

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 5 February 2 – February 8, 2017 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

M Andree Green Named Director of M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department

By PRESS OFFICE
M-NCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) today announced its selection of M. Andree Green as Director of the M-NCPPC's Prince George's County Planning Department. As Director, Ms. Green will oversee a professional staff charged with advising and working with the Planning Board, elected officials, and the community to shape land use planning, zoning, and economic development plans for the County. She succeeds Dr. Fern Piret, who retired as Director last Fall.

Ms. Green's selection as Planning Director follows a publicly advertised search process, with interviews of several candidates conducted by a panel comprised of Planning Board members and a planning professional who recommended their selection to the full Planning Board for final action.

"As the Planning Department prepares to turn its focus toward implementing a new zoning ordinance and the many exciting plans our County Council has crafted over the past eight years, the Board is delighted to tap Andree because she is second-to-none in her commitment to Prince George's County, and in her know-how of the critical nuts and bolts involved in the planning process," said Dorothy

Bailey, Vice Chairman of the Planning Board and a member of the panel that recommended Green to the full Board.

Ms. Green brings to the Planning Director position more than twenty years of specialized experience in the practice of land use law and policy development in Prince George's County, as well as considerable experience managing people, honed over the past six years in her role of County Attorney for Prince George's County. As County Attorney, Ms. Green initiated a major overhaul of the Office of Law where she managed a staff of fifty-four professionals, including thirty-four attorneys and an operating budget of nearly \$7 million.

Prior to her appointment as County Attorney, Ms. Green served eleven years as M-NCPPC's Supervising Attorney and lead counsel for its Prince George's County legal team, presiding over a specialized unit dealing primarily with the administrative process and litigation related to zoning, planning and the regulation of real estate development. Her extensive experience also includes private sector practice and litigating land use cases in Maryland's trial and appellate courts.

"We are delighted to affirm the panel's recommendation and enthusiastically welcome Ms. Green as Planning Director," said Elizabeth M. Hewlett,

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PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

EDC Account Assistant LeSha Jean Francois checking in business owner at Korea-China Information Session.

County Executive Baker to Lead Business Mission Trip to Korea and China

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Last week, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted an information session for County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III's Business Mission Trip to

Korea and China that will take place in April of this year. Over 70 local business owners were in attendance and were briefed on the Korean and Chinese business culture and hottest sectors by experts from the EEC, the Maryland Department of Commerce, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, KOTRA, the

Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the U.S. Commercial Service, and the Greater Washington China Investment Center. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman is primed to help facilitate international trade.

"We tearing down walls and building bridges," said Coleman. "County Executive

Baker knows the power of international trade and is at the forefront of establishing the relationships necessary to bring business back to Prince George's County. Today, we met with the top business

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More Marylanders Enroll in Health Exchange as Repeal Looms

By NATALIE SCHWARTZ
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Enrollment in the Maryland Health Exchange thus far has been climbing at faster rates than in previous years, while President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Congress have taken their first steps to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

As of Monday, more than 465,500 Marylanders had enrolled in the Maryland Health Connection since it opened on Nov. 1, surpassing the 457,862 who had enrolled by the same date last year. The enrollment period ends on Jan. 31.

Of those 465,500, about 150,000 have enrolled in private health insurance and about 315,500 have enrolled in Medicaid. About 73,500 additional Marylanders have passively re-enrolled, meaning they will retain their same coverage if they do nothing to change their plans, according to data provided by Andrew Ratner, director of marketing and strategic initiatives at the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY HANNAH KLARNER
Delegate Clarence Lam, a Democrat representing Baltimore and Howard counties, and a physician, discusses the upcoming state budget and the impact a repeal of the Affordable Care Act would have on Marylanders, in Annapolis, MD, on January 18, 2017.

However, an executive order Trump signed on his first day in office could pave the way to gut the Affordable Care Act, signaling its repeal as one of his top priorities. The order gives federal agencies the power to eliminate or loosen some regulations created by the health care law.

This followed a Jan. 12 measure by the U.S. Senate to

begin dismantling the Affordable Care Act by passing a budget resolution that would make it easier to begin rolling back portions of the law.

Health care advocates and state officials have been continuing to urge Marylanders to enroll in the exchange, touting

See ACA Page A3

Council Chair Davis Responds to State Funding Reductions and Delays for New Hospital

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Over the last six years, stakeholders have worked to maintain a joint commitment to addressing the healthcare needs of our residents, especially as the County moves from the Dimensions Healthcare System to the University of Maryland Medical System, and with construction of the new Regional Medical Center in Largo. Working together, in an historic

and pivotal point in this process, we achieved project approval for the new medical facility from the Maryland Health Care Commission.

We have looked forward to continuing the dialogue with all stakeholders engaged in this process, including Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, about long-term solutions to the critical health needs of Prince George's County residents and citizens from Southern Maryland and across the region that are served by our facilities.

Whether Governor Hogan's recent decision to cut the current year's funding commitment for the new hospital and delay future funding was an error or intention, the result has produced a high level of uncertainty among citizens already anxious about the future of the Affordable Care Act and healthcare in our nation. The combined impact on the residents of Prince George's County and

See HOSPITAL Page A3

Colston Tabbed CIAA Player of the Week

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

CHARLOTTE, NC—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in conjunction with the conference head coaches and Sports Information Directors released its weekly women's basketball honor roll and Bowie State junior Kiara Colston has been tabbed Player of the Week for the first time this season. Colston led the Bulldogs in terms of scoring average last week (21.5 ppg), with

her best performance coming at Chowan on Saturday, scoring a game-high 27 points to go along with five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

To date, Colston has scored 692 career points at Bowie State and a total of 940 collegiate points which includes one season (2014-2015) at Georgian Court University. Bowie State will host Virginia State University on Wednesday (1/25) at 5:30 p.m. as part of a CIAA Northern Division double-header with the men.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE
Kiara Colston

INSIDE

Maryland Elected and Community Leaders Spotlight Immediate Dangers of Repealing ACA

Nearly 350,000 Marylanders—and roughly 20 million Americans nationwide—have gained access to health care through the coverage provisions of the ACA, including subsidized coverage through the insurance marketplaces and expansion of Medicaid eligibility.

Community, Page A3

Scott's Story: Lessons Children Teach Adults

Not only must every adult respect the dignity of every human person regardless of disability, race, gender, income or religion, they must teach children by their example whether presidents or preachers or parents or teachers that every human being is of equal value.

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Larry Hogan Releases 2018 Fiscal Year Budget Proposal

The budget allocates \$165 million less to the state's reserve fund, basically the state's savings accounts, than 2017's budget. Because contributions to the fund are listed as an expenditure, this causes the overall increase in spending elsewhere to appear smaller than it is.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Passengers

The trip takes 120 years, during which passengers and crew sleep blissfully in pods. The ship (on autopilot) is programmed to wake everybody up a few months before arrival, whereupon they'll be trained in how to live on their new planet and enjoy some time socializing on what is essentially a giant cruise ship.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you have any recommendations for vegan health and beauty products?

—Janice T.,
Brooklyn, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Andrews kept busy with Presidential traffic, coming and going

Vice President-elect Mike Pence flew into Joint Base Andrews from Indianapolis on Jan. 9, in preparation to take office Jan. 20. Among the greeters was Maj. Mark E. Carl, 89th Life Wing Flight Line Protocol director.

Barack and Michelle Obama arrived at Andrews by helicopter around 1 p.m. on Jan. 20, an hour or so after President Trump took the oath of office. About 1800 officials and supporters had gathered to bid them farewell.

They boarded the Boeing 747—Special Air Mission 28000, formerly known as Air Force One—along with nine of their friends and top aides, bound for vacation in Palm Springs, California. Daughters Malia and Sasha were scheduled to arrive later.

When the Obamas return to Washington, they'll have to pay their own transport.

They will be residing in the upscale Kalorama neighborhood in Washington, only blocks from Ivanka Trump, husband Jared Kushner and their children.

People

Dolores Steinhilber, of Waldorf and formerly of Skyline, was presented the Manifestation of the Kingdom Award on the feast of Epiphany by the Archdiocese of Washington in recognition of her dedicated service to the Church.

Ken Hightower, who used to be my neighbor in Skyline, called to say he turned 95 on Jan. 19. He is now at Morningside House in Charles County. He said the celebration was quiet but his niece came and took him to lunch.

The men and women of the Air Force bid farewell on Jan. 11 to the 23rd Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James during ceremonies at Joint Base Andrews on Jan. 11. She had led the Air Force for more than three

years after being confirmed in Dec. 2013.

Coming up

Sat., Feb. 4: Elijah's Pantry will be open at Suitland Road Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Clothing and food will be available free. The church is at 6412 Suitland Road. For more information, call 301-219-2296.

