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Eight PGCPS Students Awarded Posse Scholarships

Posse Scholars Receive Full Four-Year College Scholarships to Select Institutions

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Eight Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) seniors have been named Posse Scholars and will receive four-year, full-tuition college scholarships from The Posse Foundation's partnering schools.

Next fall, Posse Scholars from across the nation will enter colleges and universities in multicultural groups of 10 known as "posses." Throughout their college career, they will support each other and receive ongoing assistance from The Posse Foundation. Posse Scholars have a 90 percent college grad-

uation rate and demonstrated potential to positively impact their professions.

Each scholarship is worth approximately \$140,000. Thirty-two PGCPS students have received Posse scholarships since 2013.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Posse Foundation, our students are able to realize their dreams of higher education," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "We are proud that our latest class of Posse Scholars continues the proud tradition of excellence, scholarship, leadership and ambition."

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Take Matters Into Your Own Hands @ Your Library

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—MakerSpace Spotlight and Do It Yourself (DIY) Research in EBSCO's Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center are the latest electronic resources of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS). No 3D printer? No problem. You can still be a Maker. Take matters into your own hands using these new Library digital resources.

The MakerSpace Spotlight feature offers step-by-step instructions on diverse projects such as robotics, model building and needlecrafts. Spark your imagination by researching these additional DIY subjects: Kid's crafts, scrapbooking, collecting, performing arts, technology, gardening and more.

Hands @ Your Library A Library customer had this to say about the DIY reference cen-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOT BY HANNAH LANG

The Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders prepares for a Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, meeting at the House Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland.

Opiate Declines in Maryland Prisons After Cut From Medicaid List

By HANNAH LANG
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Since Suboxone film strips were removed from the Medicaid Preferred Drug List in July, the amount of the drug recovered in Maryland correctional facilities as contraband has decreased by 41 percent, according to Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Suboxone—a drug used to treat opiate addiction—has a high

risk of addiction and dependence, and can even lead to death when paired with other drugs or alcohol, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The medication is easily smuggled into state prisons and jails when it is in the form of a strip, designed to be placed under a user's tongue, said Gary McLhinney, the director of professional standards at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

"It is an epidemic, the amount of Suboxone that comes in," said

Terry Kokolis, the director of corrections for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, at Wednesday's meeting of the legislature's Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use disorders. "Strips come in, they're sold, they're bartered, they're cut into four pieces and the inmate population is always looking for Suboxone. It's the preferred drug."

In May, the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee made recommendations for the Medicaid Preferred Drug List.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene removed Suboxone from the preferred list and instead made comparable Zubsolv tablets preferred on July 1, making Maryland the first state to do so.

The tablets are more difficult to smuggle into prison than the film strips, which can be easily concealed.

If a drug is on the Medicaid Preferred Drug List, a person

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EDC Holiday Extravaganza Thanks Local Business Community for a Great 2016

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

MITCHELLVILLE, MD—Last week, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Team (EDC) rang in the holidays by hosting its Annual Holiday Extravaganza at the Country Club at Woodmore to express its appreciation to the business community for their continued support, commitment and dedication to making Prince George's County the best place in the world to do business. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman welcomed over 300 business leaders, State and County officials, and EDC Board members to the festive gathering. Among those joining in the festivities were Maryland Senate Majority Leader Douglas J.J. Peters, County Councilmember Todd Turner, and the County's Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer David Iannucci. Also in attendance were EDC Board members Marva Jo Camp, Thomas Graham, Eric Henderson, and Sylvia Syphax.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Left to right: William Steen, Public Relations, Carrollton Enterprises; Laurie S. Artis, President and CEO, Civility Management Solutions; Sylvia Syphax, EDC Board Member, Renaissance Medical Group; Eric Henderson, EDC Board Member, Beacon Global; Thomas Graham, EDC Board Member, (PEPCO); Marva Jo Camp, EDC Board Member, Marva Jo Camp and Associates; Gabrielle Williams, Founder, Glorious Pastries by Gabrielle; Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC; Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; Nicole Williams, Owner and Founder, Pink Confetti; Stephanie Ridore, Labor Relations Manager, Safeway; Hedy Thomas, President, Leuterio Thomas, LLC; Graham Thomas, Principal Architect, Leuterio Thomas, LLC; David Iannucci, ADCAO, Prince George's County

"I am so grateful to our partners in the business community and government for their unwavering dedication to making Prince George's County the economic engine of the State of Maryland," said Coleman.

"Because of the business community, more than 9,000 jobs were created this year and the median household income in the County increased by \$5,000. Everything that should be up, is up. Everything that

should be down, is down. It's been a great 2016, and we are looking forward to continuing this momentum with our busi-

See EDC HOLIDAY Page A6

Quitline Provides Free Services to Help Marylanders Quit Tobacco

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

BALTIMORE, MD—Quitting tobacco use is the single most important step a tobacco user can take to improve the length and quality of his or her life. According to the American Lung Association, within 20 minutes of smoking that last cigarette, a smoker's body begins a series of changes. The longer a person goes without using tobacco, the larger the benefit to his or her health. The start of a new year provides an opportunity for Marylanders to formalize a plan for kicking their tobacco habits and to start enjoying the benefits of healthier lives.

"We know how difficult it can be and how many attempts it can take to quit tobacco for good, which is why we are pleased to offer the free, effective, and confidential Maryland Tobacco Quitline to state residents," said Secretary Dennis R. Schrader.

Equipped with a good plan, residents trying to quit can work through symptoms of with-

drawal and become tobacco-free. Five steps that can help:

1. Set a quit date. The start of a new year is a great time to quit, along with many other people around the country. Or choose another quit day within the next 2 weeks.

2. Get support. Share your quit date with the important people in your life and seek support. The Maryland Tobacco Quitline offers free, effective, and confidential coaching for Maryland residents 13 and older, and offers free patches or gum to eligible participants. Tobacco users can call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or can visit www.smokingstopshere.com to enroll in the program.

3. Anticipate and plan for challenges. The urge to use tobacco is short, usually only 3 to 5 minutes. Before your quit day, write down healthy ways to cope.

4. Remove cigarettes, other tobacco, ashtrays, and lighters

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INSIDE

Civil Rights Reports Spotlight Eight Years of Accomplishments, Lingering Challenges

OCR has resolved more than 66,000 civil rights cases during the Obama Administration, according to a second narrative describing progress made toward educational equity through strong civil rights enforcement from 2009–2016.

Community, Page A3

Racism and Hatred Have No Place On Our Nation's School Boards

The President and CEO of our affiliate in Buffalo, Brenda W. McDuffie, has been outspoken on this issue, and we urge the entire Urban League community to unite in opposition to Paladino's hateful-ness by signing the petition urging his removal.

Commentary, Page A4

South County Economic Development Association Honors EDC President & CEO

More than 350 South County residents, business leaders and elected officials turned out to support the community based organization that has been an advocate in Prince George's County for promoting economic development since 1996

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Jackie

It's a compelling portrait of grief, but it's more than that: a portrait of public grief. With noble grace, Jackie accepts the terribly unfair fact that she can't run off and mourn in private, that her husband's legacy will be defined in part by what she does in these next few days.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Now that his second term is winding down, what will President Barack Obama's environmental legacy look like?

—Mary Danson,
Littleton, NH

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

2-alarm fire at Tucker Road closes rink; try the Sculpture Garden for ice-skating

As I was going to press encouraging you to go ice-skating at the Tucker Road Ice Rink, I got word of a 2-alarm fire there. I don't know how long the rink will be closed—or even if it is. You can call 301-265-1525 for information.

Or if you might plan to ice-skate at the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden in Washington. It's magic! Fees are \$7.50–\$8.50, with \$3 skate rental; locker rental, 50¢ (\$5 deposit required). Hours: Mon.–Thurs., 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Info: 202-216-9397. And it's open through March 12.

Dr. Mudd House founder honored

The last weekend of the regular 2016 season, the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum in Waldorf received an important addition: an oil portrait of Louise Mudd Arehart, the driving force behind the transformation of the House from a private resident into a Maryland Historic Trust site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Her daughter Shirley Mudd-Cox Cook, of Wallingford, Pa., commissioned the portrait and was there to present it. Docents in period costume, members of the Dr. Mudd Society and the Mudd family were present, along with a Maryland Independent reporter. By the way, Louise Mudd Arehart was my first cousin, once removed.

People

I dropped by the brand new Laurel Library last week and it is amazing, beautiful and the latest of everything. I was delighted to chat with one of the librarians, Martin Seeboth, formerly of Temple Hills and past librarian of the Hillcrest Heights Branch.

