessness and will continue to encourage our local partners to use the latest evidence to achieve success. These grants support proven strategies to end homelessness once and for all."

"With decreases this year in homelessness across several subpopulations in Maryland—including a 26 percent drop in chronic homelessness—it's clear that this funding is reaching those that need it most," said Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region. "These annual investments, coupled with the dedication of local homeless service providers, are helping to steadily reduce homelessness in the state and in the region."

In 2010, President Obama and 19 federal agencies and offices that form the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) launched the nation's first-ever comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness puts the country on a path to end veteran and chronic homelessness as well as to end homelessness among children, family and youth.

In 2016, HUD estimates Maryland experienced a 10 percent decrease among homeless families, a 22.2 percent decrease in veteran homelessness, and a 26 percent decline in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Local communities in Maryland have reported a 29 percent decline in the number of persons experiencing homelessness since 2010. The Department has launched a robust effort to more accurately account for the youth and young adult population in the nation's next count slated for January. When local communities gather and report their

2017 data, HUD will issue new estimates in the fall.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. The Department's Mid-Atlantic region includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The regional office is in Philadelphia.

More information about HUD and its programs is available at www.hud.gov and www.espanol.hud.gov. Connect with HUD on social media and follow Secretary Castro on Twitter and Facebook or sign up for news alerts via HUD's email list.

Hogan Administration Submits FASTLANE Grant Application to Double-Stack Howard Street Tunnel

Project Will Break the Rail Bottleneck from the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore to East Coast

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that the state has submitted an application for a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) FAST-LANE grant to double-stack the Howard Street Tunnel. This submission follows the governor's rail tour with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Secretary Pete Rahn on October 24, where he committed to working in partnership with CSX Chairman and CEO Michael J. Ward to move this vital project forward. Reconstructing the 121-year-old tunnel will accommodate double-stacked container trains and break a rail bottleneck that impacts the entire East Coast.

"This is an essential project for the Port of Baltimore, Maryland, and the entire East Coast," said Governor Hogan. "Reconstructing the Howard Street Tunnel will create thousands of jobs, open up new trade lanes for the Port, and improve overall freight rail service across our nation. I'd like to thank Chairman Ward, Maryland's congressional delegation, and Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh for their support and partnership."

The MDOT Howard Street Tunnel application received more than 100 endorsements across Maryland and up and down the East Coast from Massachusetts to Florida. MDOT received support letters from a vast range of people representing businesses, environmental groups, and government calling for federal funding to make necessary infrastructure adjustments to the Howard Street Tunnel.

"The Howard Street Tunnel project will be a boost to Maryland's economy, reduce traffic on Maryland's highways, and improve the flow of commerce up and down the eastern seaboard," said CSX Chairman Ward. "CSX is very pleased to be able to partner with Governor Hogan, the State of Maryland and the

City of Baltimore to pursue federal funding for this transformational critical infrastructure project. The Howard Street Tunnel was built 121 years ago to connect Baltimore with the nation, and this project will ensure that vital connection remains available into the future."

Height restrictions within CSX's Howard Street Tunnel currently prevent the shipment of double-stacked intermodal containers (two shipping containers stacked on top of each other) by rail to and from the Port of Baltimore and up and down the East Coast. Double-stack provides a more cost effective way to transport freight by rail than by truck. The added benefit is that it also will take more trucks off our interstates and reduce congestion along the entire I-95 corridor.

For years, reconstruction of the Howard Street Tunnel to accommodate double-stack intermodal trains was believed to cost between \$1 billion and \$3 billion and be highly disruptive to the surrounding community. By utilizing recent advances in construction technology including a technique that involves lowering the floor and notching the crown of the tunnel, CSX and MDOT have determined it is now possible to provide double-stack clearance in the tunnel and under nine bridges for \$445 million with minimal impact to the community. CSX and the state have committed a combined minimum of \$290 million towards this effort and the state is seeking federal funds for the balance of the project cost.

With its supersized cranes and deep container berth, the Port of Baltimore is one of only a few East Coast ports that can accommodate the biggest ships in the world. The Port's next goal is to allow trains carrying containers to be double-stacked which would increase port business and maintain and grow jobs. The Port of Baltimore would handle approximately 80,000 additional containers annually once the Howard Street Tunnel is reconstructed.

Combining both the public and private marine terminals, the Port of Baltimore saw 32.4 million tons of international cargo cross its docks last year, which was valued at approximately \$51.1 billion. Baltimore is ranked as the top port among all U.S. ports for handling autos and light trucks, farm and construction machinery, imported gypsum, imported sugar, and imported aluminum. Overall Baltimore is ranked ninth for the total dollar value of cargo and 13th for cargo tonnage for all U.S. ports.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 13,650 direct jobs, while more than 127,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The Port is responsible for nearly \$3 billion in personal wages and salary and \$310 million in state and local tax revenues.

The Prince George's Post

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

How to Turn Monetary Gifts Into Teachable Moments

Children and teenagers who received monetary gifts for the holidays are often excited to choose what to buy. While they should be allowed to spend some of the money or gift cards, as a parent, you could also use these windfall gains as an opportunity to teach and practice important personal finance lessons.

Here are a few ideas to start with, although you can alter the message or subject matter to match your child's experience and ability to understand the topic.

Create money goals together. Planning how your child will save or spend monetary gifts is a valuable skill and practice no matter their age. (If you don't have a personal plan, this is a great opportunity to set an example by developing your financial path as well.)

You can start by drawing three columns—spending, saving and giving—and having them write a few goals for each. Explain the difference and importance of long- and short-term goals, and the value of having an emergency fund (for kids this could help pay for a car repair or bike tire).

Set priorities and discuss the big picture. Have them add up all they received and divide it into each column. Offer guidance to help them determine how much to put into saving and charity, taking the time to explain your reasoning.

They'll likely find that there isn't enough money to make a significant impact on all their goals and they'll need to prioritize based on how important each goal is to them. Share your own experiences and how sometimes it's better to save for a bigger and better purchase later. You could also have them calculate how expected earnings from allowance, working or upcoming holidays or birthdays could help them achieve their unrealized goals.

Decide where to store the savings. If they don't already have one, it might be a good time to open a bank account with your children. Go over the differences between a checking and savings account and how they can store the money they received and earn. Your kids can then decide how to split their funds between checking and savings based on their goals.

Gift cards can pose a challenge, particularly if they're store-specific cards. Children who receive them can't deposit them at the bank, and they should take this into account as they determine which priorities they can meet and which may need to wait.

However, there are online marketplaces where they can buy and sell gift cards. How much they'll pay and receive depends on the marketplace and the store—an example of supply and demand in action.

Comparison shop before making a purchase. No doubt children are going to want to spend some of the money right away. It offers an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of comparison shopping.

Comparing prices at various retailers can help them find a good deal, and they should also consider several alternative but similar purchases. Being able to figure out what best fits one's needs, wants and budget is an important skill at any age.

Discuss the time value of money and importance of saving wisely. Older children might be ready to learn about the time value of money, the idea that a dollar today is worth more than a dollar in the future.

You could discuss how inflation can decrease the purchasing power of money over time. Older children might be able to think of examples, and you can reinforce the point with images of old advertisements for 5 cent soda or gum.