Tues., Feb. 14: Valentine's Day!

Wed., Feb. 15: Skyline Citizens Association holds its quarterly meeting, 7 p.m. at the Morningside Fire House.

Tue., Feb. 21: Morningside holds its monthly town meeting at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Morningside VFD's Ambulance, a life-saver

From the MVFD website: "Since the adoption of the Ambulance in 2013, a lot of things have changed around the Morningside VFD. Today the Ambulance is another one of the vital services we provide—our community demanded it and we rose up to the challenge.

"In calendar year 2016 we placed our corporate owned Ambulance in service and responded to 3,233 calls for help."

Changing landscape

The popular "Hall of Presidents" at the National Portrait Gallery closed Feb. 27, and a temporary version will open in the museum's West Gallery in March. Then, on Sept. 22 the museum will unveil "America's Presidents," newly-named and renovated. President Obama will be included.

The first Smoothie King in Waldorf held its grand opening on Dec. 11. I saw a couple of good reviews. It is at 2785 Crain Highway.

The fire at the Tucker Road Ice Rink on Jan. 4 has been ruled an accident, probably sparked by an electrical problem. Anita Presses, spokeswoman for Parks & Recreation, said the county plans to rebuild but the rink may not reopen for a year. That's tough for the Tucker Road

Ducks, their up-and-coming hockey team—consisting of 11- to 14-year-old boys. The team has been emerging as, according to *The Washington Post*, "a darling of the Washington region's youth hockey scene, known for its positive attitude, fast skating and bright pink jerseys."

May they rest in peace

Patricia Anne Glynn, 84, of Edgewater and previously of Upper Marlboro, died Jan. 19, just two months after her husband of 65 years, John, passed away. She was a native New Yorker. During their years in our area, the Glynn's were founding members of St. Philip's Parish and she was Prefect of the Sodality back in 1965. She was the mother of John, Elaine, Thomas, Noreen, Anne Marie and William; grandmother of 14 and great-grandmother of three. In recent years she was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, in Edgewater, where her Mass of Christen Burial was held. She is now at rest with John at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville.

Dr. Louis Lee Cross, Jr., 95, Chief of Pediatrics at Providence Hospital who had a private practice in District Heights, died Jan. 15 at his home in Annapolis. He formerly lived in Ft. Washington. He was born in North Keys, MD. Dr. Cross received his medical degree from Georgetown and served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. His wife Alice Severn Cross died in 2014. He is survived by seven children, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; Adam Cook, Feb. 5; Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter, Feb. 8; my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Connie Waby and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9.

A very happy 67th anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on Feb. 4.

onship Round (Friday sales includes a \$25 two day 'All Sessions' pass).

The location is Show Place Arena 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255.

2017 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

If you need to get your child in one of the Summer Youth Programs offered thru Prince George's Community College call 301-546-0158 or visit www.pgcc.edu/go/summeryouth for more information. The programs offer activities for grades 2-8. Make summer memorabilia and enroll your child today.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Baden Community Center located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 offers key amenities such as a fitness room, multipurpose room, pool table, basketball courts (outdoor), picnic pavilion and many more amenities. The Center offers a licensed before and after school Kids' Care program and a Xtreme Teens program. Telephone number is 301-888-1500; TTY 301-699-2544.

Neighborhoods

FeBREWary Returns to Maryland

Month-Long Event Will Celebrate Maryland's Craft Beers

BALTIMORE, MD—In celebration of Maryland Craft Beer Lovers Month in February, Governor Larry Hogan will once again issue a proclamation and offer an official toast on February 3 to kick off FeBREWary. Breweries across Maryland are joining together to host special love-themed events, launch new beers, and offer unique culinary pairings. FeBREWary is held annually as a partnership between the Brewers Association of Maryland and the Maryland Office of Tourism, a division of the Maryland Department of Commerce.

"FeBREWary is the perfect time to plan a getaway in Maryland and sample the best of our state's craft beers," said Governor Hogan. "All month long, breweries from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore will be open for business so that residents and visitors alike can fall in love with a new brewery or style of beer, or enjoy an old local favorite."

A new addition this year will include several Maryland breweries participating in the Cupid's Curse Challenge—a unique secret beer release. In addition to events, beer launches and food pairings, several hotel packages are being offered with amenities including transportation to and from breweries, pint glasses, and six-packs of local craft beer. The month-long celebration will help fuel Maryland's economy by attracting visitors, which leads to increased hotel bookings and spending at restaurants and breweries throughout the state.

"With the celebration of FeBREWary, Maryland craft beer lovers have an even greater occasion to try new specialty brews from our 50-plus craft producers," said Kevin Atticks, executive director, Brewers Association of Maryland.

Visitors are encouraged to share their FeBREWary and Cupid's Curse Challenge experiences on social media using the hashtags #MDfeBREWary, #MDBeerLovers and #CupidsCurseMD.

For more information on FeBREWary, visit <http://visitmaryland.org> or call 1-800-719-5900.

About Maryland Tourism

The Maryland Office of Tourism is an agency of the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts within the Maryland Department of Commerce. Visitors to the state spent \$16.8 billion on travel-related expenses in 2015. The Maryland tourism industry also generated \$2.3 billion in state and local taxes, and provided Marylanders with more than 143,000 jobs with a payroll of \$5.7 billion. For more information: visitmaryland.org

About Brewers Association of Maryland

The Maryland brewing industry dates back to colonial times and today, is one of the fastest growing segments of the craft beverage economy. The Brewers Association of Maryland, founded in 1996 is a non-profit, member based, trade association representing more than 70 breweries across the state. The mission of BAM is to grow,

promote and protect the Maryland craft beer industry through marketing, advocacy & education. BAM is represented by the management group, Grow & Fortify. For more information, please visit www.marylandbeer.org.

Apply Now for the 15th Annual Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars Program

LINTHICUM, MD—Applications are now being accepted for the 15th annual Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC) Engineering Scholars competition, which will provide \$192,000 in college scholarships across Maryland in 2017 to promising high school seniors interested in studying engineering.

The company will also award 26 scholarships to students living near Northrop Grumman campuses in nine other states around the country—Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Utah and Virginia.

Brochures detailing the eligibility requirements for the scholarship program have been sent to school superintendents within the state. To apply for the Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars program, students must complete the online application available at: <http://www.northropgrumman.com/CorporateResponsibility/Community/Pages/engineeringscholars.aspx>

Individual scholarships of \$8,000, payable in \$2,000 installments over four years, will be awarded by Northrop Grumman this spring to a qualified graduating high school senior in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, as well as students from nine other states. Candidates must plan to attend an accredited college or university school of engineering as a full-time student in an approved engineering program. The funds may be used for tuition, books, room and board, and lab fees.

A committee of Northrop Grumman employees will select the Engineering Scholars winners. Each applicant must be a resident of Maryland and a graduating senior in the spring of 2017 from a public or accredited private high school in the state. Among the eligibility requirements, applicants must have a minimum composite SAT score of 1150 or ACT score of 27 and a minimum GPA of 3.5. Recipients of any other Northrop Grumman-sponsored scholarships are not eligible. The application deadline is Feb. 4.

One of the state's largest private employers, Northrop Grumman is a significant financial and in-kind contributor to educational outreach programs aimed at encouraging young people to consider engineering and science-related career fields. The company's Mission Systems sector supports multiple High School Involvement Partnership programs to excite student interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Northrop Grumman is also a major corporate sponsor of the Maryland Teacher of the Year competition.

Northrop Grumman is a leading global security com-

pany providing innovative systems, products and solutions in autonomous systems, cyber, C4ISR, strike, and logistics and modernization to customers worldwide. Please visit www.news.northropgrumman.com and follow us on Twitter, @NGCNews, for more information.

Melwood Appoints Cynthia Davis as Vice President of External Affairs

Davis joins Melwood with nearly 20 years of experience developing nonprofit organizations



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD.ORG
Cynthia Davis, New Vice President of External Affairs

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Cari DeSantis, president and CEO of Melwood announced today the appointment of Cynthia Davis as Vice President of External Affairs. Davis is a senior level development executive with nearly 20 years of experience representing and managing leading humanitarian organizations and engaging multi-faceted corporate partnerships.

Beginning her development career with the American Red Cross National Headquarters, Davis rose through the ranks from administration to management. She assisted with the development of the Annual Disaster Giving Program while providing critical fundraising resources to regional development managers and lead financial development units located throughout the United States.

"We are elated to have Davis join our Melwood team," stated DeSantis. "Her leadership, skill set and depth of her experience with growing nonprofit organizations will be an asset as Melwood continues to flourish in this community."

