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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JACK CHAVEZ

Activists from Don't Frack Maryland protest in front of the State House in Annapolis Wednesday morning ahead of Gov. Larry Hogan's third "State of the State" address.

Protesters Rally in Front of State House to Oppose Fracking

By JACK CHAVEZ
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—With a state moratorium on hydraulic fracturing—or “fracking”—set to expire in eight months, Maryland legislators and activists are throwing their support behind a permanent ban.

Activist group Don't Frack Maryland on Wednesday held a

rally in front of the State House in Annapolis, and attracted supporters from Maryland and nearby states who contend that fracking negatively impacts the environment in places it is used.

“What we want to see is a full, permanent, statewide fracking ban,” Jackie Filson, field communications officer for D.C.-based consumer rights group Food & Water

Watch, told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. “Maryland's legislators need to know (the harm fracking can cause).”

For nearly an hour protesters shouted slogans like “Don't frack Maryland, ban fracking now” and “Fracking's got to go,” toward the State House, where Gov. Larry Hogan was preparing to give

his third “State of the State” address at noon.

Protesters claimed that fracking poses a serious risk to drinking water, a topic that has received widespread attention in recent years across the country.

In December 2016 the Environmental Protection Agency

See **FRACKING** Page A3

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Requests Liquor Board Reform Bill to State Legislature

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Today Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced that he has requested new state legislation that will dramatically strengthen the oversight of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners, also known as the Liquor Board, by shifting control from the state to the county. The new legislation would move the appointment of

members of the Board of License Commissioners by the Governor to appointment by the County Executive, resulting in stronger oversight and increased local control of the Board and its inspectors. Summary of requested legislation attached to this release.

“The selection and oversight of the Board of License Commissioners needs to be reformed,” said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. “The leg-

See **LIQUOR** Page A5

2017 PGAHC Grant Applications Available Now

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Parks & Recreation

LARGO, MD—The 2017 Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council grant season is now open. Guidelines and applications are available online at www.pgahc.org. The deadline for all applications and required documents is March 17, 2017 at 5 p.m.

The categories for County Arts Program are: Artist Fellowship Program; County Arts Projects; Cultural Facilities Projects; Emerging Arts Programs; Public Art Building Communities; and Cultural Bridge Programs. The categories for Arts in Education Program are: School-Based

Projects; Community-Based Projects; Artist in Residency Projects; Public Art Partnership Projects; and Professional Development Projects.

An information conference call for applicant questions will be held on February 17, 2017 4pm–5pm. The number is: (712) 432-0400, access code 457736#. An information workshop will be held Saturday February 18, 2017 10am–11am at 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo MD 20774.

About PGAHC: The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council supports the creative community through collaborative partnerships, education, grants and art-centered experiences to enhance the quality of life for all.

GSA Hosts Transportation Update Meetings Regarding Potential Sites for New FBI Consolidated Headquarters

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—This week, the United States General Services Administration (GSA) announced transportation update meetings for Prince George's County residents regarding the County's two potential sites that are finalists for a new consolidated Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters (FBI HQ). The Greenbelt site meeting will take place Monday, February 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Public Library, 11 Crescent Road, in Greenbelt, MD. The Landover site meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, in Landover, MD.

Prince George's County is working tirelessly to secure the relocation of the FBI headquarters to either the Greenbelt or Landover sites previously identified by the General Services Administration (GSA). The

County is competing with a third site in Virginia, and three teams of developers are in the running to build the project at any of the three sites. Final bids from the three teams were due January 6, 2017. The GSA has announced that the final decision on the FBI headquarters relocation will occur in March 2017. Both Prince George's County and the State of Maryland have committed significant public funds to support the infrastructure improvements needed at either the Landover or Greenbelt location.

The relocation of the FBI to Maryland will bring more than 11,000 jobs in a \$2.5 billion, two million SF facility to the winning location. It is considered to be the most significant economic development opportunity in the Washington, D.C. region in more than a generation, and County officials believe that an FBI headquarters in Prince George's County will both rebrand the County and forever

See **FBI** Page A5

Nearly 400 Local Companies Energized by \$24 Billion in Federal and County Procurement Opportunities

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Close to 400 local companies congregated in the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) conference room in anticipation of hearing top executives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Prince George's County Office of Central Services explain how to tap into the more than \$24 billion in procurement opportunities available through these agencies at the EDC's ‘U.S. Department of Energy Procurement Opportunities Day.’ As part of its mission to help grow the County's commercial tax base, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman has been instrumental in directly connecting local businesses to resource partners like the Department of Energy and the other 14 federal agencies that call Prince George's County home.

“Prince George's County is on fire with development projects, but that's not all we have to be excited about,” said Coleman. “Having great federal partners like the Department of



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO speaks to the masses at the Dept. of Energy Procurement Event.