Judy Hansel Waby, formerly of Skyline, has been forced out of her motel residence in Reno and is now en route to Colorado by Amtrak. "Managed to get a

roomette on the train so I actually was able to sleep last night. Saw wild horses for the first time yesterday. Today two black steer standing along the track watched the train as we zoomed by. The car attendant will fetch your free meals for you if you ask so I had dinner and breakfast delivered to my roomette. So that's the latest chapter in how not to grow old gracefully".

Toni Sparkes Delano Orling, a 1964 graduate of Suitland High School, died of cancer on Dec. 19. Jimmy Rainwater posted the sad news on Facebook. She was living in Marietta, Ga. at the time of her death, and is survived by her husband, two sons, and her father. Her mother passed away last year.

Coming up

The Morningside Town Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. Morningsiders should attend—that's where you learn what's happening.

Applause

The Shops at Iverson (formerly, Iverson Mall) collected and donated more than 300 winter coats for homeless students during a school system Stuff-A-Bus/Winter Coat Donation drive on Dec. 19.

Changing landscape

The Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail is hoping to operate a SCMaglev (superconducting magnetic levitation) train service between Washington and Baltimore that would take riders between the two cities in only 15 minutes.

Hope Connections for Cancer Support held a ribbon-cutting in December at their new facility, 8401 Corporate Drive, Site 100 in Metroplex 1, near the New Carrollton metro station. Hope Connections provides free help for people with cancer and their caregivers.

Morningside Memories

From the *Morningside 50th Anniversary* book by Charles Kiker: "Morningside in the beginning was nothing more than an area of woods and farmlands

with a few scattered houses mixed in. As early as 1938, developers Morgan Wayson and Randolph Hopkins began developing Morningside. ... the area had already been named Morningside by an unknown person who was said to have rationalized its name by the location on the East Side of the Capitol and the morningside of Washington, D.C. ... no one to date has been able to suggest a more plausible explanation of the Town's name."

Longtime member of Unity Presbyterian dies at 93

Dorothy E. Norell, of District Heights, a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII, died Dec. 14. She was 93.

She was born in North Dakota, daughter of Nels and Helga Mahlum, and attended school in Fingal, N.D., where she met her husband Kenneth. They moved to Seattle during WWII, and Dorothy worked for Boeing. They later settled in District Heights where they raised their family. She was an active member of District Heights (now, Unity) Presbyterian Church.

Her husband Kenneth preceded her in death. She is survived by her children, Terry, Nancy, Janet, Dean, Randy and Patti; siblings, Dale Mahlum and Donna Gulland; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She enjoyed travel, bridge, gardening, cooking, reading, spending time with her family and, in later years, according to her obituary, "she faithfully got spiritual nourishment watching *The Hour of Power*."

Milestones

Happy birthday to Martin Miller, Frank Binsted and Roc Wheeler, Jan. 13; Curtis DeMarco Knowles, my son Mike McHale, Kathleen Giroux and Joanie Mangum, Jan. 14; Dolly Wood Jan. 16; Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17; Dennis Seaman and Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Melody Barnes, Jan. 14; and Frank and Sharleen Kelly Cappella, their 62nd on Jan. 15.

Neighborhoods

MacDaniel College Partners With Community Colleges to Offer Educator's Legacy Scholarships

WESTMINSTER, MD—MacDaniel College has partnered with 11 community colleges to offer Educator's Legacy Scholarships.

Now eligible to receive up to \$100,000 to attend MacDaniel College are children of employees at Anne Arundel Community College, Carroll Community College, Cecil College, Chesapeake College, Community College of Baltimore County, Frederick Community College, Garrett College, Hagerstown Community College, Howard Community College and Prince George's Community College in Maryland, as well as HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College.

High school seniors whose parent or guardian works full time in K-12 education can also apply for this guaranteed scholarship to attend MacDaniel.

Any service in a K-12 school or at one of the inaugural community college partners qualifies, including teachers, counselors, support staff or administrators, as long as the parent or guardian has at least four years of current and consecutive full-time employment.

There is no limit to the number of scholarships awarded by MacDaniel. The \$25,000 annual scholarship (or \$20,000 per year for commuter students) is renewable each year to students who maintain continuous enrollment and satisfactory academic progress.

Visit the website at www.mcdaniel.edu/edulegacyscholarship for additional information about the Educator's Legacy Scholarship or to learn more about applying to MacDaniel College.

For more information about MacDaniel College, visit www.mcdaniel.edu.

MacDaniel College, founded in 1867 and nationally recognized as one of 40 "Colleges That Change Lives," is a four-year, independent college of the liberal arts and sciences offering more than 70 undergraduate programs of study, including dual and student-designed majors, plus 25 highly regarded graduate programs. Its personalized, interdisciplinary, global curriculum and student-faculty collaboration develop the unique potential in every student. A diverse, student-centered community of 1,600 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students, MacDaniel offers access to the resources of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and is the only American college with a European campus in Budapest, Hungary. www.mcdaniel.edu

WSSC ePermitting is Here Save Time and Money on Your Construction and Development Projects

LAUREL, MD—Skip the trip! ePermitting has arrived at WSSC to improve the permitting experience and streamline projects. Paper applications for permits and permit-related services are no longer accepted. The new system will improve service particularly to plumbers, gasfitters, sewer and drain cleaners, developers and engineers.

"ePermitting is one of many examples along the journey to providing world class customer service to our customers," says Carla A. Reid, WSSC

GM/CEO. "WSSC is simplifying this process to make it easier to get business done."

In anticipation of the ePermitting launch, the WSSC Permit Services Unit conducted several training sessions to acclimate customers to the new system.

"We are excited to offer this tool that will streamline projects for our customers and save them multiple trips for information," said Luis Tapia, WSSC Permit Services Unit Coordinator. "Users can now access and track account information from home, work or a job site."

System registration is required for ePermitting to obtain permits, licenses, plan review and approvals as well as inspections for your home and/or business needs in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Need help? Online tutorials are available to customers as well as frequently asked questions.

Registered users can:

- Apply, track and manage permits
 - Apply for and/or renew a license
 - Schedule or cancel an inspection
 - Receive real-time inspection results and status notifications
 - View, manage and track plan review applications
 - View invoices and pay fees
- Registration is free and does not need to be renewed. Note: Only WSSC-registered principal master plumbers, gasfitters and their designated proxy(s) can apply for Plumbing and/or Fuel Gas Permits and schedule or cancel inspections.

Customers with questions about ePermitting or permit business processes, email to OneStopShop@wsscwater.com and include a phone number.

If you experience technical issues, email to ePermitting-Support@wsscwater.com and include a phone number. You can also reach the Permit Services Unit at 301-206-4003.

For more information, visit wsscwater.com/ePermitting

WSSC Again Receives AAA Ratings From All Three Financial Rating Agencies \$382 Million Bonds Competitively Sold to Bank of America Merrill Lynch

LAUREL, MD—WSSC once again earned AAA bond ratings from all three financial rating agencies: Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service.

According to Fitch Ratings, the AAA rating is a reflection of WSSC's "strong financial record through the last economic downturn, a low liability burden and considerable financial flexibility." Fitch further notes WSSC's "extraordinary revenue-raising capacity ... water-sewer rates and fees alone have funded district financial operations, including debt service since WSSC's inception, providing considerable future flexibility should it be needed."

"Our approach to fiscal responsibility and professional budgeting practices is once again validated," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "I commend CFO Joe Beach and the entire

WSSC financial team in helping maintain WSSC's high financial standards. Maintaining this exceptional rating from all three agencies means WSSC can secure the lowest possible interest rates on our capital borrowing, ultimately saving our customers money."

In November WSSC competitively sold \$382 million in bonds to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The bonds will fund a variety of capital projects, including replacing aging water main lines and upgrading our water and wastewater treatment plants.

Valencia McClure Named a "Corporate Executive Trailblazer" by the Presidents' RoundTable and PRT Reach Foundation

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE Vice President of Governmental and External Affairs Valencia McClure was recognized for her community leadership and commitment by the Presidents' RoundTable (PRT), an organization of African-American entrepreneurs in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. region. The PRT, in conjunction with their charitable arm, the PRT Reach Foundation, presented McClure with the "Corporate Executive Trailblazer Award" at the organization's annual scholarship event.

"Valencia is an advocate for growth and development in our region," said Sheila Brooks, founder, president and chief executive officer of SRB Communications, LLC, who also serves as the president of PRT. "We are delighted to honor Valencia for her tireless contributions to a great many organizations, including the PRT Reach Foundation."

"Like the Presidents' RoundTable and PRT Reach Foundation, BGE values Valencia's commitment to building bridges across the municipalities and communities we serve," said BGE Senior Vice President of Regulatory and External Affairs, Alex Núñez. "Her leadership was evident throughout BGE's 200th anniversary celebration, including legacy gifts that we are pleased to give to our customers. We are proud of Valencia for her accomplishment and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor."