Davis has led in the areas of fundraising, prospective donor research, communications and marketing. She has been at the helm of proven innovative nonprofit management and has guided teams from strategy to execution. Davis has been integral in diversifying and generating funds exceeding \$10 million for disaster victims, pediatric cancer research, people with differing abilities, at-risk youth, and family issues involving senior services, youth development and mental health. Her fundraising goals have consistently focused on ensuring large impact and fulfilling missions that address a community's most critical challenges and opportunities.

Davis earned her Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from University of Maryland University College. She is an active member of the Association for Fundraising Professionals.

Davis is a proud Prince George's County resident and honored to join the Melwood team. She is driven to make a difference that will level the workforce and playing fields for all people of differing abilities.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP COOPERATIVE PARISH

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor presents a Gospel Music program Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 3:00 PM. The program will feature Mighty Wonders, Briscoe Brothers, Liturgical Dancers and many more attractions.

The address is New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Family Life Center, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. There will be a free will offering (proceeds will go towards the Family Life Center Building Fund). Contact the church for more information at (301) 888-2171 or email: NewHope014@gmail.com.

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.

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).

2017 MARYLAND STATE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

High School wrestlers in the state of Maryland will compete in a tournament Friday, March 3, 2017 from 2:30 PM–10:00 PM and Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:30 AM–9:00 PM. Admission costs for individuals 7 years of age and older are \$15 per day pass; \$10.00 Final Champi-

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Time to Take Control of Your Electronic Entertainment Budget

It seems like every few weeks there's a new "must-watch" movie or show. Competition between traditional and new production companies is driving the wave of high-quality content. I can't complain, but it's also hard to keep up. I have an ever-growing list of binge-able things to watch, read and listen to, and in the meantime, I'm paying bills for multiple bills month.

As long as my family's necessary expenses are covered, spending money on entertainment can be worth it. However, I've also noticed that left unmonitored, expenses can slowly grow out of control. I'd rather look for ways to save money and make more meaningful purchases.

Periodically reviewing how much you spend on entertainment, especially electronic entertainment, could be a good place to start.

Take stock of where you currently stand. Find your starting point by making a list of expenses that fall into the category of electronic entertainment. If you don't have a budget where you can easily look up this information, you can review previous bank statements or connect your accounts to a budgeting app that can automatically pull in your spending history. This might also be a good time to try several budgeting apps and begin using the one you enjoy the most.

Give traditional cable or satellite TV expenses a second look. If you haven't "cut the cord"—canceled your cable or satellite TV service—now might be time to give the idea some thought. Many alternative, and often cheaper, options have become mainstream, including free and a la carte sports programming. Even premium networks are sold on their own or as inexpensive add-ons to other services.

You may not want to cancel your entire service but after reviewing what you pay for and regularly watch, you might discover that you could be just as happy with a less expensive package.

In either case, regularly calling your service provider and negotiating your rate could save you money. This same tactic could also work with internet service providers.

Consider splitting the cost with someone else. Some subscription entertainment services can be shared with friends or family. A few even offer several tiers of service, or family packages, that let you create profiles and stream from multiple devices at once. Although the price might be higher for a multi-user account, you'll still save on a per-person basis.

Choose the person or people you share your account with carefully. In some cases, sharing an account with a non-family or household member could be a violation of the terms and conditions, and with some types of accounts, you could be giving the other person access to your debit or credit card number.

Make a list of free resources you can use. Knowing where you can turn to (legally) watch shows and movies, including recent releases, could put you at ease if you're worried about canceling a service.

You could start by using ad-based websites that legally host movies and shows. While there are commercial breaks throughout the videos, the services are completely free, and some have mobile apps that you can use to start or resume a video while you're away from home.

As I'm sure you're aware, there are plenty of free books, CDs and magazines at many libraries. But the library systems are also keeping up with the times. Some let you "check out" audiobooks, movies and shows without having to visit a branch.

Bottom line: Having access to a wide variety of shows, movies and other types of electronic entertainment can be well worth the cost, but don't let your monthly expenses go unchecked. Between monthly subscription services, Internet and cable you could be paying several thousand dollars a year.

Hospital from A1

Southern Maryland is devastating to consider.

Without the committed state funding resources, the new hospital project, which promises to transform health care in our region with a state-of-the-art teaching hospital; transform both the State and County economies with new jobs and businesses; and ultimately end the years-long dependency of the existing facilities on taxpayer subsidies, is endangered.

The Prince George's County Council stands in solidarity



Nathaniel Sillin

with County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, the entire Prince George's County Delegation, and Presiding Officers to maintain the state funding agreement. We also appreciate the leadership of Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, who has steadfastly committed to a resolution of this issue before this General Assembly session adjourns.

Access to quality health care, health promotion and disease prevention are priority concerns for the Prince George's County Council as the Board of Health, and for the residents we represent.

Maryland Elected and Community Leaders Spotlight Immediate Dangers of Repealing Affordable Care Act

As Non-Partisan CBO Report Warns of 32 Million Uninsured Americans and Skyrocketing Individual Health Care Premiums, Forum With Senators Cardin, Van Hollen and Congressmen Hoyer, Brown, Sarbanes Underscores Importance of ACA

By PRESS OFFICER
United States Congress

CLINTON, MD—Last night, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Rev. Delman Coates, Ph.D., pastor of Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Congressmen Anthony Brown (MD-04) and John Sarbanes (MD-03), county executives Rushern L. Baker III and Isiah "Ike" Leggett, community members, leading health service providers and non-profit organizations like the Maryland Citizens Health Initiative, Black Mental Health Alliance, Maryland Hospital Association, Greater Baden Medical Services and Progressive Maryland for a conversation devoted to exploring the immediate and widespread dangers of repealing the Affordable Care Act.

The event comes as the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a new report finding that for Americans without employer-sponsored health insurance, premiums would increase 20–25 percent in the first year, and premiums would about double by 2026. The report also forecast that in the first year after repealing the ACA, 18 million Americans would lose health insurance. By 2026, 32 million Americans would be without health insurance.

"The Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act without immediately replacing it will have devastating consequences for millions of Marylanders," said Congressman Hoyer. "The ACA has made health care accessible and affordable for thousands of Maryland families, and communities from Bowie to Leonardtown will feel the impact if Republicans in Congress take away the benefits the law provides for everyone, even those with insurance through their employer. I will continue to oppose efforts to Make America Sick Again by repealing the ACA without a plan to replace it."

"Repealing the Affordable Care Act without any semblance

of a plan as to how to replace it will seriously impact Marylanders' lives. The number of uninsured people in our state has dropped by about half since the ACA's passage, which benefits everyone because taxpayers no longer have to absorb the cost-shifting to pay for those who are not covered. And that progress is at extreme risk, but it goes much further," said Senator Cardin. "Many with inadequate coverage, pre-existing condition restrictions, coverage caps or limits to preventative health care now have higher-quality coverage. And we've slowed the growth of health care costs to the lowest rate in modern history. But all of these gains for the people of Maryland, and many more, are about to be lost. We simply cannot let that happen. Don't Make America Sick Again."

"The more we learn about the impact of repealing the Affordable Care Act, the scarier the results become," said Senator Van Hollen. "Just today, the CBO increased their estimate of Americans who would lose insurance to 32 million people over 10 years—a staggering number which would have tragic impacts on individuals and families in Maryland and across the country. Those who don't lose their care would see their premiums skyrocket, another unacceptable result of repeal. Maryland families have made it clear that the ACA has improved their lives, and they want to protect it. But Washington Republicans are ignoring the pleas of the American people with their plan to push our health care system off a cliff—and run away before it crumbles on impact."

"Repealing the Affordable Care Act would have brutal consequences on the families of the Fourth Congressional District. Nearly half a million individuals would lose critical consumer protections, thousands of seniors would face higher prescription drug prices, small businesses and working families would lose tax credits, costs to community hospitals would increase by tens of millions of dollars a year leading

to layoffs and cuts in services and medical research, and the number of uninsured would rise dramatically," said Congressman Brown. "The Republicans' ideological obsession with taking away health care from millions is wrong for Maryland and the country. I will resist any effort to take away health coverage from those who need it, drive up costs for all, or destroy jobs. We must protect and build upon the Affordable Care Act, not blindly repeal it."

"The GOP's special-interest agenda—which includes dismantling the Affordable Care Act—will have disastrous implications for millions of Americans," said Congressman Sarbanes. "The ACA has provided health insurance to more than 350,000 Marylanders, and it has made tremendous advancements in the delivery of care. I was proud to join fellow Marylanders today as we highlighted the harmful impacts of repealing the ACA, and I remain committed to pushing back against the Republican Majority's short-sighted plans to eliminate this lifesaving reform."

Nearly 350,000 Marylanders—and roughly 20 million Americans nationwide—have gained access to health care through the coverage provisions of the ACA, including subsidized coverage through the insurance marketplaces and expansion of Medicaid eligibility.