The next step might be to discuss the importance of saving and investing and how compound interest could potentially offset or supersede the effects of inflation. Perhaps conclude by touching on opportunity costs, the trade-offs that come from every decision.

Bottom line: You can't force behaviors, but you can use teaching moments to explain and practice valuable money management skills. The holidays are a great opportunity as many children receive gift cards or money, and these lessons can continue throughout the year. Try to reflect the skills and practices you're teaching in your day to day life as well. Children can pick up on the non-verbal lessons you demonstrate as much as the explicit lessons you sit down and teach.



U.S. Education Secretary Announces Grant Competitions to Encourage Diverse Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Dept. of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. today announced a new grant competition to support districts and their communities in preparing to implement innovative, comprehensive, collaborative, and locally-driven strategies to increase diversity in schools. King also announced the 2017 Magnet Schools Assistance Program competition, which will provide districts with funds to help create integrated public schools and support high-quality, theme-based educational programming.

"Today, we are taking another step toward helping schools create and maintain diversity," said King. "We must support local communities in their efforts as diversity is critical for a well-rounded education. Together, our nation can choose a better future for our children—one that prepares all students to live, work and compete in our increasingly interconnected, global economy."

Opening Doors, Expanding Opportunities is a new grant competition that will support districts in increasing socioeconomic diversity in schools, improving student academic achievement, and improving schools by increasing student diversity.

As part of this new competition, the Department will invest \$12 million in up to 20 districts or groups of districts to fund the development of blueprints for increasing socioeconomic diversity in schools and complete pre-implementation activities focused on student diversity. Grantees may also seek to promote student diversity by considering additional factors beyond socioeconomic diversity, including race and ethnicity, in their efforts to diversify schools. Grantees will use funds to, for example, engage the community on the best approaches to pro-

mote student diversity, conduct data analysis, set measurable diversity goals, and take preliminary steps toward implementation of school diversity efforts (e.g. piloting activities such as admissions lotteries or redesigned school assignment boundaries). Rural districts and those that wish to explore inter-district diversity efforts are strongly encouraged to apply and will receive priority. All districts with schools that receive or are eligible to receive School Improvement Grant funds may apply to the competition, which is open until Feb. 13, 2017. The Department anticipates selecting the grantees by Spring 2017.

The 2017 Magnet Schools Assistance Program provides resources for district efforts to create schools that effectively serve students from varied racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. These five-year, \$15 million grants represent an increase in both the grant duration and the total grant amount in order to help schools undertake the longer-term efforts that can successfully improve a school's diversity integration and academic performance. Applications are due by April 11, 2017.

King made these announcements today during a visit to Goldsmith Elementary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was joined by Congressman John Yarmuth, Mayor Greg Fischer, Jefferson County Superintendent Donna Hargens, district and community leaders, students, parents, and educators. Louisville has become a leader in school integration following a court ruling in the 1970s that required more diverse schools. Since that ruling, communities in Louisville have committed to maintaining racial and economic diversity.

From Louisville to Omaha to Cambridge, Massachusetts, communities across the country are voluntarily and intentionally pursuing diversity because they recognize its impact on strong

teaching and learning. But there is more work to be done.

Research shows that diversity in schools and communities is associated with positive academic and life outcomes. But schools are only one aspect of increasing diversity in the nation's communities. Communities can and should work together across local education, transportation, and housing and community-development agencies to help create and sustain access to high-quality educational opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and well-connected public transportation networks and safer streets.

In July, King addressed the National PTA and noted the importance of diversity "not just in schools, but also in classrooms within those schools. It's not just enough for kids from diverse backgrounds to pass each other in the hallways or on the playground. True diversity requires students to actually learn alongside one another. That's not something that will happen by itself. That requires decisions by policymakers at every level."

King continued, "The benefits of diversity extend beyond academics. In today's world, your boss may not look like you, your office-mate may not worship like you, your neighbor may not speak the same language as you, and your customer may not live on the same continent as you."

Schools today must prepare students for this new reality. Diversity in education—cultural, racial, linguistic and socioeconomic—can help boost empathy, reduce bias, and increase the chances that low-income students will attend college without compromising the academic outcomes of their middle class peers in any way. It exposes students to new perspectives and a healthy exchange of ideas that will help enlarge their world views. Diversity also increases the likelihood students will suc-

ceed and become leaders in their careers and communities by working with individuals with different lived experiences. Studies show that companies reporting the highest levels of racial diversity brought in nearly 15 times more sales revenue on average than those with the lowest levels of racial diversity.

President Obama's FY 2017 Stronger Together budget proposal supports the voluntary development and expansion of new and existing, community-driven strategies to increase socioeconomic diversity in America's schools. Additionally, as states are implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act, the nation has an opportunity to advance equity and reclaim the promise of an excellent education for students from all backgrounds.

The Department has supported school diversity in a number of ways:

- Along with the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation, the Department issued a joint letter to state and local leaders calling on them to work together to create real economic mobility and provide access to opportunities for every child in every community by identifying and addressing barriers in their communities that hinder socioeconomic growth and racial diversity.

- The Department's recent Charter Schools Program, Investing in Innovation, and Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant competitions include a focus on fostering diversity in schools. The Department also published a new supplemental priority that will be used in future Department grant competitions to support socioeconomic diversity strategies.

- Socioeconomic diversity is now a focus area of the Department's Equity Assistance Centers. These regional centers provide technical assistance to school districts to promote equal educational opportunities.

Rush Baker from A1

CVPA program that provided him with the foundation for his future achievements. "[The CVPA] experience made us all much better artists than we were coming in," Baker says, "and I can't ever thank them enough for that. I attribute [the CVPA] experience to helping to get me into Cooper Union's BFA program and later going on to Yale ... The rigorous formal training I received early on gave me the tools down the road to push the boundaries of my practice."

Now, as an artist whose work is rooted in giving back to the

community, Baker has truly come full circle. In hindsight, he realizes that his CVPA teachers exemplified what it means to be an artist that not only creates, but also gives back.

"It's worth mentioning that all of my teachers [had] art practices of their own, and teaching us was truly a labor of love," Baker says. "It was not something they had to do, and we can all agree that there are easier professions ... Looking back, their commitment to us and to public service inspires me to this day." Led by the example set by his CVPA teachers and his family's legacy of service to the County, Rush Baker IV exemplifies a

new generation of Prince George's artists in service. To promote and connect Prince George's artist community, particularly artist alumni from Prince George's CVPA programs, PGAAMCC will host an artist and creative community networking event: New Year, First Friday—CVPA Edition; Friday January 6th, 2017, 6pm–9pm.

Through Their Eyes—Art, Education, and Influence: Creative Expressions Inspired by Prince George's County CVPA Alumni will be on display at PGAAMCC through January 21st, 2016. Join us for our final *Through Their Eyes* program:

New Year, First Friday—CVPA Edition; Friday January 6th, 2017, 6pm–9pm

The Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center is recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative approach to the documentation, interpretation, preservation, and presentation of local and regional African American history, art, and culture. PGAAMCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am–5pm. Admission to the museum is free. For more information, call (301) 809-0440, email programs@pgaamcc.org, or visit the Museum's website at www.pgaamcc.org.