McClure is the second BGE executive to receive the "Corporate Executive Trailblazer" award from the PRT and PRT Reach Foundation; CEO Calvin G. Butler Jr. was honored in 2014.

BGE named McClure vice president of Governmental and External Affairs in April 2016. She oversees the company's interactions with state and local governments, large customers and nonprofit organizations. Her responsibilities also include economic development and marketing. McClure, recently named one of the Baltimore Sun's "Top 25 Women to Watch," is an active civic and community leader. She currently serves as president of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) Baltimore Chapter. She is also on the board of visitors for the Uni-

See **MCCLURE** Page A3

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Financial Peace University (FPU) is returning to Clinton United Methodist Church starting Saturday, February 18, 2016 at 1:00 PM. They will host classes to help people learn how to manage money God's way. You will learn how to get out of debt, save money, invest for the future, and outrageous generosity in a way that is scripturally based, practical, and proven.

The classes are 90 minutes each, once a week for 9 consecutive weeks. You must attend at least eight of the classes to graduate. Register online at <http://fpu.com/1030435>. There first session had five households. There will be a free preview on February 5 after the 10:30 AM service (at approximately 12:00 PM).

SMOKING CESSATION

Every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM a class is offered at MedStar Health Brandywine Community Room. The address is 13950 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Registration is required. Please call 301-374-9098.

SERVICES 24/7

Services 24/7 is an online resource for residents of Prince George's County looking for help and support. Organizations are listed by the type of services they provide. You can use services 24/7 by first going to Services24.umd.edu. Second step is to select the service category you are looking for by clicking on the drop-down menu under "Browse by Services". Third step is to read organization descriptions to find the service you need. Fourth step is to call the organization or go to its website to learn more about receiving help. You have easy access any time anywhere. Contact information is services24.umd.edu, 301-314-2273 or communityliaison@umd.edu.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Steven Carter, Dr. Sandra Jones, Davion Dorsett, Khadija Hakim-Hinton, Nurbert Hughes, Walter Joiner, Ian Williams, Janice Patterson, Bernestine (Bunny) Bryan, Mavis Turnbull, Nicole Falby, Beatrice Chapman, Abu Davies,

Brandon Holmes, Lawrence Omoregbe, Jordan Joseph, Rose-line Omoregbe, Yannick Bourne, William Terry, Donovan Cain and Florella Wallace who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of January 2017.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATIONS

Happy anniversary to George and Paula Carter, Nurbert and Carol Hughes, Buddy and Betty King, Walter and Teresa Lindsey Joiner who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their wedding anniversaries during the month of January 2017.

"A RAISIN IN THE SUN"

New Hope Fellowship Christ United Methodist Church Aquasco, Maryland is sponsoring *A Raisin in The Sun* at Arena Stage April 29, 2017. Showtime is 2:00 PM. The address is 1101 6th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20024. Contact Phyllis Slater (301) 653-7345 or Crystal Washington (240) 299-1439 for more information.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Resolve to Replace Your Bad Financial Habits

Most people have at least one bad financial habit. Whether it's impulse shopping, forgetting to pay bills on time or putting off building that emergency fund, balancing what you want to do and what you "should" do is never easy. The new year is the perfect time to identify potential financial weak points and replace bad habits with productive ones.



Start by identifying your bad habits. Sometimes a bad financial habit is easy to identify. For example, there might be a growing stack of bills in the kitchen that you willfully ignore. Others may be subtler, or perhaps they've become so ingrained that you do them without thinking twice.

Not sure where to start? Looking through your previous months' expenses can help you identify expensive trends or one-off purchases that are part of a larger theme. Online or paper bank statements can make this particularly simple. If you have a budget, you likely already compare projected spending with actual spending on a monthly basis, if not, this might be a good time to start.

You might recognize a few of these common bad financial habits in your life:

- Paying bills after the due date.
- Paying only the minimum required on bills.
- Ignoring bills and letting them go to collections.
- Putting off saving for retirement or for a rainy day.
- Impulse shopping or "retail therapy."
- Not keeping track of how much debt you have.
- Taking on debt to pay for something you don't currently need.

Ultimately, all of these lead to spending more than you earn and in some cases, bad habits can have a cascading effect.

Try to figure out what's driving your behavior. You might need to figure out what triggers your behavior and the reward you perceive afterward before you can change a habit. However, triggers and rewards aren't always obvious.

For example, you might buy big-ticket items when they're on sale because you want to feel like you're accomplishing something by "saving" so much. Perhaps you could foster a similar feeling of accomplishment by investing the money in a tax-deferred retirement account and calculating how much it'll be worth after years of compound interest.

Aim for these healthy financial habits. What habits should you try to adopt? Budgeting is certainly a worthy activity, but also consider the following mix of behaviors and specific objectives that can help keep your finances in order.

• **Pay bills on time.** In addition to avoiding late-payment fees, making on-time payments is one of the most important factors in determining your credit score.

• **Make paying down debt a priority.** Rather than accruing interest, make a point to pay down debts as quickly as possible.

• **Build and maintain an emergency fund.** Having three to six months' worth of living expenses in savings can help cushion the blow from a financial or personal setback. You could start with a goal to put \$1,000 aside and then build towards the full emergency fund.

• **Save for retirement.** You can put aside a percentage of your income for retirement and invest the money within a tax-advantage account, such as a 401(k) or IRA. Find a comfortable contribution amount to start with, and then try to increase it at least once during the year.

• **Plan your large purchases.** To help prevent impulse shopping from draining your budget, resolve to wait at least one day before buying anything that costs over \$100 (or whatever amount makes sense for your budget). If you know there's a large purchase coming up, start saving early by setting a little money aside from each paycheck.

You might consider asking others for input during this process. Especially if you're having trouble identifying a bad habit or finding the motivation to change, sometimes an outside perspective can help.

Bottom line: Make a resolution to replace your bad financial habits with healthy ones this year. Start by identifying the habits you want to change and trying to figure out the trigger and reward that surround the behavior. Then, try to replace that behavior with something positive. After identifying and trying to change your personal financial habits, you might want to consider the financial practices you share with a spouse or significant other.

McClure from A2

University of Maryland School of Medicine and on the board of directors for Bowie State University, the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland and

Morgan State University's School of Global Journalism and Communications.

To learn more about BGE's community partnerships, including the 200th anniversary legacy gifts, visit bge.com

Proudly Serving
Prince George's County Since 1932

Civil Rights Reports Spotlight Eight Years Of Accomplishments, Lingering Challenges

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Protecting our students' civil rights is fundamental to ensuring they receive a high-quality education. Two reports released today spotlight the challenges and achievements of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

According to OCR's FY 2016 annual report, the number of complaints filed last fiscal year skyrocketed to a record 16,720 at a time when OCR's staffing levels remained at a near all-time low. Still, OCR has resolved more than 66,000 civil rights cases during the Obama Administration, according to a second narrative describing progress made toward educational equity through strong civil rights enforcement from 2009–2016.

The Department released the new reports during an event with U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr., former Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon, as well as Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund.

"Much progress has been made in the past eight years, but much work remains to ensure all children enjoy equitable access to excellence in American education," said U.S. Education Secretary John B. King Jr. "These two reports highlight the ongoing vital necessity of OCR's work to eliminate discriminatory barriers to educational opportunity so our nation's students may realize their full potential."

Lhamon added, "We thank our school communities for palatable progress toward realizing the promises Congress has made decade after decade to our nation's students that their educational experiences should be fundamentally equal. Our investigations confirm ongoing need to safeguard those rights, as well as daily commitment from educators across the country to our core democratic value of fairness. We celebrate student victories and continue to stand ready to safeguard rights of students who need us."

Over the last eight years, one of the Obama Administration's highest priorities has been to protect the access of all students to a world-class education. As a result, the Department and OCR have seen significant progress in increasing educational equity na-

tionwide and reducing discriminatory barriers that students face.

From FY 2009 to 2016, OCR:

- Received 76,022 complaints, with each year breaking the previous year's record of complaint receipts;
- Resolved 66,102 cases;
- Proactively initiated 204 investigations known as compliance reviews;
- Issued 34 policy guidance documents;
- Monitored, on average, about 2,000 resolved cases per year to ensure compliance with resolution agreements; and,
- Conducted three major national, state, school- and district-level Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) surveys.

The FY 2016 annual report details the work of OCR over the past year to secure equal educational opportunity by conducting investigations, monitoring schools under resolution agreements, providing technical assistance and administering the CRDC. In FY 2016, complaint volume increased to a record-high 16,720 complaints—a jump of more than 10,000 over the 6,364 complaints in FY 2009. During this same period, OCR resolved 8,625 cases overall—including 1,116 resolutions that

secured changes protective of students' civil rights in schools around the nation—and initiated 13 proactive compliance reviews, despite a near record-low of 563 full-time employees. By contrast, OCR had about 1,100 staff in 1981.