President-elect Donald Trump and fellow Republicans in Congress already have taken preliminary steps to repeal the ACA, while not having a plan to replace it. U.S. Representative Elijah E. Cummings recently released an assessment detailing the impact the ACA repeal will have on Maryland. Its findings included the following:

- **347,000 individuals in the state who have gained coverage since the ACA was implemented could lose their coverage if the ACA is entirely or partially repealed.**

- **72,175 individuals in the state who received cost-sharing reductions to lower out-of-**

pocket costs such as deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance are now at risk of having healthcare become unaffordable if the Republican Congress eliminates cost-sharing reductions.

- **2,953,834 individuals in the state who now have private health insurance that covers preventive services without any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles stand to lose this access if the Republican Congress eliminates ACA provisions requiring health insurers to cover important preventive services without cost-sharing.**

- **Women in the state who can now purchase insurance for the same price as men are at risk of being charged more for insurance if the Republican Congress eliminates the ACA's ban on gender rating in the individual and small group markets. Before the ACA, women paid up to 39% more than men for their health insurance.**

- **Roughly 975,000 individuals in the state who have pre-existing health conditions are at risk of having their coverage rescinded, being denied coverage, or being charged significantly more for coverage if the Republican Congress eliminates the ACA's ban on pre-existing conditions.**

- **The state is at risk of losing \$2.41 billion in federal Medicaid dollars if the Republican Congress eliminates the Medicaid expansion.**

- **86,073 seniors who have saved an average of \$1,158 each as a result of closing the Medicare prescription drug "donut hole" gap in coverage stand to lose this critical help going forward.**

- **604,509 seniors who have received free preventive care services thanks to ACA provisions requiring coverage of annual wellness visits and eliminating cost-sharing for many recommended preventive services covered by Medicare Part B, such as cancer screenings, are at risk of losing access to these services if congressional Republicans go forward with their plan to repeal the ACA.**

ACA from A1

the Affordable Care Act's role in reducing the number of uninsured state residents by about 50 percent. Since the rollout of the health care law, the percentage of uninsured Marylanders has shrunk from 10.2 percent in 2013 to 6.6 percent in 2015, according to the U.S. Census.

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, the state could stand to lose up to \$1.2 billion of federal funding for Medicaid and up to \$200 million for other related services, according to David Romans, fiscal and policy analysis deputy director for the Maryland Department of Legislative Services.

The proposed 2018 state budget includes funding for 312,000 Marylanders who are enrolled under the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion,

Romans said. Ninety-five percent of funding for Medicaid is provided by the federal government, but this number could be slashed in half if the health care law is repealed.

To continue insuring the thousands of Marylanders who benefit from the Medicaid expansion, the state, which is already operating on a "lean budget," would likely have to cut from other programs and services, Delegate Clarence Lam, D-Howard and Baltimore counties, told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed soon, the Maryland General Assembly may need to call a special session later in the year to address the budgetary concerns, Lam added.

"There's no place to get billions of dollars within the state

of Maryland," said Vincent DeMarco, president of Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative. "We need to prevent the Affordable Care Act from being repealed and we're going to work very hard to do that."

DeMarco has helped lead a recent health coverage enrollment initiative at a dozen faith organizations in Maryland over the inauguration weekend. He said he's seen firsthand how the Affordable Care Act has saved the lives of the previously uninsured.

"Any program that expands healthcare to 20 million plus Americans ... is a huge success," DeMarco said. "We're going to protect it (and) we're going to keep it there and build on it."

About 18 million Americans would lose health insurance the first year after repealing the Affordable Care Act,

according to a non-partisan report from the Congressional Budget Office. This number could double to 32 million by 2026, the office reported.

Moreover, premiums would increase by 20 percent to 25 percent in the first year, according to the same report.

"It would be a significant step backwards to throw these people out of insurance and be concerned about how they pay their medical bills again," Lam said. "That there are things that are afoot in Washington—maybe abstract or maybe things that we hear in the news—but at the end of the day there are real people being affected in our communities that will go without health insurance. We all pay for that."

Capital News Service correspondent Cara Newcomer contributed to this report.

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen Statement on Treasury Nominee Steve Mnuchin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen issued the following statement announcing his opposition to the confirmation of Steve Mnuchin to serve as the next Secretary of the Treasury:

"When we review each of President Trump's nominees, we must consider the question of experience. Unlike some of the men and women up for consideration, Steve Mnuchin has experience working with banks. But that experience is some of the most troubling part of his record.

"Last week, I had the opportunity to listen to families who had been mistreated by Steve Mnuchin's bank, OneWest. They each told a different story, but the overall impact was clear—at every turn, OneWest chose to foreclose on homes instead of working with these Americans to keep a roof over their heads. Mr. Mnuchin's bank was actually nicknamed a 'foreclosure machine.'

"At the height of the housing crisis, my Congressional office was flooded with calls from Marylanders who were in desperate need of help, up against some banks that were only interested in profit, and had nowhere else to turn. We were able to work with many families to help them keep their homes—but that work is not over, and communities

in my state and across the country are still recovering. To install someone as the Secretary of the Treasury who engaged in such predatory lending practices and profited off the misery of others is deeply concerning. In recent testimony before a forum of outside witnesses about Mr. Mnuchin's nomination, an expert witness described OneWest's abuses as among the worst of the worst.

"Mr. Mnuchin's nomination also represents an astonishing about-face of President Trump's campaign promise to drain the swamp. Despite campaign-trail promises of openness, Mr. Mnuchin failed to list \$100 million in assets in his financial disclosure forms and to disclose his connections to an investment fund in the tax-haven Cayman Islands. And while he claims tax reform should prioritize middle class families, as Secretary of the Treasury he would be charged with implementing a Republican agenda that favors special interests and the ultra-wealthy over everyone and everything else.

"The Secretary of the Treasury must do what's best for American taxpayers, workers, and homeowners. Given his record, I do not believe Mr. Mnuchin meets that standard and I oppose his nomination."



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NPS

NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM & PISCATAWAY PARK

Founded in 1957 to protect the view from Mount Vernon across the Potomac River, the Accokeek Foundation, an educational nonprofit, became one of the nation's first land trusts. Today, the Foundation stewards 200 hundred acres of Piscataway National Park in Accokeek, MD, where visitors can hike a network of trails winding through wetlands, visit a native tree arboretum, and observe an award-winning forest restoration project. The Foundation also runs the National Colonial Farm, a living history museum that depicts a Maryland middle-class family farm on the eve of the American Revolution. Through their heritage breed livestock and seed saving programs, nearly extinct heirloom crops and animals are preserved for future generations. The Foundation's organic Ecosystem Farm emphasizes the future of agriculture as farmers learn the tools of a new trade and practice sustainable use of natural resources. "Shares" of the farm's organic produce are sold to area households. The park's beautiful grounds, trails, and programs are open to the public year 'round.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



PG County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Regarding State Funding for the New Regional Medical Center in Largo

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following the announcement from Governor Hogan that funding for the new Prince George's County Regional Medical facility in Largo would be less than what is required by Maryland Law.

"Governor Hogan is clearly renegeing on his commitment to the Regional Medical Center project,

a hospital that will serve the residents of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland. Chapter 13 of the 2016 Laws of Maryland mandated \$30 million in State operating funds and \$67.5 million in State capital funds in FY 2018. I am concerned that Governor Hogan continues to be hesitant to fully support bringing the University of Maryland Medical System-affiliated Regional Medical Center to fruition."

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



American Democracy Depends Upon Full Investigation of Foreign Influence

"Foreign powers also will not be idle spectators. They will interpose, the confusion will increase, and dissolution of the Union ensue."

—Alexander Hamilton, 1787

The first few days Donald Trump's presidency have seen what may be the beginning of the end of the Affordable Care Act, an average annual hike of \$500 for middle-class homeowners' mortgage insurance premiums, a hint at a re-invasion of Iraq and a shift in the Department of Justice's effort to protect voting rights.

Yet, the overwhelming cloud that hangs over the Trump Administration is the suggestion of Russian interference in the election. Investigators from six different US intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been examining possible links between Russian officials and Trump's presidential campaign.

This cloud hangs not only over Trump's presidency, but over American democracy itself. Preservation of the integrity of our democratic process depends upon the aggressive pursuit of the truth—and the full cooperation of President Trump and his advisors in that pursuit.

Media reports indicate that investigations into Trump's Russian ties began as far back as last spring—before the FBI received the notorious dossier alleging that Russian operatives held compromising information about Trump, and that there was a continuing exchange of information between the Russian Government and Trump associates.

Any concrete evidence in support of these allegations would be damaging to Trump's presidency. And failure to investigate them would be even more damaging to the nation itself.