Property from A1

tem, and by attracting over \$8 billion dollars of economic development that has created thousands of new jobs and opportunities. The Great Recession hit Prince George's County harder than most jurisdictions in Maryland, but with vigilance our County government, our business community, and most importantly, our residents, worked hard to get our property values back to pre-recession levels."

As property values increase, residential and commercial land owners will see an increase in their property taxes. Residential property owners

who apply and meet certain qualifications can also receive a Homestead Tax Credit, which limits their principal residence's taxable assessment from increasing by more than a certain percentage each year. Although statewide legislation caps the increase at no more than 10% per year, many local governments have established property tax caps at smaller percentages. Please reference table R-4, which is attached to this release, to see a breakdown of Homestead percentages by jurisdiction. For additional information on the Homestead

See **PROPERTY** Page A5

Budget from A1

High School (P-TECH) to support dual enrollment options

- Add 350 seats to full-day prekindergarten program, serving up to 1,880 students system-wide
- Increase reading and math coaches at high-needs schools

High-Performing Workforce (\$90.6 million)

- Provide \$53 million in salary enhancements
- Match Maryland's National Board Certified Teacher stipend

- Increase mentor teachers, enhance Peer Assistance and Review teacher program
- Create dual enrollment program for future educators

Safe and Supportive Environments (\$15.7 million)

- Support Student Safety Action Plan
- Provide background check funding for low-income families
- Pilot restorative justice program with Prince George's County Educators Association
- Add high school athletic trainers

Family and Community Engagement (\$303,270)

- Expand engagement opportunities and Family Institute offerings
- Fund school-based Parent Engagement Assistants
- Enhance Ombudsman's Office
- Offer new family communications portal
- Provide Summer Youth Employment Program

Organizational Effectiveness (\$2.1 million)

- Add bus drivers, transportation call center staff
- Increase maintenance funding
- Cultural training for employees

"Prince George's County Public Schools has elevated its academic programs to new levels," said Dr. Maxwell. "Student enrollment is increasing and graduation rates are rising, lending truth that we are on our way to greatness. This proposed budget is just one step in that journey."

From the CEO's budget, the Board of Education will create a requested budget for the school system and submit it to the County Executive by March 1. Board of Education work sessions and public hearings will begin January 24.

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen Announces New Senate Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Maryland Senator-elect Chris Van Hollen announced the hiring of new senior staff in his Capitol Hill office. Karen Robb will serve as Chief of Staff, Yvette Lewis will serve as Director of External Relations and Community Outreach, and Bill Dauster will serve as Director of Policy.

"I am pleased to announce three top staff members of our Capitol Hill team," said Senator-elect Van Hollen. "They will help support my efforts to serve the people of Maryland in the United States Senate."

"It's been an honor to work with Senator-elect Van Hollen for over a decade, and I look forward to continuing that work in the U.S. Senate," said Robb. "He is committed to moving Maryland—and the entire country—forward, and I'm proud to be a part of this team."

"Senator-elect Van Hollen knows that the health of our entire state depends on the success of all of our communities, and he's committed to reaching out and engaging every Marylander as he takes on his new role in the U.S. Senate," said Lewis. "I've seen his commitment to the people he represents first hand, and I'm honored to join his team."

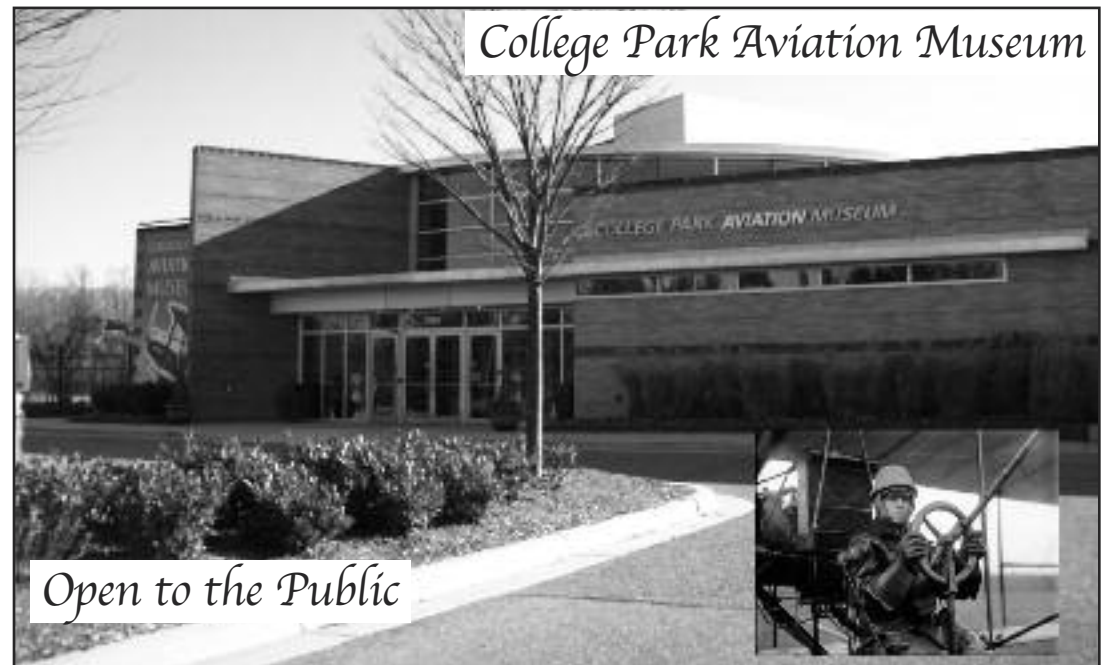
"As a constituent and a Senate staffer, I've known Senator-elect Van Hollen since he joined the Maryland legislature and I've seen him fighting

for Maryland and all Americans," Dauster said. "I'm looking forward to joining his team."

Karen Robb has served Congressman Van Hollen for 11 years as his Chief of Staff, Policy Director of his Office as Assistant to the Speaker, and Counsel on the House Budget Committee. Prior to that, she was Deputy Assistant to President Clinton in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Chief of Staff to Senator John Edwards, Democratic Staff Director for the Senate Judiciary Committee under Senator Joe Biden, and Chief Counsel to Senator Dennis DeConcini. Robb graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and received a J.D. from the Duquesne University School of Law.

Yvette Lewis has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party and currently sits on the DNC National Committee. She has previously worked as the President of the Voter Empowerment Action Project, member of the DNC Budget and Finance Committee, and Secretary of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. Lewis has also served on the White House Commission for Presidential Scholars. Additionally, she has an accomplished career in music as a vocalist and

See STAFF Page A8



College Park Aviation Museum

Open to the Public

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

The College Park Aviation Museum houses antique and reproduction aircraft associated with the history of College Park Airport. Artifacts and hands-on activities highlight the aviators, aircraft builders and airplanes that operated at the airport. The museum offers changing exhibits, special events, lectures, workshops and programs for the public, schools and groups. There are also an extensive library and archives which hold materials relating to the airport's history, early aviation history—especially relating to Maryland—and general aeronautics. Opened in 1998, the museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, except for major holidays. Admission: Adults \$4, Senior \$3, Children \$2, & Children 1 & under free. 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740 • 301-864-6029

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



A Prayer to End Poverty In Our Time

In December 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached what would be his last Christmas sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. At the end Dr. King spoke about the day he told the nation at the March on Washington that he had a dream for America's future, but said in the uncertain years that had followed that dream sometimes felt like it was turning into a nightmare. But Dr. King said he was never willing to give up:

"Yes, I am personally the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted hopes, but in spite of that I close today by saying that I still have a dream ... I have a dream that one day men will rise up and come to see that they are made to live together as brothers. I still have a dream this morning that one day every Negro in this country, every colored person in the world, will be judged on the basis of the content of his character rather than the color of his skin, and every man will respect the dignity and worth of human personality. I still have a dream that one day the idle industries of Appalachia will be revitalized, and the empty stomachs of Mississippi will be filled, and brotherhood will be more than a few words at the end of a prayer, but rather the first order of business on every legislative agenda. I still have a dream today that one day justice will roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. I still have a dream today that in all of our state houses and city halls men will be elected to go there who will do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with their God ... With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and good will toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy."