Additionally, OCR released the latest Civil Rights Data Collection and, for the first time, made available the 2013-14 CRDC database for direct download by the public.

OCR also developed and released five policy guidance documents in FY 2016 and hosted 72 policy-related listening sessions with stakeholders on a variety of topics. Notable cases and their resolutions are described in both reports, including cases related to equitable access to courses and educational opportunities, racial harassment, equal opportunity for English learners, bullying and harassment, accessible technology for students with disabilities, and sexual harassment and violence.

For more information on the work of OCR, please visit the office's home page or its Reading Room which features policy documents, case resolutions, manuals, reports, religious exemptions and other materials.

Don't Let Bulky Winter Jackets Interfere With Safety Securing Seat belts in Car

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Warm puffy jackets can protect from cold winter weather, but they can pose a danger when they are worn underneath a seat belt putting occupants, especially children, at risk of injury in the event of a crash. Seat belts for people of all ages are best worn close to the body and have long been proven to help the body slow down and protect the brain and spinal cord in the event of impact.

According to AAA Mid-Atlantic safety experts, for a child's car seat to offer the maximum protection in a crash, the harness or seat belt needs to be snug and as close to the child's body as possible. The more layers of padding or clothing between a child and the harness, the harder it is to properly fit the restraint. The seat belt can end up fitting to the puffy jacket, and when impact occurs, the jacket compresses and creates a gap between

the passenger and the seat belt. That gap is like a loose seat belt that can cause a passenger to slip through the restraint or worse be ejected from the seat. The same concept applies to children riding in booster seats and adults in seat belts. Harness straps should lay flat and not have any twists. The seat belt should be snug enough that you cannot pinch any extra webbing or strap material at the child's shoulder.

"Car crashes are the number one killer of children up to age 13," says John B. Townsend II, Manager of Public Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Parents should buckle their kids in car seats and seat belts without jackets first, then either tuck a blanket around them or have kids lay their jackets on their laps or wear it backwards. Seat belts need to be fitted to the passenger, not the jacket," says Townsend.

Another important consideration is that children do not need to wear heavy coats, hats and gloves in a warmed-up car. Too many layers can cause the child

to become overheated and cranky, potentially causing a distraction for the driver. Even the smallest babies need only one more layer of clothing than their parents to remain comfortable.

Is there a better way? AAA experts offer methods for safely buckling a child into their seat during the cold, winter months.

• **Warm up the car before your trip.** Passengers won't feel the cold as much if the car is heated. This will allow passengers to wear seat belts comfortably without a jacket. Please note, that if you are warming the car with passengers inside, make sure that the exhaust pipe is cleared of snow so fumes don't back into the car.

• **Lose the bulk, wear a thin coat in the car.** Fleece outer wear is recommended because it is thin enough to work well under seat belts, yet warm enough to keep your child comfortable. Choose something more lightweight than a snow suit.

• **The backwards coat.** Secure the child in the car seat

without their coat on and once the child is snugly strapped into the car seat, put their coat on them backwards. This method keeps the harness snug to the child and allows the child freedom to remove their coat if they get too warm.

• **Open coat.** Some coats and most fleece jackets are thin enough to wear safely in the car, however, an alternative is to have the child put their coat on but don't zip it up. Load the child into the car seat and secure the belt, making sure that it fits snugly.

• **The "shower cap" style cover placed over the rear-facing infant carrier.** This type of cover doesn't interfere with the harness at all and is easily opened or removed if the child starts to get too warm.

• **Blanket and hat if needed.** After securing your child's seat-belt, just tuck a blanket around him or her. Never fit a seat belt over the blanket. Children can also wear a hat and or gloves to help keep warm.

Opiate from A1

covered by Medicaid can obtain that drug for a small co-pay. If a drug is denoted as non-preferred, a person must get prior authorization from a doctor or prescriber in order for it to be covered or partially covered by Medicaid, according to the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program.

On Sept. 23, 35 states—including Maryland—and Washington, D.C., filed a class action lawsuit against Indivior, the company that produces Suboxone. The states allege Indivior impeded the sale of generic versions of Suboxone in tablet form until it forced other generic alternatives out of the market, driving up the price of the film strips, according to a Sept. 27 release from Indivior.

The release is the only comment the company has on the lawsuit or on the Medicaid re-

strictions at this time, said a representative from Indivior.

Between July 1, when the film strips were removed from the Medicaid Preferred Drug List, and Oct. 31, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections has recovered 940 pieces of Suboxone film strips, compared to 1,603 recovered from July 1 to Oct. 31 in 2015.

"We've also had our teams monitor inmate calls and they're overhearing some frustration about not being able to obtain the strips behind the walls as easily as it was prior to July 1," said McLhinney.

The disparity between the asking price of contraband Suboxone strips has also sharply increased since July 1. The street price for a film strip is only \$5, while the price behind bars can be up to \$500, said McLhinney.

Typically, the film strips are cut into four pieces and sold separately within prisons to increase

an inmate's profit margin, Kokolis said.

"We've done numerous cases where Suboxone has been smuggled in the jail behind stamps or in envelopes or where the paper was colored with Suboxone and then the inmate would get the paper and eat it," said Dan Alioto, the commander of the vice/narcotics division at the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Though the amount of the drug recovered in St. Mary's County has declined slightly since July, Suboxone strips are still being abused and traded for other drugs within jails and prisons, he told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

"I think it has slowed down, but it's still an old trick, so it takes a little while for the next thing to emerge," he said.

Local jails have become the "biggest detox facilities in the

state of Maryland," Kokolis said. However, 85 percent of the prison and jail population who reported using drugs prior to being sentenced also reported using heroin within 24 hours of imprisonment, while they were incarcerated, he said.

"All of the good that we try to do is very easily compromised by the easy intake of Suboxone," he said.

Maryland officials are also working to collect more data on heroin and opioid use statewide, said Glenn Fueston, the executive director of the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention.

"We need to make sure that we're getting more access to that data as a whole so we can make better decisions and better understand the current threat that we have," he said. "Understanding the threat is a very important part of this problem."

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Lauds Effort to Permanently Block Oil and Gas Drilling on the Atlantic Coast

"Drilling Anywhere on the Atlantic Coast is a Threat Everywhere on the Atlantic Coast."

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, praised President Barack Obama's action to permanently protect the Atlantic Coast from the threats of oil and gas drilling. The action under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) comes shortly after Senator Cardin and a dozen of his colleagues urged the president to take this necessary step to preserve the fragile ecosystem and the economy of the Atlantic Coast.

"For years, I have strongly opposed plans to expand drilling operations off the Atlantic Coast. This final act should permanently end any and all misguided attempts to endanger the economic viability and environmental health of the region. Oil spills and the damage associated with seismic exploration do not respect state boundaries, making drilling anywhere on the Atlantic Coast a threat everywhere on the Atlantic Coast," said Senator Cardin. "I thank President Obama for recognizing that repeated short-term measures to protect the Atlantic were not sufficient because

the risks simply outweigh any potential benefits associated with drilling off the Atlantic Coast."

A copy of the Senators' letter recent to President Obama can be found by going to <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/download/senate-letter-on-ocsla>. In the letter, the Senators argue that the environment and economies of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans would be threatened if offshore oil drilling were allowed. Fishing and tourism on the East Coast generates hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. The oil industry's attempts to drill offshore in the Arctic have been riddled with safety lapses and mishaps, leading it to relinquish the bulk of the drilling leases that were held in the Arctic Ocean.

A member of the EPW committee since he arrived in the Senate, Senator Cardin has long been a leading voice calling on the Obama administration to abandon plans to drill off the Atlantic Coast. In April of 2015, he introduced legislation to prevent offshore drilling in the region.



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HENRY A. WALLACE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Services (ARS). BARC is the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. Beltsville's record of accomplishments and ongoing programs has made it a world leader in agriculture research. It's international reputation attracts thousands of visitors each year from the United States and abroad. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination in order to: Ensure high-quality safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. BARC is located at 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Prayers for the Work Ahead for Our Children

This has been a trying year for so many children in America—confused, consumed by and afraid of the intolerance, hatred and anger of adults. How do we keep the promises we have made to our children? How do we make a better America that values each and every child, regardless of skin color, faith, gender, sexual orientation, disability or immigration status? How do we remind our political leaders with unwavering clarity that every child is sacred and that God did not make two classes of children? This is not a time to weep. This is a time for work to ensure justice.

As we look to a new year, here are a few prayers to help guide us for the work ahead.

O God, help us recover our hope for our children's sake.

Help us recover our courage for our children's sake.

Help us to recover our discipline for our children's sake.

Help us to recover our ability to work together for our children's sake.

Help us to recover our values for our children's sake.

Help us to recover a spirit of sacrifice for our children's sake.