Democracy, while a founding principle of the United States, has been a work in progress from the days when only white, male—and in some states, Protestant Christian—property owners were permitted to vote. Gradually, over two centuries, the franchise was extended to non-landowners, Native Americans, women, and people of color.

We still are engaged in the business of expanding and protecting our democracy, fighting back racially-motivated voter suppression laws and contending with the anti-democratic effects

See FOREIGN INFLUENCE Page A5

Scott's Story: Lessons Children Teach Adults

A number of years ago, I heard a deeply moving story at a Children's Miracle Network event, a charity that raises money in partnership with children's hospitals around the country and helps serve sick and injured children in their local communities. A speaker shared this heart-wrenching story of a father and son with the audience and agreed to let me share it with others after I requested a copy.

According to the speaker, the father began his story with a question: "Everything God does is done to perfection. Yet, my son Scott cannot learn things the way other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is God's plan reflected in my son?" He continued, "I believe that when God brings a child like Scott into the world, an opportunity to realize the divine plan presents itself. And it comes in the way people treat that child." He then shared this experience:

"Scott and I were walking past a park where some boys were playing baseball and Scott asked, 'Do you think they will let me play?' I knew most boys would not want Scott on their team. But I understood that if he was allowed to play it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging.

"I approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Scott could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, the boy said, 'We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning.'

"In the bottom of the eighth inning, Scott's team scored a few runs but was still behind three. At the top of the ninth inning, Scott put on a glove and played outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

"In the bottom of the ninth inning, Scott's team scored again. With two outs and the bases loaded, the potential win-

ning run was on base. Scott was scheduled to be next at bat. Would the team actually let Scott bat, and give away their chance to win the game?"

"Scott was given the bat. Everyone knew a hit was all but impossible because Scott didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less hit the ball. Scott stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lobe the ball softly so Scott could have a chance to make contact. The first pitch came and Scott swung clumsily and missed.

"The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Scott. As the pitch came in, Scott swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman to end the game.

"Instead the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, 'Scott, run to first. Run to first.' Never in his life had Scott ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

"Everyone yelled, 'Run to second. Run to second!' The

right fielder had the ball and easily could have thrown the ball to second base for a tag. But he understood the pitcher's intention, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Scott ran towards second base and the runners ahead of him deliciously circled the bases towards home.

"As Scott reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third!' As Scott rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, 'Scott! Run home!'

"Scott ran home, stepped on home plate and was cheered as the hero, for hitting a 'grand slam' and winning the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of the divine plan into the world."

If the actions of the boys on both teams were part of God's divine plan for the world, as

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2017, The Prince George's Post

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Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Handling Retirement and The Loss of Identity

Recent studies report that about 78 million Americans of the Baby Boomer generation are at or near retirement age. While some may continue in their jobs for a few more years, for many retirement may be looming large and with it a number of questions.

Yes, many worries have to do with financial issues related to savings, Social Security and future health care concerns and costs.

The financial questions of retirement are certainly important, but there are also additional retirement issues that have to be faced. These include basic questions about being able to handle the psychological aspects of no longer being part of the work force.

We live in a society that places a great deal of value on "doing" things. We've been taught to be busy, productive citizens and, for many of us, our lives revolve around that thing we "do" for a living. We're usually known to others as a nurse, teacher, accountant, or whatever career we've been working in. Then, suddenly, one day we no longer hold that title but are simply "retired." We've lost that identity of being a "doer" and, unfortunately, many of us judge people who are not "doing" things as being of less value.

That's why someone who is facing retirement will often be asked, "What are you going to do?" It seems an innocent query but carries with it the implication that now that the defining job will be gone, what can possibly be of value in the person's life?

For someone approaching retirement, it's necessary to accept that he or she is heading into a new life stage with different meanings and a new status. It requires understanding that there are many changes to be faced and many questions, a lot more important than, "What are you going to do?" to be answered.

If retirement is near or recent, take the time to really evaluate how it's going to affect you, not just financially but in all aspects of your life.

Check out some of the many books, videos and websites now available with suggestions for better handling the challenges retirement can bring.

But if retirement seems like an overwhelming black hole in your future, consider making an appointment with a professional counselor who can help you with the issues you are facing. You can find one through the "Find A Counselor" tab on the American Counseling Association home page (www.counseling.org).

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

Director from A1

Planning Board Chairman. "The Board is confident that Andree's impressive background and knowledge in land use planning, along with her proven managerial experience and keen legal acumen, will stand her well in this position. We look forward to working with Ms. Green, in conjunction with our elected, community, and business partners, to propel Prince George's County forward."

Ms. Green earned her Juris Doctorate degree from The American University, Washington College of Law in 1991.

She is a member of the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, the Prince George's County Bar Association, and the District of Columbia Bar Association. She is a 2014 Graduate of Leadership Greater Washington and is active in a number of community organizations, including the Holy Trinity School Association. She also holds membership in the highly respected Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Ms. Green currently resides with her family in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Governor Larry Hogan Releases 2018 Fiscal Year Budget Proposal

By JACOB TAYLOR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Gov. Larry Hogan, a popular Republican governor, released detailed budget numbers to the Democrat-controlled General Assembly Wednesday morning.

In a preview Tuesday, the governor touted that his proposed budget would decrease general fund spending. Indeed, details released Wednesday propose a \$19.5 million reduction in general fund spending, approximately one tenth of a percent.

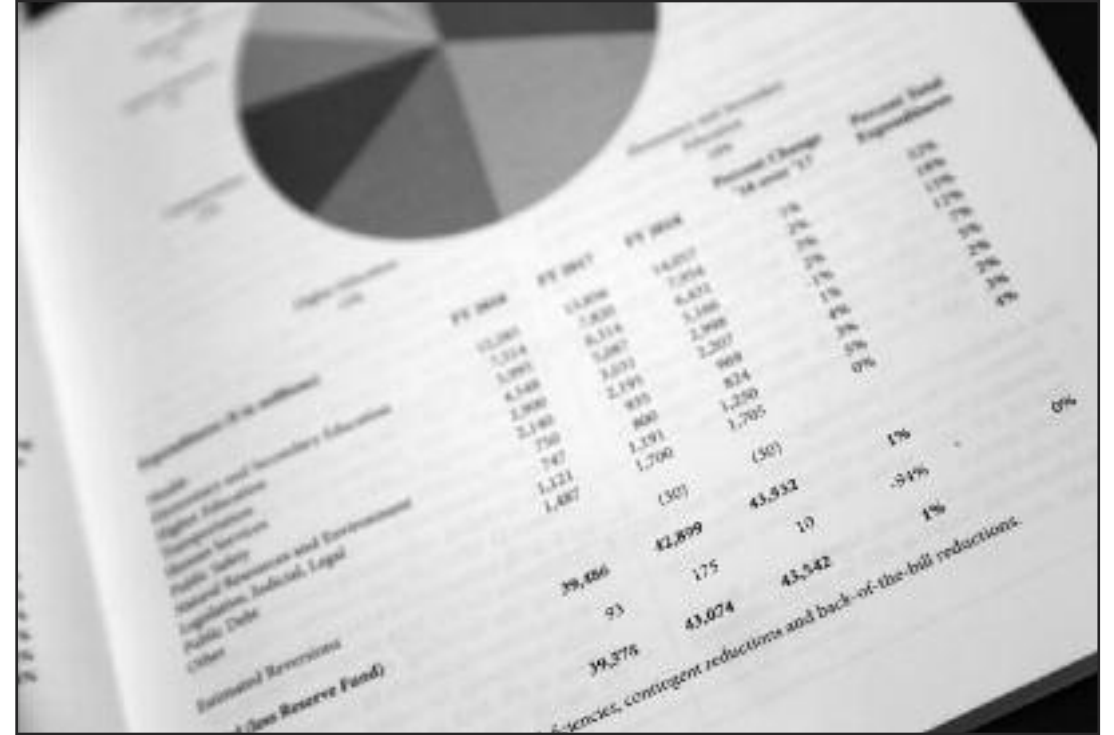
However, the proposal would increase total state spending to \$43.541 billion—\$467 million or approximately 1 percent more than was spent in 2017.

Along with the budget, the governor submitted recommendations that would reduce spending mandated by the legislature by a total of \$247 million.

On the Senate floor Wednesday, Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's, criticized one such reduction that cuts mandated funding for Prince George's Medical Center by \$15 million; a separate line in the budget reduces funding for the hospital by another \$7.5 million.

Hogan's proposed state general fund budget includes a 92 percent cut to funding for the Department of Housing and Community Development. Under the proposal, total funding—which includes state and federal dollars—for that agency would fall by about 7 percent.

At least three programs in the Department of Housing and Community Development that pro-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY HANNAH KLARNER
Governor Larry Hogan's detailed budget proposal for the 2018 fiscal year in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 18, 2017. His budget includes a reduction in contributions to the state's reserve fund.

mote low income housing would lose all of their general fund money, cuts worth \$21.6 million.