It is up to us to make that dream and that day real for all children and their families in America.

God help us to end poverty in our time.

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place

to sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow.

The poverty of watching your child suffer hunger or get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because you don't have another dime or a car, money, or health insurance.

The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of somebody else's children and neglecting your own, and still not being able to pay your bills.

The poverty of having a job which does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you'll become homeless and lose your children to foster care.

The poverty of losing your job, running out of unemployment benefits, and having no other help in sight.

The poverty of working all your life caring for your own children and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love.

The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, opening a day care center, and taking home \$300 a week—or a month—if you're lucky.

The poverty of loneliness and isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit,

tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you're living or dead.

The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others.

The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, of weak will and tiny vision, of big meetings and small actions, of loud talk and sullen grudging service.

The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing, sacrificing nothing, struggling with others for nothing.

The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God's gifts of life and children and family and freedom and home and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself.

The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming, and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the strong.

The poverty of addiction to more and more things, drugs, drink, work, self, violence,

See WATCH, Page A8

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



The Nomination of Senator Sessions and the Threat to Liberty and Justice for All

"This committee has a duty to our citizens to carefully examine the qualifications of nominees for the Federal bench and to give our approval only to those who have demonstrated a personal commitment to the principle of equality for all Americans and a sensitivity to the long history of inequality which we are still struggling to overcome ... Mr. Sessions is a throwback to a shameful era which I know both black and white Americans thought was in our past. It is inconceivable to me that a person of this attitude is qualified to be a U.S. attorney, let alone a U.S. Federal judge. He is, I believe, a disgrace to the Justice Department and he should withdraw his nomination and resign his position."

—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Senate Judiciary Committee Opening Statement, March 13, 1986

During a presidential campaign rally in Dimondale, Michigan, Republican nominee Donald Trump made an impassioned, six-word overture to African Americans, who had shown little enthusiasm for his campaign: "What do you have to lose?" Well, if the President-elect's cabinet nominations are any indication, for African Americans—and anyone concerned over imminent threats to justice for all Americans—the answer is simple: everything. With Trump's nomination of Republican Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions as attorney general, the stage appears set to rollback the clock on racial justice, immigration policy, LGBTQ movement advances and gender equality, among other hard fought for gains in the American struggle towards equality for all its citizens.

Sen. Sessions first emerged on the national stage in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan nominated the then United States attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for a federal judgeship. His bid for the lifetime appointment was promptly derailed by the Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee as a result of sworn testimony that pointed to a disturbing pattern of racist actions and comments. Among the diverse allegations brought by witnesses, Sen. Sessions was accused of calling an African-American prosecutor "boy" on more than one occasion. He was also accused of calling a white attorney a "disgrace to his race" for representing Black clients in a voting rights case. Sessions labeled the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union "un-American" and "communist-inspired" organizations, arguing that the groups "forced civil rights down the throats of people." He also publicly described the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as "an intrusive piece of legislation."

For his alarming and distressing comments, Sen. Sessions became the second man in half a

century to be rejected by the Judiciary Committee. By a bipartisan vote of 10-8—with two Republicans joining the Democrats—Sen. Sessions' nomination was rightfully opposed. But he wasn't finished. Sen. Sessions went on to become the attorney general of Alabama, then he moved on to become state's junior Senator. And now, a man once rejected as too racist to hold a federal judgeship, and has demonstrated a career-long, deep hostility to civil rights, is now being considered to serve as the nation's chief enforcer of civil rights law. A man who once described the Voting Rights act as "intrusive," he is now being considered as the nation's top law enforcer, tasked with enforcing our nation's voting rights laws.

It seems the Trump administration is poised to set the fox to guard the henhouse.

As it did three decades ago when Sen. Sessions testified before it, we expect and demand that the Senate Judiciary Committee conduct a thorough and complete examination to determine if Sen. Sessions is fit to serve in this crucial federal justice enforcement capacity. But this examination cannot, and must not, be limited to past transgressions. Sen. Sessions, who has worked as a public servant for decades, has amassed a record that can speak for itself—and it speaks volumes.

In 2006, Sen. Sessions supported a ban on same-sex marriage. In 2009, Sen. Sessions voted against a bill that would expand federal hate crime legislation, and against Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay. Sen. Sessions has opposed legislation that would restore the pre-clearance provision of the Voting Rights Act—supported by civil rights groups. And, during a debate on immigration reform, Sen. Sessions insulted Dominican immigrants, claiming that, "Fundamentally, almost no one coming from the Dominican Republic to the United States is coming here because they have a provable skill that would benefit us and that would indicate their likely success in our society." As it did three decades ago, the Judiciary Committee must vigorously question Sen. Sessions and seriously contemplate whether his 30-year record of action and statements befits a candidate whose job requires enforcing the constitutional and civil rights of all Americans.

The National Urban League, along with a broader civil rights coalition, are conducting our own review of Sen. Sessions' record. If our examination does not determine that he is fit to serve as chief enforcer of civil rights laws, it will be our responsibility to oppose his nomination. We encourage all senators who are champions of civil rights to refrain from committing their support to this nomination until our examination is complete.

The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2017, The Prince George's Post

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Want New Year's Resolutions That Work? Think Mini-Goals!

Yes, we all make New Year's resolutions, and yes, we all usually break them almost immediately. But making resolutions that work isn't all that difficult and can pay real benefits. Resolutions usually mean positive changes, and these are good things.

While a broken New Year's resolution might not seem critical to you, for some people it actually can be. From a mental health perspective, broken resolutions are sometimes harmful because they can have us seeing ourselves as failures, falling short of our goals. A broken New Year's resolution is another example of how weak we are, helping to erode self-confidence and self-esteem.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't make any New Year's resolutions. They offer a wonderful opportunity to examine where you are and to set goals for the things you'd like to change.

The most important element for good resolutions is to make them realistic. You're not going to lose 25 pounds by the end of January or immediately look like an Olympic athlete if it's been years since you've been near the gym.

One way to make successful resolutions is to set realistic mileposts. This means breaking big tasks into smaller, more manageable units ... "mini-goals."

If you're resolving to lose weight, forget the number of pounds you want to shed and instead focus on moving to a healthier diet that will naturally lead to weight loss. Maybe your first mini-goal is to cut out one high calorie food each day or week and to replace it with a healthier fruit or vegetable.