Help us to recover our faith in Thee for our children's sake.

We pray and stand for children who need our voice.

We pray and stand for children blessed by parents who care and for children without a parent or anyone who cares at all.

We pray and stand for children filled with joy and hope and for children whose days and nights are joyless.

We pray and stand for children with hope and for children without hope whose spirits have been dimmed and dashed.

We pray and stand for children high on play and study and laughter and for children high on heroin, cocaine and ecstasy.

We pray and stand for children for whom we pray every day and for children who have no one to pray them along life's way.

We pray and stand for children poised by circumstance to soar and conquer life's challenges

and for children bogged down by hunger and homelessness and violence and miseducation and struggling so hard to survive.

We pray and stand for children who love to read and for children who can't read at all, for children who learn with excitement and for children told by adults they cannot achieve.

We pray and stand for children who we expect and help to do well and for children whom no one believes in or helps succeed.

We pray for parents, grandparents, teachers, preachers, political and community leaders that we will be a help and not a hindrance for children we call our own and for all the children God created who are part of our family too.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation where small babies die of cold quite legally.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation where small children suffer from hunger quite legally.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation where toddlers and school children die from guns sold quite legally.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation that lets the rich continue to get more at the expense of the poor quite legally.

O God, forgive and transform our rich and powerful nation which thinks security rests in missiles and bombs rather than in mothers and in babies.

O God, forgive and transform our rich nation for not giving You sufficient thanks by giving to others their daily bread.

O God, help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in Your sight.

Help us to stand together and vote to make America just and right for all Your children.

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

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

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Racism and Hatred Have No Place On Our Nation's School Boards

"Mr. Paladino is an elected official charged with the responsibility to represent children and families in a district comprised of over 70% Black, Brown, Asian, Immigrant and other minority students and families; And, Mr. Paladino took an oath to ensure that students are afforded an environment which is free from fear and respects diversity within the school district and the community and is subject to all district policies; ... These unambiguously racist, morally repugnant, flagrantly disrespectful, inflammatory and inexcusable comments by Mr. Paladino have garnered both local, national, and international attention that reflects negatively on the Buffalo Board of Education, the City of Buffalo and its leadership and its citizens, the State of New York, and every decent human being in America and abroad who has been shocked and offended by his words;"

—Resolution by the Buffalo School Board demanding Carl Paladino's resignation

The national wave of racist, vicious invective unleashed by the 2016 Presidential campaign is well-documented. Hundreds of hate crimes have been reported to watchdog groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center. Social media is awash in cell-phone video of racially-motivated confrontations invoking the name of the President-elect.

But the recent hateful tirade of failed New York gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino stands out among the others. Warning: his words are difficult to read.

When the Buffalo weekly newspaper *Artvoice* asked locals their hopes for 2017, many gave positive, community-minded answers: "A return to shopping in communities and brick-and-mortar stores," "the Bills get in the playoffs," or "more kindness." Carl Paladino hopes President "Obama catches mad cow disease after being caught having relations with a Hereford. He dies

before his trial and is buried in a cow pasture next to Valerie Jarret, who died weeks prior, after being convicted of sedition and treason, when a Jihady cell mate mistook her for being a nice person and decapitated her."

What do Buffalonians want to see go away in 2017? "Hate." "Discrimination." "Preconceived stereotypes." Carl Paladino wants to see Michelle Obama "return to being a male and let loose in the outback of Zimbabwe where she lives comfortably in a cave with Maxie, the gorilla."

In response to the horrified national outcry over his reprehensible remarks, Paladino first rebuffed inquiring journalists with an obscenity, then penned a defiant non-apology, defending his words as "deprecating humor."

Paladino is certainly no stranger to this brand of so-called "humor." During his failed 2010 gubernatorial run, a local news site exposed racist and pornographic emails Paladino had shared with associates. While he lost the election in a landslide, garnering only a third of the vote, he managed to be elected to the Buffalo School Board in 2013.

The Buffalo School Board is to be commended for its swift rejection of Paladino's hateful statements, and its recognition that a man who holds such views cannot be entrusted with the education of children. If Paladino does not heed the demands of the Board and resign, we expect NYS Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia to pursue his removal.

The President and CEO of our affiliate in Buffalo, Brenda W. McDuffie, has been outspoken on this issue, and we urge the entire Urban League community to unite in opposition to Paladino's hatefulness by signing the petition urging his removal.

In fairness, when *ArtVoice* asked *Investigative Post* editor Jim Heaney what he's like to see go away in 2017, Heaney responded, "Carl Paladino." We couldn't agree more.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Starting the New Year By Improving Relationships

Relationships come in many flavors. They range from very casual to quite close, such as those individuals we consider real friends, often people we have known for a long time. And closest of all, as you might expect, is usually with someone with whom we are romantically and emotionally involved, a spouse or a significant other.

But what many of us fail to appreciate is that all good relationships require work and that's especially true as a relationship ages. While it may often feel that our associations with others simply "happen," these connections require thought and effort if we want them to endure and grow.

One important step in strengthening a relationship is simply being accepting. No two people are exactly alike and what often helps establish a relationship is that each party brings something a little different to the association. However, over time, we may forget that some of those differences were what helped establish the initial relationship. We, instead, may unconsciously be trying to make the other person more like ourselves. It helps to step back, evaluate what makes that relationship special, and refocus on the positive things rather than the differences you may have.

Good relationships also have to be able to survive disagreements. There are going to be times when friends or spouses are going to have differing opinions about a particular subject, with each going in quite an opposite direction. While it might seem nice (if boring), if everyone agreed all the time, for a relationship to thrive it's necessary sometimes to accept the other person's thoughts and to simply agree to disagree.

Another basic element for a good relationship is being able to communicate with the other person. That sounds simple, but in our busy, often stressful world, it can be easy to ignore someone you care about without really meaning to do it.

The key is to take time to focus on how well you are communicating with those you care about. And that doesn't just mean sharing all of your ideas and problems. It means making time for the other person, asking questions and really listening, especially when there are problem areas.

Improving your relationships is a wonderful resolution to make for the New Year. And making it work isn't all that hard. It just requires paying more attention and making time to listen to and enjoy that other person.

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

Statement of Comptroller Regarding Updated Revenue Estimates

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The following is a statement from Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot released today during a meeting of the Board of Revenue Estimates in the Treasury Building in Annapolis.

"I'd like to thank my fellow members of the Board of Revenue Estimates—Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David Brinkley—as well as Bureau of Revenue Estimates Director Andrew Schaufele, his staff, and the Revenue Monitoring Committee for their hard work.

"Today, Maryland's Board of Revenue Estimates voted to reduce the revenue projections for the State of Maryland for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 by a total of \$38.3 million, which is \$13.8 million for Fiscal Year 2017 and \$24.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018. These reductions underscore the reality that our economic recovery remains weak. Wages and incomes continue to grow at a subdued rate and many Marylanders and small business owners are still struggling.

"Our projections indicate that there will be three percent growth in our sales and use tax revenue for the current and the next fiscal years, which serves as a positive indicator that Marylanders are spending more. That's not a return to normal, but it is a step in the right direction.

"Whether it's a temporary indicator or a prolonged trend is uncertain. State policymakers can help by not doing harm to consumer confidence. We can't assume we're around the corner from returning to the way things have been in Maryland.

"We have to be more forward-looking about how we borrow money as a state because we can't sustain our current patterns of debt accumulation without provoking actions that could harm an already fragile economy. But if we maintain a cautious mindset, Maryland's economy is strong enough to withstand this slow recovery and return us to prosperity."



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David Brinkley; Deputy Treasurer Bernadette Benik, who attended the meeting on behalf of Treasurer Nancy Kopp; Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, who is chairman of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates (BRE); and BRE Director Andrew Schaufele.

South County Economic Development Association Honors EDC President and CEO

Coleman: County is Experiencing Incredible Growth Today Thanks to The Power of One

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

OXON HILL, MD—On December 4, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was the guest speaker for the South County Economic Development Association's 20th Anniversary and Awards Gala. More than 350 South County residents, business leaders and elected officials turned out to support the community based organization that has been an advocate in Prince George's County for promoting economic development, particularly for small and minority businesses since 1996. Notable residents in attendance included NBC 4 News Anchor Pat Lawson Muse, who served as the emcee for the gala, State Senator C. Anthony Muse, who provided the invocation, SCEDA President Zeno St. Cyr, II, and Board Members Floyd Wilson, Jr., Guy Black and Lenward Hood. Mr. Coleman spoke to the capacity crowd about the power of one: making a difference in your future.