However, Operating Manager David B. Juppe at the Department of Legislative Services told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service that the proposed cuts are not "gutting" the Department of Housing and Community Development because the department receives hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding. The cuts primarily affect specific programs that the legislature mandated funding for last year.

The proposed budget reduces the number of authorized, full time positions in the state government by 442, but increases the

number of available contractual positions by the same amount.

The budget allocates \$165 million less to the state's reserve fund, basically the state's savings accounts, than 2017's budget. Because contributions to the fund are listed as an expenditure, this causes the overall increase in spending elsewhere to appear smaller than it is.

Under the proposed budget, spending on items other than the reserve fund will increase by a net total of \$632 million, a 1.4 percent increase over 2017.

However, there are some who argue that this is exactly the reserve fund's purpose.

Senate Minority Leader J.B. Jennings, R-Baltimore and Har-

ford counties, said Tuesday he thinks "it's a pretty good budget" and that he was not concerned about the budget drawing from the "rainy day" fund. "That's what the money is there for," he said.

Miller also expressed irritation with a proposal in the budget that would install cameras on the Senate floor. He suggested that the proposal encroached on the Senate's power to manage its own space and that 24-hour recording of the floor could be used to selectively broadcast scenes of the empty chamber to make it appear as though legislators were shirking their responsibilities.

Trip from A1

leaders in the County who are all excited to export and import their goods and services to Korea and China. Over 90% of the world's buying power is outside of the United States and we are working hard to give our local companies an international platform."

County Executive Baker is well equipped to lead the business mission trip to the east, which will take place from April 17th to April 25th. In 2015 he led a successful trip to China in which business-to-business meetings were facilitated which resulted in partnerships formed between several companies in Prince George's County and China. In November, he led a group of 43 business leaders to Cuba to learn about the burgeoning business culture and establish relationships that will be in place when the trade embargo is lifted. The

business owners in attendance see the value in joining County Executive Baker for his trip this spring.

"Today's information session was absolutely outstanding. This mission will be a great opportunity for local business owners to grow their businesses in fast growing markets like Korea and China," said Bruce Lucas, owner of BML Properties Realty in Largo, MD. "Having an opportunity to travel with a delegation led by County Executive Baker, and actually be connected to international businesses to do deals is a very important. I am glad that the EDC is continuing to notify the business community about these types of important events."

The Maryland Department of Commerce strongly supports the Korea-China Business Mission Trip with resources that decrease costs for business owners. Bradley Gillenwater,

the Regional Manager and Investment Team Leader for East Asia shared just how bullish the state is in clearing the highway to profitability.

"The Maryland Department of Commerce provides two platforms available for Prince George's County companies to tap into," said Gillenwater. "These platforms help to offset the cost of participating in the trip to Korea and China. The U.S. Department of Commerce offers the 'Gold Key' service, which is a \$700 offset. There is also a potential \$6,000 offset which pertains to trade-show expenses. Every year we work with 125 Maryland companies who generate \$80-\$90 million in export sales and the Department of Commerce plays a huge role in helping close deals."

County Executive Baker will lead the Business Mission to Korea and China from April 17th to April 25th, 2017. The

EDC has been allocated only 20 seats to offer business delegates to participate in this exciting Trade Mission.

The total cost for each delegate to participate in County Executive Baker's Business Mission is \$5,950 per person. Included in the package are: round-trip airfare, lodging, local transportation, meals, high-level receptions, bilingual guide and translator, processing of travel documents, processing of application to trade show, assistance with grant applications for MD Exports, assistance with Gold Key services, assistance with U.S. Department of Commerce Grant programs and guided cultural tours in Korea and China.

To secure a seat on the Business Mission to Korea and China or to find out more information, contact Nichelle Holmes, EDC Development Manager, at (301) 583-4650 or naholmes@co.pg.md.us.

Foreign Influence from A4

of the Electoral College. Our goal must be a full and true democracy, where every citizen has an equal opportunity to be heard, without the corrupting influence of foreign agents working against American interests.

If a foreign government interfered to boost one candidate chances, it's not merely an affront to the losing candidate; it's an affront to every single honest, voting citizen. It's an affront to American democracy.

Because President Trump was elevated to office by the anachronistic Electoral College, counter to the choice of a majority of voters, he owes the American people an exceptional level of deference. He should go to every length to demonstrate that his own conduct, at least, was above-board and beyond reproach. Any attempt to stonewall an investigation should be viewed with the utmost skepticism.

His public statements on Russia and its President, Vladimir Putin, have been contradictory at the very least. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, he said he had a relationship with Putin, had spoken with him and had gotten to know him. In the third Presidential debate,

he said he'd never met him. In the second debate he said he has no dealings with Russia and no businesses there. But his son, Donald Trump Jr., said in 2008 that "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets." This confusion should raise serious questions.

President Trump appears to be engaged in a campaign of disinformation about his election—claiming without evidence that he was denied a popular victory by millions of illegal votes. His apparent obsession extends to making repeated false statements about attendance at his inauguration. His preoccupation could complicate our intelligence agencies' attempts to ferret out the truth. It's our hope that he will see that any failure to cooperate or to encourage a full investigation would be crippling to the nation.

During the Inauguration Ceremony on Jan. 20, much was made about the "peaceful transfer of power" that is and should be an example for the world. But that peaceful transition depends upon the strict balance of powers as outlined in the Constitution. It's up to our legislative and judicial branches to serve as a check on the executive, beginning with the investigation into foreign influence.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Passengers

Passengers

Grade: C-

Rated PG-13, a little profanity,
partial nudity, mild sexuality
1 hr., 56 min

Passengers sets out on a course for being good, then detours and misses good's orbit before landing clumsily on bad. It's a waste of a rich premise, excellent special effects, and a charismatic cast. And it all could have been avoided with a simple course correction!

But we'll come back to that. The setting is the *Avalon*, a commercial spaceship carrying 5,000 passengers from Earth to Homestead II, a colony billions of miles away. The trip takes 120 years, during which passengers and crew sleep blissfully in pods. The ship (on autopilot) is programmed to wake everybody up a few months before arrival, whereupon they'll be trained in how to live on their new planet and enjoy some time socializing on what is essentially a giant cruise ship.

Well, there's a snafu, and one passenger, a mechanic named Jim Preston (Chris Pratt), is roused 90 years early and can't figure out how to re-start his pod. (Don't you hate when you wake up before the alarm but can't get back to sleep?) He's the only conscious soul on board, and any crew members who'd be able to help are snoozing in a section of the ship Jim can't access. Jim is going to die of old age before anyone even knows there's been a problem. His only companion is a robot bartender named Arthur (Michael Sheen) who serves him drinks in one of the ship's many entertainment facilities.

Wait a minute, you're thinking. Isn't this movie called *Passengers*, plural? And isn't Jennifer Lawrence in it? When is a snafu going to wake her up?

Here's where things go wrong. After enduring many weeks of loneliness and exhausting his ideas for "last man on earth" revelry, Jim notices a beautiful woman in a sleep pod. Her name is Aurora (like Sleep-



Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt star in an exciting action-thriller about two passengers who are on a 120-year journey to another planet when their hibernation pods wake them 90 years too early. Jim and Aurora are forced to unravel the mystery behind the malfunction as the ship teeters on the brink of collapse, with the lives of thousands of passengers in jeopardy.

ing Beauty), she's a writer, and Jim does enough cyber-stalking of her to fall in love. He wants to wake her up and cure his loneliness, but he knows doing so will condemn her to die of old age with him. Arthur is no help on ethical matters ("Jim, these are not robot questions"), and so, after some (but not enough) internal struggle, Jim wakes her up.

Naturally, he lets her think her awakening was caused by a technical malfunction, like his was, and not premeditated long-game murder. If she knew the truth, she wouldn't want to be his space-girlfriend. □

Perhaps you can see the problem here. If so, you're ahead of the film's director (Morten Tyldum, *The Imitation Game*) and writer (Jon Spaihts, *Prometheus*), who evidently didn't think this scenario would stick in anyone's craw. But even apart from the queasy ethics, there's the disappointment in seeing an intriguing sci-fi premise given the standard rom-com treatment, where a relationship is predicated on a lie and it's

only a matter of time before the lied-to party finds out and gets mad, and they break up, and the liar is sad until their reconciliation, which occurs without the liar ever really being punished for his misdeeds.

To be clear, Jim's immoral behavior is not the problem, and wouldn't have been an issue if the film had treated it with due seriousness. Many compelling films have been made about good people who make poor choices and are afflicted by the consequences. The problem is that there aren't any consequences. The film treats Jim's actions and subsequent lies the way most films treat a casual, regretted affair: bad for the relationship, sure, but eh, she'll get over it. Buy her some flowers or something. (I wrote that as a joke, then remembered that Jim actually does raid the ship's biosphere so he can plant Aurora an apology tree.)