If your resolution is to exercise more, start slowly with an initial goal, say walking 15 minutes each day, that you know you can achieve. Similarly, if it's smoking that you want to stop, maybe your first goal is to cut by 10% the number of cigarettes you smoke each day, or to contact your doctor or local hospital to learn about smoking cessation programs and stop-smoking aids.

When you create realistic resolutions with attainable mini-goals, what you're really doing is developing a plan to reach your final goal. Attainable mini-goals toward that bigger overall target are a way to ensure success, to focus on positive behavioral changes and to feel good about the successes you're achieving. This all adds up to positive reinforcement that will help keep you going and increase your chances for successfully fulfilling that resolution.

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

Business Spotlight

Franchot Announces New 'Bright Lights Award'

Nominations Sought for bBusinesses or Nonprofits That Emphasize Innovation

ANNAPOLIS, MD— Comptroller Peter Franchot today announced his office is accepting nominations for a new award paying tribute to business and nonprofit leaders and organizations that foster innovation in their fields.

The "Bright Lights Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship" will recognize and celebrate innovation in the private and nonprofit sectors that strengthen Maryland's economy, generate jobs and tax revenue and develop new ideas that more effectively deliver services and products within the marketplace.

"Maryland is well-positioned to lead the nation back to prosperity thanks to the accumulated brainpower in every corner of our state," said Comptroller Franchot. "It's important we recognize these innovators who, through their creativity and willingness to assume risk, are changing the way we experience the world."

Nominations will be accepted through January 31. One winner will be selected from each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Businesses or nonprofits of any size are eligible for the award. The nomination form, which can be found at http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Media_Services/wp-content/uploads/Bright_Lights.pdf, should detail how the candidate is transforming their industry through innovation and what future opportunities may exist to expand its application.

Media Contact: Alan Brody, 410-260-6346 (office), 443-924-1473 (cell)

Property from A3

Tax Credit in general, please visit <http://dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/Pages/Maryland-Homestead-Tax-Credit.aspx>.

Property tax assessment notices will be mailed out to Group 2 property owners on Wednesday, December 28, 2016. A map of which proper-

ties fall into Groups 1, 2, and 3 and their respective years for reassessment can be viewed at <http://dat.maryland.gov/sdatweb/maps.html>

For additional statistics and information, please visit the Department's Statistics & Reports webpage at <http://dat.maryland.gov/Pages/Statistics-Reports.aspx>

IRS Warns Taxpayers of Numerous Tax Scams Nationwide; Provides Summary of Most Recent Schemes

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the State Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, MD—As tax season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service, many states, including Maryland, and the tax industry remind taxpayers to be on the lookout for emerging tax scams related to identity theft and refund fraud.

Every tax season, there is an increase in schemes that target innocent taxpayers by email, by phone and online. The IRS and Security Summit partners remind taxpayers and tax professionals to be on the lookout for these deceptive schemes. This reminder is presented to taxpayers during the "National Tax Security Awareness Week." Some of the most prevalent IRS impersonation scams include:

• **Requesting fake tax payments:** The IRS has seen automated calls where scammers leave urgent callback requests telling taxpayers to call back to settle their "tax bill." These fake calls generally claim to be the last warning before legal action is taken. Taxpayers may also receive live calls from IRS impersonators. They may demand payments on prepaid debit cards, iTunes and other gift cards or wire transfer. The IRS reminds taxpayers that any request to settle a tax bill using any of these payment methods is a clear indication of a scam. (IR-2016-99)

• **Targeting students and parents and demanding payment for a fake "Federal Student Tax":** Telephone scammers target students and parents demanding payments for fictitious taxes, such as the "Federal Student Tax." If the person does not comply, the scammer becomes aggressive and threatens to report the student to the police to be arrested. (IR-2016-107)

• **Sending a fraudulent IRS bill for tax year 2015 related to the Affordable Care Act:** The IRS has received numerous reports of scammers sending a fraudulent version of CP2000 notices for tax year 2015. Generally, the scam involves an email or letter that includes the fake CP2000. The fraudulent notice includes a payment request that taxpayers mail a check made out to "I.R.S." to the "Austin Processing Center" at a Post Office Box address. (IR-2016-123)

• **Soliciting W-2 information from payroll and human resources professionals:** Payroll and human resources professionals should be aware of phishing email schemes that pretend to be from company executives and request personal information on employees. The email contains the actual name of the company chief executive officer. In this scam, the "CEO" sends an email to a company payroll office employee and requests a list of employees and financial and personal informa-

tion including Social Security numbers (SSN). (IR-2016-34)

• **Imitating software providers to trick tax professionals:** Tax professionals may receive emails pretending to be from tax software companies. The email scheme requests the recipient download and install an important software update via a link included in the e-mail. Upon completion, tax professionals believe they have downloaded a software update when in fact they have loaded a program designed to track the tax professional's key strokes, which is a common tactic used by cyber thieves to steal login information, passwords and other sensitive data. (IR-2016-103)

• **"Verifying" tax return information over the phone:** Scam artists call saying they have your tax return, and they just need to verify a few details to process your return. The scam tries to get you to give up personal information such as a SSN or personal financial information, including bank numbers or credit cards. (IR-2016-40)

• **Pretending to be from the tax preparation industry:** The emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. The phishing schemes can ask taxpayers about a wide range of topics. E-mails or text messages can seek information related to refunds, filing

status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information. (IR-2016-28)

If you receive an unexpected call, unsolicited email, letter or text message from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here are some of the telltale signs to help protect yourself.

If you get a suspicious phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Search the web for telephone numbers scammers leave in your voicemail asking you to call back. Some of the phone numbers may be published online and linked to criminal activity.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page or call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.
- If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

Falconry from A1

There are between 100-125 licensed falconers in Maryland in any given year, according to Glenn Therres of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. In 2016, there were 109 licensed falconers.

Each falconer chooses their own way to obtain their bird.

Trapping is the most common way to obtain a falcon, but neither of Dorsch's current falcons, Glory, and Xena, an American kestrel, was caught through trapping. He obtained Glory from a nest, and Xena from a barn.

"A farmer called me ... he found (Xena) on the barn floor when she was a baby," Dorsch said. "She didn't have any feathers when I got her and she was near death. She smelled awful bad, I don't know what happened. I nursed her back and got her healthy."

Dorsch's children named the falcon Xena after the warrior princess. Both Glory and Xena are females, as Dorsch prefers hunting with female falcons, which are typically one-third larger than males.

Most falconers, however, turn to trapping to get their birds.

Dorsch's trap uses a metal box made of wires, which he puts prey inside. The outside of the box has nooses that catch the bird's talons when it lands on the box.

When Dorsch sees a bird he wants to trap, he will set the box down and drive out of sight. The bird sees the prey and dives to attack it. When it lands, it attempts to take the prey and fly away, but its talons are already caught.

In Maryland, people who want to own raptors must find a General or Master falconer to serve as their sponsor for two

years. These apprentices must be at least 14 years old and can only have an immature red-tailed hawk, American kestrel or red-shouldered hawk, according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

During those two years, the sponsor teaches the apprentice about different aspects of falconry, from catching their bird to training it, hunting with it and general advice on taking care of it day-to-day.