"All of us have known someone who has made a profound difference in our lives. Whether it was a single mother, a pastor or an organization like SCEDA. People like my own mother,

whose caring, encouragement and commitment made a significant difference in my life," said Coleman. "Thanks to the power of one County Executive, Prince George's County is experiencing incredible growth today. By streamlining the permitting process, bringing ethics reform to County government and causing the County's crime rate to be the lowest it has been in 30-years, County Executive Baker's power of one has given developers confidence in Prince George's County. But now is not the time for cooling off. As President of the EDC, I want to leave no resident behind when it comes to the incredible spirit of growth that this County is experiencing. I congratulate community partners like SCEDA for working to provide County residents with more retail, better grocery options and companies that provide high wage jobs."

Mr. Coleman was also presented with SCEDA's Business Development Award as one of the award recipients at the holiday gala. Other honorees included Radio One CEO Cathy Hughes, County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor, County Councilmember Mel Franklin, The Wooten Group Managing Director Lorenzo Wooten, Jr., Dis-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Left to right: Zeno W. St. Cyr, II, SCEDA President; Jim Coleman, EDC President & CEO; Earl O'Neal, SCEDA Vice President

trict VII Police Commander Major Tammy Sparkman, SCS Senior Consultant Gwendolyn Allen, Ph.D., former SCEDA President Nathaniel Tutt, Jr., and First SCEDA Vice President and Second President Julia Clark. Each of the awardees were recognized for their commitment to improving schools, public safety, economic development and transportation in South County.

"SCEDA has grown tremendously in the last 20 years, and we are proud of the work we have done; particularly in South County," said Zeno St. Cyr. "We

are honored to have had a dynamo like EDC President Jim Coleman as our keynote speaker this evening. We are looking forward to doing bigger and better things in partnership with the Economic Development Corporation to help promote small and minority businesses and economic development in general, in Prince George's County."

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact the John Mason, EDC Business Development Director (jamason@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650.

Maryland Casinos Generate Record-Breaking \$133.5 Million in Revenue During December

By PRESS OFFICER
MLGCA

BALTIMORE, MD—Highlighted by the opening of MGM National Harbor, Maryland's six casinos combined for a record-setting month in December 2016, generating \$133,477,706 million in statewide gaming revenue. December surpassed the previous revenue record set in May 2016, when five casinos totaled \$104,351,219 million.

MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County, which held its grand opening on Dec. 8, generated \$41,934,028 from both slot machines and table games in just over three weeks.

Under Maryland law, casino revenue supports the Maryland Education Trust Fund as well as small-, minority- and women-owned businesses, local impact

grants and the state's horse racing industry.

MGM National Harbor's contribution to the Education Trust Fund in December was \$12,624,344. December 2016 contributions to the state from all six Maryland casinos are documented and available online at http://gaming.mdlottery.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/December_press_release_slots-TG-2.pdf.

"We anticipated that December would be a record-breaking month, and we are tremendously enthusiastic about the future of Maryland's casino program," said Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director Gordon Medenica. "MGM National Harbor is an outstanding facility in an ideal location, and we are confident that its success will fuel the continued growth of revenue that supports vital state programs."

Gross gaming revenue per unit per day in December at MGM National Harbor was: \$313.59 for slot machines, \$5,343.76 for banked table games and \$1,508.57 for non-banked table games. MGM National Harbor operates 3,237 slot machines and 165 (126 banked and 39 non-banked) table games.

While the opening of MGM National Harbor attracted local, national and international attention, three of Maryland's first five casinos—Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, Casino at Ocean Downs and Rocky Gap Casino Resort—saw their revenues increase in December. Hollywood Casino Perryville and Maryland Live Casino saw decreases compared to December of 2015.

"Given the intense spotlight on the opening of MGM National Harbor, the December

numbers for Maryland's other casinos are in line with our expectations, and we're pleased to see the increases at Ocean Downs, Rocky Gap and especially Horseshoe," Medenica said. "I am confident that as our casino program continues to evolve, each of the six casinos will establish its unique presence in the marketplace."

With MGM operating for only a partial month, Maryland Live Casino continued to generate the state's highest revenue, totaling \$48,032,057 from both slot machines and table games in December. Maryland Live's gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$255.60 for slot machines, \$3,116.84 for banked table games and \$1,160.97 for non-banked

See GAMING Page A7

Library from A1

ters. "Wow! I just discovered the new Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center on the PGCMLS website," Lynn exclaimed. "I love to sew and quilt. I am always looking for new patterns and ideas. The *Needlecrafts and Textiles* section has everything that I need, including techniques and patterns for applique and quilting," she added. "It looks like there are a lot of other articles and ideas for many

kinds of craft projects in this resource, too!"

Make your own discovery! Visit our website at www.pgcmls.info or stop by your local library, and start that MakerSpace or DIY project that you have always dreamed of doing. Be a Maker! Make your dreams come to life at your Library.

About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System

Quitline from A1

from your home, car and workplace. Tobacco odors and paraphernalia can cause cravings.

5. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about medications. Nicotine patches, gum, or other medicines may help with cravings.

Provide these resources to a friend or family member as a gift of support for a New Year's resolution. We have also developed a short video titled *Reasons to Quit* that gives an overview about free Quitline

services. Watch it at <https://goo.gl/SYJ6UF>. Thousands of Marylanders have quit using tobacco with help from the Maryland Tobacco Quitline. Hear some of their stories in their own words here: <http://smokingstopshere.com/media/>. Visit www.smokingstopshere.com or Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW to talk to a live Quit Coach 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Counseling is provided in English, Spanish, or other languages. Make 2017 the year you quit for good.

(PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All

these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flicker, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

Marylanders who need help finding substance-use-disorder treatment resources should visit <http://goo.gl/nlfGm0> or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009. For information on many of the policies currently implemented to fight addiction and overdose in Maryland, see <http://goo.gl/KvEzQw>. If you know of someone in need of treatment for a substance use disorder, treatment facilities can be located by location and

program characteristics on our page at <http://goo.gl/rbGF6S>. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the State agency that protects Maryland's public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected: www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH and also on www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Jackie

Jackie
Grade: A-
Rated R, a couple of F-words
and several glimpses of
JFK's brains
1 hr., 39 min

The first thing we hear in *Jackie* is Mica Levi's groaning, indispensable musical score, which conveys sonically the sensation of having the ground fall out from under you. It accompanies our first sight of Natalie Portman as the newly widowed Jackie Kennedy, who, with equal parts steely-eyed dignity and devastation, looks like the music sounds. Thanks to this perfect pairing of sound and image, we're instantly in the film's grip.

It doesn't let go, either, nor does it deviate much from the intent suggested by those first moments. This is the story of the JFK assassination and its aftermath as experienced by Jackie, filtered through her emotions and memories. The objective facts (as far as they're known) are accounted for and respected—director Pablo Larraín (*NO*) is an expert at historical recreation—but it's a highly subjective film, often impressionistic, more mood piece than docudrama.

The framing device is that a journalist (Billy Crudup) has come to Jackie's home to interview her just days after the funeral—an obscene imposition on a grieving widow, but a necessary part of the national healing process. Jackie is painfully aware of her position as a private citizen who has an obligation to let the people hear from her. She tells the reporter that he can only print what she approves, and she calmly informs him several times over the course of their conversation that something she has just said didn't happen. (The people must not hear of her chain smoking, for instance.) There is no debate over these terms. She's Jacqueline Kennedy; the journalist doesn't even have a name.



Jackie is a searing and intimate portrait of one of the most important and tragic moments in American history, seen through the eyes of the iconic First Lady, then Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy (Natalie Portman). Jackie places us in her world during the days immediately following her husband's assassination. Known for her extraordinary dignity and poise, here we see a psychological portrait of the First Lady as she struggles to maintain her husband's legacy and the world of "Camelot" that they created and loved so well.

The interview structure lets the film hopscotch dreamily through time, like flipping back and forth through the pages of a book. We see contrasting scenes of Jackie looking in the mirror on Air Force One: first preparing herself to smile and wave from the Dallas motorcade with her husband (played by Caspar Phillipson), later smoothing her clothes and wiping the blood from her face in the aftermath. We see the making of her famous 1962 White House tour video, where she seems surprisingly ill-at-ease in front of the camera, a hint that she wasn't the perfectly poised queen of Camelot that America wanted her to be.

We see snippets of the assassination itself, a signature moment in American mythology from which Larraín and

screenwriter Noah Oppenheim have wrung new, fresh emotional horror. We see Jackie being comforted by Robert Kennedy (Peter Sarsgaard), by White House social secretary Nancy Tuckerman (Greta Gerwig), by the awkwardly deferential Lyndon Johnson (John Carroll Lynch) and Lady Bird (Beth Grant), by a priest (John Hurt). Jackie is dazed, shell-shocked, flitting in and out of conversations, constantly torn from her reverie to deal with some painfully quotidian concern like clearing JFK's things out of the Oval Office or planning the funeral.