The most frustrating aspect of this near-miss is that it was easily avoidable: Have the technical glitch wake them both up. It's that simple. Let them be in

this situation together, as equals. The story doesn't need the conflict of Jim having lied to Aurora and Aurora feeling betrayed (AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH). There's plenty of drama anyway: the malfunction that affected Jim's pod is causing other things to go wrong, too, with potentially catastrophic results for everyone on board.

Much of the "we have to fix the ship" material is effective, with breathless space-walks and erratic artificial gravity providing respectable sci-fi thrills. There's light comedy (and dark) sprinkled throughout, especially in the beginning. But the anticlimactic ending is rife with cop-outs, further diminishing the story's impact, and while we like Pratt and Lawrence as performers, they're wrong for these roles. Aurora, perpetually being acted upon rather than taking action, is a regressive choice for Lawrence after playing so many strong-willed characters, and Pratt's cuddly persona doesn't jibe with Jim's selfishness — not even the minimal amount that the film acknowledges.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Bob Stoops and the Geyser Cesspool of College Football



It is an insult to cesspools to call Division I college football a cesspool. Cesspools serve a legitimate societal function as a gathering point for putrid waste. College football sprays that waste like a geyser, contaminating everyone it touches. Every year there are examples of putrescence. In fact, the endless parade of scandals are critical to keeping the system afloat. Our eyes are so glazed over by the annual flip book of impropriety and misconduct that we don't recognize how we have normalized a sports system that has become anything but normal. (This makes college football very similar to a certain recent presidential campaign.)

The sports media and college football fans seem to express a visceral revulsion at this rotten racket only when there is something that forces their faces into it. That is happening this week with the release of a 2014 video of Oklahoma University running back Joe Mixon punching a woman, Amelia Molitor, in the face, fracturing her jaw in four places. (No, we're not linking to this video.) Everyone in power at Oklahoma saw the video in 2014, from the school's most powerful person, head football coach Bob Stoops, to the man who serves at Stoops's pleasure, university president and former US senator David Boren.

The decision by Stoops and his underlings back then was for Mixon to be suspended for the 2014 season and serve the sentence imposed by the local criminal-justice system: 100 hours of community service. But that's not the story. The story is that the video of the punch has finally been released and, with it, Bob Stoops has released any moral authority he may have had.

Releasing the tape took two and a half years and a lawsuit by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters that went all the way to the State Supreme Court. The video is ugly as hell, showing a confrontation where allegedly anti-gay and anti-black slurs were yelled back and forth. Molitor lunges at Mixon and then he punches her in the face. Molitor's jaw had to be wired shut.

But the issue is not the video. It's the fact that now, with the running back about to go to the NFL—his usefulness to the school wrung out—Coach Bob Stoopsheld a press conference saying that Mixon should have been kicked off the team. He said, "Two and a half years later, dismissal is really the only thing that's possible" and that "these individuals can't have a second chance ... rehabilitation is no longer an option." When he was asked whether keeping Mixon on the squad makes it appear like he condones violence against women, he said, "Sure to some degree it does. And I regret that. In the end, at the time, we felt it was a significant and strong punishment. And again, some people that have seen the entire [2014 video] at that time agreed. And others didn't. I understand that, and I always knew that that was something that everybody would debate."

It boggles the mind. Bob Stoops saw that tape in 2014 and decided that Joe Mixon, with all of his talent, still had a place on his roster. Now that his eligibility has been used up, Stoops is done with him, trying to sound both like he gives a damn about violence against women and like he's some kind of law-and-order Southern judge. He's neither: just a rank hypocrite and a user of teenagers. In other words, a typical, big-time, top-tier NCAA football coach.

A question that those who might not be familiar with the geyser cesspool that is college football might ask themselves is how Bob Stoops can live with himself. It's easy. He makes \$5.5 million a year in a state where one in four people under 18 live below the poverty line. He makes \$5.5 million a year at a school where adjunct professors make \$17 an hour and in a state where first-year public-school teachers make \$31,000 a year. He makes \$5.5 million a year, while his players make meal money. But Bob Stoops is not here to educate. He's here to win football games and ensure that football in Norman, Oklahoma, maintains its place as a tent pole of the neoliberal university. The problem is that shaming Stoops or expressing our outrage toward Joe Mixon only allows the scandal train to continue down the track unharmed, ensuring that stories like this happen again in the future with numbing regularity and without video. It's critical to see this as a feature in a system that deserves a massive overhaul. We have heard stories like this before, and we are doomed to hear them again. If we want this to change, we should shine as bright a light as possible on the hypocrisy of Bob Stoops. The man might not be an educator, but he is at present providing one hell of an education about the craven nature of this business.

Giant Nutritionist to Host Health Classes in Lanham, Maryland Area in February

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

Landover MD—Giant Food of Landover, MD will offer a diverse range of nutrition classes in January and February at the Lanham, Md. area Giant stores. Hosted by in-store nutritionist Leslie Jefferson, the classes will cover topics from post-holiday eating to meal planning. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Glenridge Center Giant in Lanham, MD.

Giant offers a team of 10 in-store nutritionists who work with customers to help make the best nutritional choices for themselves and their families. The nutritionists conduct one-on-one consultations, store tours and free community classes to help their local customers learn more about the importance and fun of eating healthily. To learn more about Giant's in-store nutritionist program, visit www.giantfood.com/live-well.

Glenridge Center Giant
7546 Annapolis Road, Landham, MD 20784

Burtonsville Super Giant
15618 Old Columbia Pike,
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Nourish Your Mind, Body and Spirit
Thursday, February 23, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 25, 11:00 a.m.

January is a time for resolutions and renewal. Join Giant's in-store nutritionist and participate in activities to excite the sense and nourish your mind, body and spirit. Participants will learn how to add mindful eating, meditation and calming foods in their lifestyle.

Simple Steps to a Healthy Heart
Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 25, 1:00 p.m.

Join Giant's in-store nutritionist to discover simple and delicious ways to enjoy heart-healthy foods throughout the day. Participants will learn how to prepare foods with less sugar, fat and salt. Participants will leave this session with practical tips on how to take control of their blood pressure and cholesterol.



Retain Your Resolutions
Monday, February 20, 1:00 p.m.*

Is your resolution wearing out? Are you getting tired of the same old 'healthy' foods? For this special event, Giant will be partnering with vendors from a variety of companies to provide fresh inspirations and keep your motivation to eat well going strong.

*February 20 event held at the Burtonsville, MD, Giant.

About Giant Food:

Giant Food LLC is committed to helping its customers save time, save money and eat well. Headquartered in Landover, MD, Giant Food LLC operates 167 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, and employs approximately 20,000 associates. Included within the 167 stores are 158 full-service pharmacies. For more information on Giant, visit www.giantfood.com.

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

Calendar of Events

February 2 — February 8, 2017

Black History Heroes, Soldiers & Spies

Date and Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 10:15 am and 12 noon
Description: Black American heroes are celebrated in this engrossing production!

It shares the stories of Colonel Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers as they explore and settle the American West, the Tuskegee Airmen as they take flight to help win World War II, and Mary Elizabeth Bowser as she works as a spy for the Union during the Civil War.

This exciting and interactive production will captivate audiences as they are drawn into some of the most unique and exciting stories from Black History.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more
Ages: Recommended for Grades 3 and up
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Allentown Splash, Tennis and Fitness Park 3rd Annual Health Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9 am–2 pm
Description: Join us for a full day of Health & Wellness activities, screenings, information, financial advisors and so much more!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All Ages
Location: Allentown Splash, Tennis & Fitness Park
7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-449-5566; TTY: 301-699-2544

Vendor's Row

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2017 9:30 am–4:30 pm
Description: The Youth & Community Programs Division is excited to present to you the Winter/Spring 2017 "Vendor's Row" dates. Vendor's Row will be the only vending opportunities offered during the events season.

A limited number of spaces are available and exhibitors will be received on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is required. Vending Fee includes one (1) 6'x30" linen covered banquet table and two (2) chairs. Electricity is available upon request.

Cost: \$100/per vendor space
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-699-2544

Over and Under the Sea

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2016, 12:00–3:00 pm
Description: Explore exhibits and hands-on activities about African American watermen, marine explorers, and scientists, and their connection to life over and under the sea! Touch tanks with live marine animals, fascinating displays, cool crafts, and more! Register via the E-store at www.pgparcs.com

Cost: \$3 R/ \$4 NR
Ages: All ages
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Black History Month Presentation of African American Quilts

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2017, 1–3 pm
Description: Did quilts have special meanings to locate safe houses on the Underground Railroad? Discover as we explore the intricacies and history of African American quilts.