After the apprentice passes the state falconry exam with an 80 percent or higher score, they become a General Class falconer. General Class falconers must be at least 16 years old and can have no more than three raptors at a time.

After they are a General Class falconer for five years, the falconers enter the Master Class. Master falconers are allowed to have up to five raptors from the wild.

After trapping his bird, Dorsch will then spend the four to six weeks training the falcon to ensure it listens to him and does not fly away.

"That's always a concern, because it's a very real possibility," he told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

"That's why you make sure they are on weight. You have them trained, then they are looking for you to provide the slip for them so they can catch something."

"But (birds flying away) does happen. If a Cooper's hawk or a red-shouldered hawk or a sharp-shinned hawk or something comes in the area and wants to scare her, they could easily scare her away."

The bird is trained using a lure, a fake animal that the bird will hunt.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ROBBIE GREENSPAN

Greg Dorsch's falcon Xena, an American kestrel, eats a mouse Dorsch provided her on Nov. 13, 2016, in Mt. Airy, Maryland. Falconry is the sport of hunting wildlife through a trained raptor.

"The training process is very tedious because you do it every day," Dorsch said.

Before the falcon can be taken out to the wild for hunting, the falconer needs to ensure they are in good shape to fly and hunt.

"You have to check on your bird every day," Dorsch said. "Weigh them, take log of them."

Taking log of the bird entails making notes to see how the bird responds at certain weights, Dorsch said.

"You want the bird to fly as heavy as possible and still respond," he said.

When the bird is in the correct weight range, it is ready to be taken to hunt.

"What you have to understand is, once you take a bird like that, you don't take a bird from the wild and then just keep it in a cage," Dorsch said. "You've got to hunt them, because that's what they're to do."

There is no exact start to "hunting season" for falconry, as different animals are eligible to be hunted during different months.

Squirrels can be hunted starting Sept. 1, while others, like the rabbit, are not eligible until Nov. 1.

All falconry hunting ends March 31.

Dorsch trained his falcons to hunt ground animals, like squirrels and rabbits, but they can be taught to catch other birds.

Once the falcon catches the prey, it is up to the owner whether it will eat the animal entirely. Often, Dorsch will switch the prey with a dead quail so the bird can fly again that day.

He will save the bigger game to feed them during the summer months when the birds are not allowed to hunt. As Dorsch pointed out, even during off-months, the birds need to be taken care of.

"You have to understand the commitment you are getting into," he said. "It's not like hunting season, where at the end of the season, you put your shotgun away, oil it up and you are good to go for next year"

"You have to take care of these birds 365 days a year."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

The Edge of Seventeen

The Edge of Seventeen

Grade: B+

Rated R, some harsh profanity and sexual dialogue.

1 hr., 44 min

With painful accuracy and often hilarious insight, writer-director Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen* explores the difficulties of being a "difficult" adolescent better than nearly any film of its type. Its authenticity makes it a Rorschach test, with your opinion of it depending on your own memories of knowing kids like this—or of being a kid like this.

Hailee Steinfeld, who was great in *True Grit* (2010) and has only improved as she's matured, plays 17-year-old Nadine, an intelligent Oregon misfit who's uncomfortable in her own skin, awkwardly talkative, and unable to relate to her peers. An "old soul," she's smarter than most of her generation (she decries their obsession with texting and emojis), but she yearns to be accepted by them, even as she realizes it's mostly her own off-putting behavior that prevents it.

Nadine's mother, Mona (Kyra Sedgwick), vain and insecure in her own way, has been a mess since Nadine's father, the glue that held the family together, died a few years ago. Now she relies too much on Nadine's golden older brother, Darian (Blake Jenner), to help run the household, which is too much pressure for him. Darian begins dating Krista (Haley Lu Richardson) ... who happens to be Nadine's one and only true friend, her faithful companion since second grade.

Nadine, already a darkly sarcastic girl prone to overreaction, completely freaks out over this development, shunning friend and brother alike and seeking guidance from Mr. Bruner (Woody Harrelson), her cool, snarky history teacher and the only adult who understands her—exemplified in the first scene, when Nadine inter-



ROTTENTOMATOES

The Edge of Seventeen is a new coming-of-age movie in the vein of *Sixteen Candles* and *The Breakfast Club*—an honest, candid, often hilarious look at what it's like to grow up as a young woman in today's modern world. Everyone knows that growing up is hard, and life is no easier for high school junior Nadine (Hailee Steinfeld), who is already at peak awkwardness when her all-star older brother Darian (Blake Jenner) starts dating her best friend Krista (Haley Lu Richardson). All at once, Nadine feels more alone than ever, until the unexpected friendship of a thoughtful boy (Hayden Szeto) gives her a glimmer of hope that things just might not be so terrible after all. The film also stars Kyra Sedgwick as Nadine's well-meaning but completely ineffective mother, and Woody Harrelson as Nadine's History teacher, mentor and reluctant sounding board. *The Edge of Seventeen* is produced by Academy Award winner James L. Brooks—the filmmaker behind big-screen, character-driven classics such as *Terms of Endearment*, *Broadcast News*, *Big*, *Say Anything*, *The Simpsons*, *Jerry Maguire* and *As Good as It Gets*.

rupts Mr. Bruner's lunch hour to say she plans to commit suicide and he responds that he's planning the same thing because his lunch hour keeps getting interrupted. They have that kind of relationship.

There isn't much to the plot beyond Nadine's struggle to cope with her best friend dating her brother, which reflects on Nadine's larger struggle to find her own place in the world. She has the hots for a bad boy (Alexander Calvert) who works at a pet store, and her efforts to attract him are humorous, cringeworthy, and heartbreaking, sometimes all at once. (Has any movie more accurately depicted the process of writing a text,

rereading it, saying, "What am I doing? I sound like a crazy person!" and deleting it? And if you don't know what that feels like, this movie isn't for you.) Meanwhile, a nice guy, Erwin (Hayden Szeto), who's as awkward around people as Nadine is except that his awkwardness seems happier, develops a crush on her, and may be her salvation.

You can see the formulas at work here: the outcast smart kid, the relatable teacher, the parent who needs to grow up, the general despair of high school. But Craig overcomes the hurdle of familiarity by making Nadine, her mom, and her brother all into fully developed characters. Nadine is unquestionably the focus,

but Mona and Darian each have scenes delving into their own issues, as well as their relationship with each other, separate from Nadine. What seems at first to be a stinging comedy about a teenager's angst turns out to be about an entire family.

Steinfeld shows boldness and vulnerability as Nadine, embracing the character's prickly idiosyncrasies even when it makes it hard for us to like her. That's the whole point: Nadine often doesn't like herself either, but doesn't know how to change. The film dares to let us see her broken side along with her smart, funny, sensitive side. We sympathize because, if we're being honest, we can relate.

Winter Safety Tips For Your Pets

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—When the weather outside is frightful, your pets probably think so too and when temperatures drop, it can be dangerous to have them outside. The Prince George's County Animal Management Division (AMD) recommends pet owners keep their animals indoors when it's cold outside and closely monitor their exposure to winter elements.