It's a compelling portrait of grief, but it's more than that: a portrait of public grief. With noble grace, Jackie accepts the terribly unfair fact that she

can't run off and mourn in private, that her husband's legacy will be defined in part by what she does in these next few days. She knows, though she doesn't like it, that optics and symbols are important, and that every detail of the funeral and her public behavior will be scrutinized for its significance.

Through it all, in public and private, Portman's portrayal of Jackie is almost startlingly immersive. She impersonates the voice and accent, sure, but more than that, she brings all of Jackie's internal struggles to the surface as she navigates the slow-moving nightmare she's found herself in. Even in her vulnerable moments, she's an icon of strength, and the film is an invaluable glimpse into the mind and heart of a tragic figure.

EDC Holiday from A1

ness partners' and making 2017 even better!"

David Iannucci, who spoke to the holiday gathering on behalf of County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III who is currently out of town, also expressed his excitement about the progress the EDC, along with its partners at FSC First have accomplished this year. The Baker Administration attributes the great progress taking place in the County to thoughtful planning.

"The success the County is currently experiencing is no accident," said Iannucci. "The County had a plan that dealt with public safety and education. The missing link was economic de-

velopment. None of this success is possible with the private sector believing in Prince George's County. Now, true economic development is happening in Prince George's County with MGM's grand opening, the Regional Medical Center breaking ground in the Spring, and, we believe, the FBI coming to Prince George's County."

Many of the business leaders in attendance expressed their appreciation for the support the EDC provides to small businesses through the Small Business Development office and Workforce Services Division.

"I am delighted to be here to say 'thank you' to the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation for all

the help I received from them," said Laverne Johnson, owner of Security Education Environmental Design Services, LLC, a minority, woman-owned security safety consultant business in Temple Hills, MD. "From business plan assistance through getting Small Business Administration 8A certification, the EDC has been with me every step of the way."

Holiday Extravaganza sponsors included Safeway, Marva Jo Camp, Esq., Forestville Plaza and Carrollton Enterprises.

"This evening was a great opportunity for Safeway, along with other corporations to network with small business owners, who give life into the community," said Stephanie Ridore,

Safeway Labor Relations Manager. "The partnership Safeway has established with the EDC has been a tremendous success in bringing more jobs into the community, and we believe will continue to grow."

Join the EDC on January 19th for its Clean Tech Demo Day where commercial real estate brokers and investors can learn energy solutions from clean tech entrepreneurs to reduce energy costs and increase competitiveness. This event will take place at EDC Headquarters, 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20774.

To reserve your seat, contact Crystal Ballard at 301-583-4650 or visit www.pgcedc.com/events to register. Space is limited!

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

A Majority-Immigrant Church, Vandalized With 'Trump Nation/Whites Only,' Becomes a Site of Resistance



The Hillandale Shopping Center in Silver Spring, Maryland is like a thousand you have seen before. Located at a highway intersection, the strip mall includes a Mattress Warehouse, a Chipotle, and of course a Starbucks. Reflecting the pockets of immigrant poverty in the immediate area, there is also a Value Village and several boarded-up storefronts. Flying above the mostly low-income commercial block is an American flag on a towering flagpole.

Across Powder Mill Road, nestled just off the highway, is an ornate brick house of worship called the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour. Like the Hillandale Shopping Center, this is a church that reflects the surrounding community. The immigrants who make up 80 percent of the congregation have come to the United States from 50 different countries.

On the morning of Sunday, November 13, Father Robert Harvey was on his way to the church to deliver a sermon about the impact of Donald Trump's election. His goal was to soothe the nerves of his congregants. He said, "We had been hearing more and more about fear among our members about what could happen to their families if Trump was elected."

He was going to speak to them about "Jewish exiles in Babylon, and how the prophet Jeremiah told them to pray for the good fortune of the country where they currently live. And the word in Jeremiah is 'For in their prosperity, you will find your prosperity.'"

That plan was turned on its head when Father Robert, as he is called, arrived at the church:

[I] noticed a message written in what looked like a thick permanent marker on our memorial garden wall that said 'Trump Nation. Whites Only.' And then, when I went out to the other side of the church I saw the same message written on our banner that advertises our mass in Spanish with deep [knife] cuts into the sign.

Father Robert showed me the faintly visible markings of the message. Their efforts to blast it off the brick walls are proving to be more difficult than they anticipated.

Father Robert had to alter his sermon on the fly from one of hope in a perilous time to one speaking hard truths. He said, "This particular campaign has opened up racial scars and wounds that have been in this country for yea ... Please be aware of how close to home this has hit. This is literally now, quite literally, right outside our windows."

Father Robert was distraught but not as shocked as many in the congregation. He said to me:

Two days after the election, at the Hillandale Shopping Center, I saw an elderly Latina woman being humiliated by two big white guys. They were calling her a spic and to go back to Mexico. And I was walking through the parking lot and she was standing there shaking violently, and I put my arm around her and I said, 'Guys, this is unacceptable, buzz off.' And they said with menace, 'You don't tell us what to do!' I threatened to call the police and they scattered. A couple yards away, there were two Muslim women, in full garb. They said to me, 'We saw those guys too. They'd been standing there for a while. It's almost as if they were positioned there to humiliate anyone, there, who did not look like them.'"

The fear among the congregants at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour is real, but the community response to the vandalism has been remarkable. Homemade signs, chalkings and banners now adorn the inside and the outside of the church with messages in a variety of languages such as, "You are always welcome here," "Resist hate," "Our community is strong," "We are one people," and "In God we love."

There is also now a massive printed banner in front of the church that reads, "Silver Spring loves and welcomes all immigrants." The banner, visible from the highway, is like a steely glare aimed at anyone who wants this church and these congregants to disappear.

"The community has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive and caring," Father Robert told me.

We've had a synagogue in Washington, D.C. whose rabbi and congregants were here on Monday offering prayers, an imam and members of his congregation came to offer their prayers, and an absolute outpouring from all the Christian denominations in the area ... I'm tired but I'm also very hopeful because of this outpouring ... We are now looking towards turning the church into a site for racial reconciliation, a place where those kinds of conversations can happen. I want our church to be at the forefront of that. This is supposed to be a safe place for all people and we want that to be the case.

See CHURCH VANDALIZED Page A7

Students from A1

Posse Scholars from Prince George's County include:

Student	School	College
Jocelyn Lewis	Charles H. Flowers High School	University of Wisconsin -Madison
Hamza Shittu	School: Charles H. Flowers High School	Bucknell University
Clennie Murphy	School: Fairmont High School	Lafayette College
Shomari Todd	School: Friendly High School	Sewanee: The University of the South
Jonathan Arrington	Friendly High School	Lafayette College
Joziah Mays	School: Friendly High School	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Seriah Wyatt	Oxon Hill High School	Sewanee: The University of the South

The eight students joined 42 others Tuesday evening for The Posse Foundation's annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

For more information on The Posse Foundation and the Posse program, visit www.possefoundation.org.

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The Prince George's Post



Brenda Boice
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Calendar of Events

January 12 — January 18, 2017

Xtreme Teens: Arena Football

Date and Time: Friday, January 13, 2017, 7–10 pm
Description: Calling all athletes! Compete in this pickup game of 5-on-5 arena style football. Don't worry, we'll provide the jerseys.
Cost: Free
Ages: 13 & up
Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Missoula Musical Play *Alice in Wonderland*

Date and Time: Saturday, January 14, 2017, 11 am & 1 pm
Description: The Missoula Children's Theatre presents *Alice in Wonderland*, an original adaptation based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*.
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Barriers & Gateways Opening Reception

Date and Time: Saturday, January 14, 2017, 1–4 pm
Description: The *Barriers & Gateways* exhibit was originally created in 2010 as a companion to the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, *Between Fences*.

Barriers & Gateways explores the experience of three the major waves of immigrants in Maryland history: those from the British Isles who came seeking opportunities as indentured servants; Africans who were forced into slavery; and Europeans escaping war, discrimination, and poverty.

Related events will be scheduled throughout the exhibit. More details to come.

Cost: \$5/adults (19-59); \$4/senior (60 & up); \$2/child (5–18); Free ages 4 and under
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544;
montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

Twelfth Night Ball

Date and Time: Saturday, January 14, 2017, 7:30 pm
Description: Cap off the holiday season in festive style at our Regency ball and supper. Period attire admired, but not required and black tie is also welcome. Registration required by December 31.
Cost: Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$52
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

Concert: The Davey Yarborough Ensemble featuring Esther Williams

Date and Time: Saturday, January 14, 2017, 8 pm
Description: Saxophonist, flutist, and vocalist, Davey Yarborough represents a new generation of jazz innovators. Alongside his wife and collaborator, Esther Williams. She is a diverse vocalist with an extensive repertoire in jazz, R&B, pop, spiritual, and gospel. This is a musical evening you won't forget.
Cost: \$35/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bowie State University Fine & Performing Arts Center
4000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-446-3232 TTY 699-2544

Annual World Dance Showcase Auditions

Date and Time: Sunday, January 15, 2017, 10 am–6 pm
Description: Dance companies and individuals are invited to audition traditional work in any culture-specific dance style. Your presentation must not exceed 15 minutes in length and must be auditioned in finished form with costumes. Please audition the exact presentation to be performed at the final showcase. Dance groups will be selected to perform in concert on Saturday, March 18, (tentative date per SK) at 8 pm. Selected groups will receive an honorarium of \$600.