Cost: \$5/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

34th Annual Choreographers' Showcase

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 3 pm and 8 pm
Description: The Choreographers' Showcase is one of the longest-running forums for new and established choreographers in the County. Explore the future of dance with a group of the most adventurous, exciting, and imaginative choreographic talents in the region. See engaging and educational dance works selected for excellence by adjudicators Leah Cox and Keith Thompson. Vote for your favorite presentation to win the Audience Choice Award. For tickets, call 301-405-ARTS (2787) or visit theclarice.umd.edu.

Cost: General Public \$25/person; \$10/youth & students
Ages: All ages
Location: The Clarice at University of Maryland
8270 Alumni Drive, College Park 20742
Contact: 301-446-3238; 301-699-2544

Black History Month Gospel Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2017, 6–8 pm
Description: Join us as we celebrate Gospel music's contributions to black history with performances from local church choirs and dancers. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
Contact: 301-505-0896; TTY 301-699-2544

Cotton Field to Concert Hall

Date and Time: Sunday, February 5, 2017, 4 pm
Description: All ages will enjoy this multi-media extravaganza of drumming, singing, dancing, music, spoken word, narration, and classical music. Follow a young slave from a plantation to the stages of great opera house in this invigorating performance that will gladden your heart.

Cost: \$20/person
Ages: All Ages
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ...

Vegan Cosmetics: Look Better, Feel Better

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you have any recommendations for vegan health and beauty products?

—Janice T.,
Brooklyn, NY

The problem with many common personal care items is the toxic load they bear. According to researchers from the Environmental Working Group (EWG), one in eight of the 50,000+ ingredients used in many of our favorite lotions, lipsticks and lathers are industrial chemicals, including carcinogens, pesticides, reproductive toxins and hormone disruptors. Since the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has no regulatory authority over cosmetics, consumers take their chances when they use personal care products.

One way to play it safe is to look for vegan health and beauty products, which are typically made from organic, all-natural ingredients, use earth-friendly packaging and don't contribute to the harm of any animals. While vegan cosmetics tend to be a little pricier than their conventional counterparts, you get what you pay for with regard to your health and your conscience.

A perennial favorite of the eco-minded is Lush, a handmade green-friendly cosmetic company. Lush is famous for its all-natural, organic, vegetarian product line (80 percent of prod-

ucts are vegan-approved) including face and hair masks, cleansers, exfoliates, makeup and bath bombs. A few customer favorites from Lush include Ocean Salt exfoliating scrub and Cup O' Coffee and Rosy Cheeks face masks.

Another vegan-friendly personal care products company is Mineral Fusion. Like Lush, Mineral Fusion has a full line and is also dedicated to using natural ingredients that make you feel healthy and beautiful. Mineral Fusion's tinted moisturizer is elegant yet perfect for daily use with simple yet soft coverage.

Yet another great choice is Andalou, which uses all non-animal based ingredients in its shampoos, lotions, hair treatments, lip balms, masks and exfoliates—90 percent of its products are completely vegan. And unlike many of its competitors, Andalou discloses its full ingredients lists. A few favorites include Andalou's Sponge exfoliator, Vitamin C BB beauty balm and Instant Pure Pore facial mask.

Another great health and beauty product many vegans swear by is organic coconut oil. This all-natural "cruelty-free" product is inexpensive and widely available and can be used for a wide range of health and beauty applications. You can eat it, use it as lotion on your skin and face, put some in your hair to help nourish dead ends, use as a teeth whitener and even as an organic makeup remover.

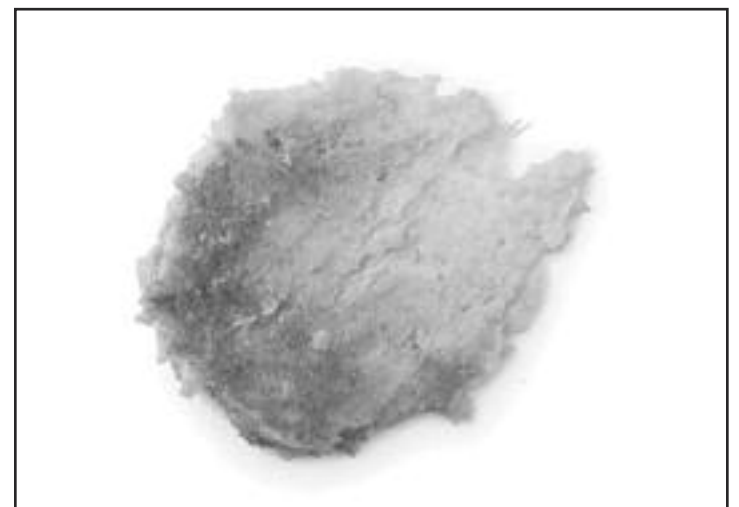


PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Ocean Salt exfoliating scrub is one of dozens of vegan health and beauty products from Lush.

For more ideas, Vegan.com's Makeup Guide is an exhaustive list of dozens of cruelty- and chemical-free face, hair, skin, nail and bath products. If you're wondering whether or not a beloved product already taking up valuable real estate on your bathroom shelf contains ingredients that are unhealthy or bad for the environment, look it up on EWG's Skin Deep, a searchable database of toxic ingredients in cosmetic and personal

care products. Currently EWG rates more than 64,000 personal care products in Skin Deep.

Of course, there's more to good health than what you put on the outside of your body. Eating fresh and organic ingredients, drinking plenty of water, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly all promote good health and hydration to the skin. Living a balanced lifestyle will keep you energized and feeling fresh everyday.

CONTACTS: Lush, www.lushusa.com; Mineral Fusion, www.mineralfusion.com; Andalou, www.andalou.com; Vegan.com, www.vegan.com; EWG's Skin Deep, www.ewg.org/skindEEP/.

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Kenny Dickerson and Ashley Rios Star in Poignant Play About Black Men *Black Boy Blues: The Struggle of African American Men*

First Baptist Church of Glenarden presents an original theatrical production by playwrights Joshua and Jimmy Jenkins in honor of Black History Month

By PRESS OFFICER
FBCG

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Kenny Dickerson and Ashley Rios star as Carter Blue and Jonni Mae Thomas in *Black Boy Blues: The Struggle of African American Men*, a dramatic play based on the Tulsa Race Riots in 1921. This FREE play kicks off First Baptist Church of Glenarden's celebration of Black History Month, which includes a special event featuring author Dr. Joel Freeman and a children's historical reenactment program.

Black Boy Blues is a fictional following of Carter Blue, the son of Black Wall Street's founder. Jones relocates to Maryland and tries to start life anew. Reluctantly falling in

love with Jonni, he finds himself in a battle between love, hope and dreams. Soon after, Blue makes a shocking discovery that brings him face to face with a decision that leaves the whole town hanging in the balance. This must-see play debuted in August of 2016 to sold out audiences of more than 3,500 attendees.

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, led by Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr. is a vibrant, Bible-based church located on three campuses in Prince George's County, Maryland. With more than 11,000 active members, FBCG is one of the largest congregations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It has impacted local and global communities through its 100-plus ministries, outreach, and educational programs.

WHAT:
The Jenkins Brothers original theatrical production, *Black Boy Blues*

WHO:
Invited community leaders Patrons of the arts Members and friends of First Baptist Church of Glenarden

WHEN:
Saturday, February 4, 2017
5 p.m. Doors open
6 p.m. show time

WHERE:
First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Worship Center, 600 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

About Jenkins Brothers:
Josh, 32 and Jimmy, 26, have combined their talents of

creativity, wisdom, and spiritual direction to build a career as filmmakers, screenwriters, producers, and directors of various theatrical productions. The Jenkins brothers experienced the negative reality of their African American friends whose dreams had been derailed by fear, poverty and lack of encouragement, trust, and wisdom. Their first collaborative production, *Black Boy Blues*, combats the media portrayal of African American males who largely depicted as confrontational, uneducated, unemployed, and apathetic. The brothers have worked with local and national gospel artists, including Anthony Brown & Group TherAPY, Tasha Cobb, Fred Hammond, Donnie McClurkin, BeBe Winans among others.

RECYCLE THIS ROOM

When thinking about recycling at home, which room comes to mind first? Many people think of the kitchen, but recyclables are produced in more places than just this room. Take recycling beyond the kitchen! Many common bathroom products end up in local landfills. Consider adding a small recycling bin in your bathroom and check out the top 5 items many people forget to recycle:

- 5 Body lotion bottle
- 4 Toilet paper roll
- 3 Shampoo bottle
- 2 Shaving cream can
- 1 Toothpaste box

Source: Keep America Beautiful, www.kab.org

Prince George's County Segno Naturals is an initiative of the County Office of the Environment, Planning and Policy, Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.