"If you notice a dog or cat that has been left outdoors for a long period of time or a pet owner violating County law, just like anything else if you see something, say something," says AMD Chief Rodney Taylor. But if your pet must stay outdoors, County law requires you to provide the following protection:

- A dog house of appropriate size that is dry, draft free and elevated off the ground;
- A wind flap attached to the door of the dog house to keep cold air out and warm air in;
- Non-absorbent bedding like straw or wood shavings to help keep the dog warm; and
- Frequently check your pet's drinking water to make sure it is not frozen and use a secured container to prevent tipping.

Other cold weather safety tips to keep pets healthy and happy:

- Keep kittens and puppies under six months, and small or short-haired dogs inside;
- Make sure pets don't have access to antifreeze, which is toxic but can taste sweet to cats and dog;
- Increase your pet's protein to help keep the pet's fur healthy;
- Don't let your dog off its leash in the snow or ice; they can easily become lost when they are running loose;
- Never allow your pet to walk on icy ponds, even if they appear completely frozen over;



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Make sure your pet always wears ID tags and is microchipped;
- Wipe or dry your pet's feet, legs, and stomach when they come in out of the sleet, snow or ice. Consider dressing your pet in specially made coats or sweaters; some pet owners also use booties or other shoe-like foot protection; and
- Never leave your pet in a closed car in the winter because cold cars become a refrigerator and put your pet at risk.

As for other animals that live outside such as horses and cattle, Taylor says there's probably no reason for passersby to be concerned about their welfare.

"Livestock tends to be pretty hearty and cattle and horses do get a pretty thick coat in the wintertime," says Taylor. "All of those animals are fairly acclimated to cold weather and most farmers in this area know they need shelter and a heated water tank and to make sure those animals have access to fresh, unfrozen water."

For more information about cold weather safety tips or if you're searching for the perfect pet to keep warm in your home, contact the Animal Services Facility at (301) 780-7200 or visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

On Colin Kaepernick's Decision Not to Vote



There is one pledge I'm making after this election: for my mental, physical, and especially political health, I'm done ingesting bullshit. I'm done with the hot-take bloviating culture—in sports and politics—that, as Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr said, bears as much accountability for the absurdity of Donald Trump's being president as anything else.

A great example of this could be seen in the response to Colin Kaepernick's comments about the election. For those who missed it, the anthem-protesting 49ers quarterback said he wasn't voting, explaining it this way:

"I've been very disconnected from the systematic oppression as a whole. So, for me, it's another face that's going to be the face of that system of oppression. To me, it didn't really matter who went in there. The system still remains intact that oppresses people of color."

People might not like the fact that Kaep chose not to vote, but he was hardly alone. Hillary Clinton won almost 10 million fewer votes than Barack Obama in 2008. Hell, Donald Trump got 1.5 million fewer votes than Mitt Romney. People stayed home in record numbers because this election season was nauseating. They stayed home because the number-one issue according to all the polls was the economy, but the media, and for the most part the candidates, spent a year and a half talking about bullshit. We spent 18 precious months of our lives discussing polls and haircuts and e-mails and pantsuits and tweets. We didn't talk about—at least not after Bernie Sanders was vanquished by the DNC—about how this economy has flattened working people and people of color for 40 years and what the nominees were going to do about it.

I'm far less angry at Colin Kaepernick for not voting than I am at the Democratic Party for taking away the choice that we deserved to make: a choice between—as one protester in D.C. said so well—whether we would have a white nationalist/scapegoating economy or whether we would have a social economy. That's not just about Bernie. It's about Senator Elizabeth Warren's choosing not to run. It's about coronating someone from the neoliberal wing of the party just because it was her turn. The Democrats did not give us that choice, so now we're going have to fight for it. There are demonstrations ripping out across the country, and the one called for inauguration weekend is going to be a doozy. I have been in three demonstrations in D.C. in the last week. A young person at one of these demos said to me:

"I couldn't stop thinking about Trump winning. I was at work and I couldn't stop crying. It's not about Hillary Clinton. It's about the Democratic machine and the way they ran their candidate of choice through the system. So we see that the liberal elites were just as out of touch as we have known."

Media scolds invariably say in their most hectoring tones that so many people died for our right to vote and to not exercise it is a slap in the face to their sacrifice. I think the slap in the face to their sacrifice is having our choices limited to candidates who don't represent the pressing questions we face in our lives. It's a slap in the face to their sacrifice that we have an Electoral College—a relic designed to give disproportionate power to slave states—that put the person with the lesser number of votes in office. It's a slap in the face that we have a voting system that effectively put a poll tax on people of color with four-hour lines and limited hours.

I understand where Colin Kaepernick is coming from, and I respect all he has done this year to raise awareness about police violence and putting that question in uncomfortable spaces. It has taken courage in the face of threats to his career and threats to his life.

ESPN's Stephen A. Smith, however, disagrees. This is what he says:

"As far as I'm concerned, Colin Kaepernick is absolutely irrelevant. I don't want to see him again, I don't want hear from him again, I don't want to hear a [darn] word about anything he has to say about our nation ... He comes across as a flaming hypocrite ... After all this noise that you made, even though you didn't intend to do so, by offending our military service men and women, and pointing out about how you wanted to bring attention to racial injustices and beyond in this country, to turn around and not even take your behind to the polls to vote for a particular candidate, it is shameful! Absolutely shameful! For him not to vote, as far as I'm concerned, everything he said meant absolutely nothing."

My only comment about this carnival barker's political wheeze is what I said at the start. I'm done ingesting this kind of bullshit. It's bad for my health and makes a mockery of the very real, very tough choices that we are going to face in the years ahead. Let the pundits in sports and talk radio yell at each other until they're blue in the face. If we have learned nothing else this election season, none of it means a goddamn thing. In my life at least, their existence is officially on mute. We should treat them as something even less important than the lonely tree that falls in the forest. At least trees give oxygen instead of sucking it out of the room.

Calendar of Events

January 5 — January 11, 2017

Seniors on Stage Auditions

Date and Time: Friday, January 6, 2017, 9 am–3 pm
Description: If you are a Prince George's County resident 60 & better and have singing talent, audition to be a part of our 2017 Seniors on Stage Show that will be held in April. Auditions are scheduled every 15 minutes.

Please call 301-446-3400 for information on audition guidelines and requirements.

Cost: Free
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: New Year Turn Up!

Date and Time: Friday, January 6, 2017, 7–10 pm
Description: Party with fellow teens and ring in the New Year! There's no dress code, so dance to the hottest music and maybe you'll the raffle for a prize.

Cost: Resident \$4; Non-Resident \$5
Ages: 13 & up
Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Capitol City Classic Cheer & Dance Competition

Date and Time: Saturday, January 7, 2017 8 am–6 pm
Description: Bring out the entire family to watch the cheer & dance competition presented by Varsity Spirit Brands, The National Cheerleaders Association and The National Dance Alliance!

Cost: Spectator Costs: \$15 (Ages 8 & up); Free for children ages 7 & under
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255

Three Kings Day Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, January 7, 2017, 10 am–1 pm
Description: Celebrate the Hispanic tradition of the Three Kings Day Celebration. Enjoy music, refreshments, and more. Children 10 and under will receive a gift from the Three Kings. Note: In order for your child to receive a gift, please register by January 4 by calling 301-345-4918. Only two adults with child(ren) per family will be allowed.