Auditions are by appointment only and open to performers ages 16 & older. Apply online at <http://bit.ly/2aHSAMI> or call 301-446-3232.

Application deadline: Friday, January 13, 5 pm.

*Snow Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017, 10 am–6 pm

Cost: Free
Ages: 16 & up
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Scout Day at College Park the Aviation Museum

Date and Time: Sunday, January 15, 2017, 1–4 pm
Description: Scouts of all ages are invited to learn about aviation with activities that count towards badges! Spend an afternoon at College Park Aviation Museum. Pre-registration is required.
Cost: \$5/participant
Ages: 6–18
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

S.T.E.A.M.: Family Project —Recycled Arts and Crafts and Energy Event

Date and Time: Monday, January 17, 2017, 6–7:30 pm
Description: Use recycled items that you can find around your house to make amazing arts and crafts while learning about conservation and recycling! These family projects focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. This is a great event to learn about recycling and its impact on our community and earth.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Location: Bladensburg Community Center
4500 57th Ave., Bladensburg, MD
Contact: Phone: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... What Will Be Obama's Environmental Legacy?

Dear EarthTalk:

Now that his second term is winding down, what will President Barack Obama's environmental legacy look like?

—Mary Danson,
Littleton, NH

The environment may not have been one of candidate Barack Obama's signature issues in the run-up to the 2008 election; nonetheless, environmentalists were pleased that he won. The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) gave Obama an 86 percent rating back then for his Congressional voting track record on bills related to the environment. (His Republican opponent, John McCain, scored a paltry 24 percent according to LCV's standards.) But even though Obama was talking the talk on emissions reductions, clean energy and other hot button green issues, environmentalists worried that other higher priority concerns could distract the well-meaning young president from focusing on saving the planet.

But cut to the present eight years later, and a much grayer Obama has not only walked the green walk, but will go down in history as one of the greatest environmental presidents of all time. Chief among his sustainability-oriented accomplishments is steering the nation toward a future with fewer greenhouse emissions. One major step was pushing through

the Clean Power Plan, calling on electric utilities to reduce their carbon emissions by 32 percent of 2005 levels within 10 years. The plan, which will likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2017, is a key part of Obama's efforts to fight global warming. Obama worked hard to finalize the plan in plenty of time for other countries participating in international climate talks to make similarly strong commitments in time for the December 2015 Paris climate accord, when 194 countries signed on the dotted line volunteering significant cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.

Another point of environmental pride for President Obama is his designation of 29 new national monuments protecting some 553 million acres of naturally and/or culturally significant land and waters. Key adds to the U.S. conservation docket under Obama include the 257 million offshore acres in the Pacific west of Hawaii, 1.8 million acres in the California desert, and most recently another 1.5 million acres across two desert tracts in Nevada and Utah.

Environmentalists were critical of Obama at the end of his first term for his lack of attention to conservation: The Obama White House at that point had protected far fewer acres than any of his four predecessors. George W. Bush set aside just under four million acres, Bill Clinton protected some 27 million, George H.W. Bush con-



CREDIT: NICK KNUPFFER, FLICKRCC

Barack Obama's environmental accomplishments include helping broker the Paris climate accord, pushing through the Clean Power Plan, and adding upwards of 500 million acres to America's conservation portfolio.

served almost 18 million, and Ronald Reagan protected 12.5 million. But Obama came on strong during his second term and now can boast protecting at least three times as much federal land and water from development as any previous president.

The Obama administration also made great strides on greasing the wheels of the clean energy transition by re-upping renewable energy financial incentives, rejecting the Keystone XL and DAPL pipeline projects, and establishing offshore drilling bans in the Arctic and Atlantic. But the \$64,000 question remains: which of the environmental accomplishments of the last eight years will Donald Trump overturn. After all, Trump has stated his intent to overturn the Clean Power Plan, pull out of or ignore the Paris climate accord, gut the EPA, and open up signifi-

cant amounts of federal land to oil and gas drilling. Only time will tell if Trump can tarnish Obama's otherwise shining environmental track record.

CONTACTS: "A Historic Commitment to Protecting the Environment and Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change," www.whitehouse.gov/the-records/climate; "Trump's First 100 Days May Be Worst 100 Days for Environment," www.emagazine.com/trumps-first-100-days-may-worst-100-days-environment/.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Gaming from A5

table games. December 2016 revenue at Maryland Live decreased by \$6,152,008, or 11.4%, from December 2015. Maryland Live Casino operates 3,906 slot machines and 209 (157 banked and 52 non-banked) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$29,749,282 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$235.53 for slot machines, \$2,755.31 for banked table games and \$649.09 for non-banked table games. Horseshoe Casino's December 2016 revenue increased by \$2,485,682, or 9.1%, from December 2015. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,202 slot machines and 179 (154 banked and 25 non-banked) table games.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$6,094,963 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$191.41 for slot machines, \$2,585.42 for banked table games and \$357.88 for non-banked table games. Hollywood Casino's December 2016 revenue decreased by \$244,861, or 3.9%, from December 2015. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 850 slot machines and 20 (12 banked and 8 non-banked) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$4,117,633 from slot machines in December, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$165.83. Casino at Ocean Downs' December 2016 revenue increased by \$238,272, or 6.1%, from December 2015. The Casino at Ocean Downs op-

erates 800 slot machines and does not have table games.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$3,549,744 from both slot machines and table games in December. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$145.40 for slot machines and \$1,058.85 for banked table games. This facility does not have non-banked table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort's December 2016 revenue increased by \$38,898, or 1.1%, from December 2015. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 662 slot machines and 17 table games.

In a year-to-year comparison, December 2016 casino revenue increased from December 2015 by \$38,300,011, or 40.2%. In a year-to-year comparison not including MGM National Harbor, December 2016 revenue decreased by

3,634,017, or 3.8%. See the attached document for a detailed breakdown of December 2016's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

Maryland Lottery and Gaming is responsible for oversight of the state's casinos. In this role, the agency provides direction and guidance to its casino partners on financial, security, regulatory and licensing procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and to maintain transparency of casino operations, monthly financial reports are posted on gaming.mdlottery.com. Maryland Lottery and Gaming reminds players to play responsibly and within their budget; resources are available at mdgambinghelp.org or by calling 1-800-GAMBLER.

Church Vandalized from A6

One person that Father Robert wants to hear from is Donald Trump. He said:

We are asking for Donald Trump, if he wants to be the president for all Americans as he said the day after the election, to come out from hiding behind his white constituency and stand with people like the ones here at my church, to stand among immigrants and say: 'Stop the hatred, the bigotry and the racism that's infecting our country.'

The Nation contacted the RNC and Trump headquarters for comment. The RNC referred us to an email address to contact the Trump transition team. Our emails bounced back. Calls have not been returned. Their conscious obliviousness to this and so many other similar hate crimes across the country—done in Donald Trump's name—cannot stand.

As Gustavo Andrade, the Executive Director of Mía, the Movement of Immigrants in America, said to me:

One of the foulest and most immediate consequences of Donald Trump's behavior during this election cycle has been to embolden individuals who seek to inflict pain and commit acts of violence against our community. We must all fight back against hate wherever it may show up, and take steps to support the more vulnerable among us. That's what loving freedom truly means.

This needs to happen. Father Robert told me about a seven-year-old boy from Nigeria who approached him after the sermon and asked, "Is this the way it's going to be now?"

We the people—much more than any words from Donald Trump—will play the decisive role in answering that question. Or as Father Robert said to the child, "It doesn't have to be."

PLEDGE TO GO GREEN IN 2017

Tired of making the same old resolutions, try a different approach and pledge to go green in 2017:

- ▶ Resolve to reduce, reuse, recycle and repurpose more this year;
- ▶ Never purchase bottled water;
- ▶ Remember your reusable bag;
- ▶ Walk or bike to work;
- ▶ Resolve to waste less energy in your home;
- ▶ Switch to green power and consider solar; and
- ▶ Commit to eating local, organic, seasonal food.

my 2017 goals

1. Reduce - Reuse - Recycle
2. Walk to work
- 3.

Prince George's County and Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Planning and Office of Capital Services. www.pgc.gov provides information and sustainability in our everyday lives.