Cost: Ages 10 and under.
Ages: Free
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Ave, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Drop-In Indoor Soccer

Date and Time: Sunday, January 8, 2017, 11 am–3 pm
Description: Get out of the cold and drop-in at Glassmanor Community Center and compete in 5v5 or 3v3 pick up games of Soccer. Adults will participate in non-competitive and competitive games.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC ID/Drop-in fee: \$6
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Glassmanor Community Center
1101 Marcy Avenue, Oxon Hill 20745
Contact: 301-567-6033; TTY 301-699-2544

Missoula Children's Theatre Auditions

Date and Time: Monday, January 9, 2017, 4:30–6:30 pm
Description: Audition for the Missoula Children's Theatre's production of *Alice in Wonderland!*

Missoula Children's Theatre provides two professional tour actor/directors who will audition and cast 50–60 local elementary and secondary school students.

Latecomers will not be admitted. Please wear comfortable clothing.
Cost: Free
Ages: Pre-K-12
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Holiday Crafts and Fun!

Date and Time: Monday, January 9, 2017, 6:30–7:30 pm
Description: Parents drop off your child and enjoy your day off! Children will engage in many activities such as: holiday crafts, sack races, basketball, table games, a movie and more. We also will have food for the them.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-Resident: \$13
Ages: 13–17
Location: Deerfield Run School Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, South Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

Afternoon Tea: Herb Smith Trio

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 2 pm
Description: Reed player Herb Smith came to Washington as head of jazz studies of Howard University after beginning his career as a musician in St. Louis and Memphis.

Cost: \$18/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Rd. Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Arts and Crafts

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 12:30–2 pm
Description: Discover your inner artist by crafting various projects! Learn to use many different media types like acrylic, watercolor, or collage. The first craft will be an autumn themed project!

Cost: FREE
Ages: 60 & Better
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Ave., College Park, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ...

Social Media: The Planet's Best Defense?

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways environmentalists are using social media to further their causes?

—Sam Baskin,
Tullahoma, TN

Environmental advocates and organizations have embraced the revolution in online networking in no small way to raise awareness about climate change and the need for conservation of wild lands and animals—and to generate support for specific campaigns and the green movement in general.

Perhaps the most immediate way social media help the cause is via the mountain-top selfie. For many of us, a trip into the wilderness isn't complete without a public post to announce our whereabouts. At the University of Vermont, researchers are using geo-tagged photos on social media to study the use and relative popularity of different parks and even specific trails. New tracking capabilities of personal technology also record real time statistics that can be used as a crucial defense of public parks.

Social media has also been repurposed for environmental activism in several ways. Advocacy organizations are able to widely disseminate their messages through different social media platforms. By delivering their messages in a short, dynamic format, these groups are able to reach a wide consumer base. However, it's difficult to assess the long-term engagement resulting from these messages.

Nevertheless, larger environmental groups have hundreds of thousands of online fans that drink up every post and call-to-action. For instance, the Sierra Club has some 625,000 "likes" on Facebook and more than 200,000 "followers" on Twitter. A number of environmental campaigns have used social media to apply key pressure on polluters, including the Greenpeace anti-Arctic drilling campaign. Groups have used disturbing videos and touching images alike to garner large-scale public support.

And social media isn't just for the large, well-heeled groups. Individuals are using social media to similar ends, telling their stories and drumming up sympathy and support. Communities that are suffering particular environmental damages are able to tell their stories on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media platforms, helping to humanize the issues. For example, victims of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill posted about the environmental effects of the accident on Facebook and Twitter.

Social media platforms also effectively connect these stories to larger issues through the use of hashtags. This includes a recent movement nationwide to reach Donald Trump through his daughter, Ivanka, whom the President-elect stated he leans on for advice. The #DearIvanka campaign on Twitter allows individuals to raise their concerns about a number of proposed policy changes, including environmental deregulation and nominated officials. One such tweet read "@IvankaTrump Please work with your father to respect the environment. Our children's future is at stake. #dearivanka #greenpeace."

"Social media has become an important tool for providing a space and means for the public to participate in influencing or disallowing environmental decisions historically made by governments and corporations that affect us all," says Public



CREDIT: DANIEL PATMAN, FLICKRCC

One way people are using social media to further the environmental cause is by sharing their mountain-top selfies, engendering public support for the conservation of wild lands.

Lab co-founder Shannon Dosemagen. "It has created a way for people to connect local environmental challenges and solutions to larger-scale narratives that will affect us as a global community."

CONTACTS: "What's Nature Worth: Count the Selfies," <http://bit.ly/2hxxqUa>; #DearIvanka on Twitter, twitter.com/hashtag/dearivanka; Public Lab, www.pubiclab.org.

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

Equity from A1

school, work, and in the community for women and girls of color. The five issues included:

1. **Fostering school success and reducing unnecessary exclusionary school discipline** by implementing supportive school discipline strategies and policies, including through public awareness of the impact on girls of color;
2. **Meeting the needs of vulnerable and striving youth** by recognizing and responding ap-

propriately to the finding that many girls enter intervening public systems through a route that begins with sexual abuse and trauma;

3. **Increasing access to inclusive STEM education** to meet 21st century workforce demands and reducing opportunity gaps that affect women broadly in science, technology, engineering and math education and fields, but often affect women and girls of color the most;
4. **Sustaining reduced rates of teen pregnancy and build-**

ing on success through expanded access to knowledge about birth control and preventive health services;

5. **Expanding pathways to economic prosperity** through opportunities for job mobility and investments in fair, equitable workplace policies.

This updated report serves as a follow-up to the 2014 and 2015 reports, and as the culmination of the Advancing Equity work stream of this Administration. The Obama Administration has taken important

steps forward in elevating, and addressing, key issues that cause disparities for women and girls of color, and women and girls from marginalized and underserved populations. Moreover, the call to action around this work has inspired philanthropic leaders, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to continue efforts that sustain and build upon the successes achieved in improved life outcomes for women and girls of color and their peers.

'TIS THE SEASON TO RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

It's that time of year! Prince George's County is helping residents recycle their live holiday trees. Starting December 26, 2016 through January 30, 2017, recycle your cut, unbagged and undecorated holiday tree in the County's Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Place your tree curbside for pick up by 6:30 a.m. on the yard waste collection day (Monday). Residents may also bring unadorned trees, free of charge to the following locations for recycling:

Brown Station Road Public Convenience Center
3501 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, MD
Monday – Saturday
7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility
6550 SE Crain Highway
Upper Marlboro, MD
Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Source Reduction Tip: Save bows, wrapping paper and boxes for future gifts!

Prince George's County Second Step is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Recreation Activities, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

Lend a Helping Hand!

Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture

In observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) will be hosting a MLK Day of Service event. In preparation for this event on Friday, January 13, 2017, from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM we are asking volunteers to join MCAAHC Commissioners and BDM staff as we fill backpacks at the museum. The backpacks will be filled with essential school supplies and toiletries for students at both the Stanton Center and Boys and Girls Club of Annapolis, Maryland. The backpacks will be distributed to the students on the actual day of service, Monday, January 16, 2017, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Please help us make an impact in the lives of children in our community. If you are available to assist please RSVP to bannekerdouglassmuseum@gmail.com or call 410-216-6180 by close of business January 10, 2017.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and hope that you will help make our event a success.

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