Energy, who have \$24 billion and are looking to buy services and products that are produced right here in Prince George's County, makes being a local business even more profitable. Ultimately, our mission is to eliminate unemployment in Prince George's County be-

cause it is the right thing to do. The EDC's federal procurement days help local businesses grow so that they can hire more County residents.”

The EDC has hosted several events like the ‘Department of Energy Procurement Opportunities Day’ to bring local busi-

ness owners face-to-face with procurement decision makers, many of whom would be very difficult to get a meeting with during the normal course of business. Giving this capacity

See **PGCEDC** Page A6

INSIDE

Maryland Fire Deaths in January Summon a Need for Fire Prevention Awareness

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. It is also recommended to install smoke alarms inside the bedrooms as well. Test and vacuum smoke alarms monthly. Change batteries every year.

Community, Page A3

Leslie Dunbar: An Indispensable One

These reports provided the groundwork for ongoing advocacy to assure millions of children access to health care, nutrition, Head Start, child care, a right to education if disabled, escape from adult jails in many states, and protections for children in foster care and in need of mental health supports.

Commentary, Page A4

Property and Casualty Losses Are Vexing, But They Shouldn't Be Taxing at Tax Time

Research shows that more than half of American consumers do not have an inventory of the possessions they would want their insurance company to replace in case of a fire, theft, extreme weather, or other disaster, explains AAA Insurance.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Moonlight

His given name is Chiron, but as a small, taciturn 9-year-old living in a drug-ridden Miami slum, he's called Little. His mother, Paula, is an actual crack whore; his father is not in the picture. His father figure becomes Juan (Mahershala Ali), the Cuban-born man who also happens to be Paula's drug supplier.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What exactly is the “Myth of the Climate Change 97%” mentioned by Senator Inhofe during recent confirmation hearings Trump's cabinet post nominations?

—Rosemary R., Clifton, NJ

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Morningside is Beautiful Project underway; State of the Town Address coming up

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann initiated the Morningside is Beautiful Project in January. Each month one property is designated to receive recognition and the homeowner will receive a card announcing the selection. In June the six properties so honored will go into a drawing for a \$150 gift card. Then the Project will start again, with a drawing in December.

The Mayor will be giving a State of the Town Address at the next Town meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 21. The Address begins at 6:15pm; the meeting itself will start about 7pm.

One of the items under discussion will be Morningside Election Day, May 1, when residents cast votes for two Town Council seats. Morningsiders who wish to vote must be registered to do so. A special registration will take place on April 3 at the Town Hall, from 1 to 8pm.

In addition to the Mayor, current members of the Town Council are Vice Mayor Bradley Wade, Todd Mullins, Katie Frostbutter Blade and Sharon Fowler.

People

Justin McClain, a theology teacher at Bishop McNamara High School, has a new book out, *Called to Teach: Daily Inspiration for Catholic Educators*. The book has 365 reflections—one for each day of the year—and each begins with a quote from Scripture. I checked it on Amazon, and all reviewers gave it five stars.

Kerrington Banks, a senior at Friendly High School, has been named Sentinel Student of the Month. He is captain of the swim team, has taken rigorous courses in Advanced Placement, is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Math Honor Society. He plans to attend North Carolina A&T.

Yvonne Garvin, of Skyline, told me her son Samuel Garvin Jr. worked 19 hours on Inauguration Day, on duty at the Trump Hotel. He is a volunteer with the Metropolitan Police Department.

Linda Lee Kelley, who graduated from Suitland High School in 1960, and went on to serve as County Commissioner in Calvert County, died Jan. 24. Several of her schoolmates emailed me the sad news. I'll pay tribute to her in my next column.

Bingo in Morningside

Family Fun Bingo will be held at the Morningside Town Hall on Friday, Feb. 10. There'll be ten regular bingo games, three stand-up bingo games and non-cash door prizes (prizes will be selected from a prize table). Concessions will be sold. Doors open at 6pm, games start at 6:30. Admission, \$3.

Skyline Citizens meet in newly-refurbished MVFD room

The Skyline Citizens Association will hold its quarterly meeting Feb. 15, at 7pm in the Michael P. McCarthy Room at the Morningside Fire House. The room has been cleaned, painted, carpeted and will be furnished with tables, chairs, and new technology as a place where the volunteers can study. Volunteer Michael McCarthy, for whom the room is named, died in the line of duty on Sept. 12, 1983.

The Fire Chief lets the Skyline Citizens meet there. Aaron Long, head of the Dept. of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement will be one of the speakers at the Feb. 15 Skyline meeting.

Changing landscape

A house on Donna Street in Skyline was gutted by fire the night of Sept. 15/26. The ugly—and I believe dangerous—hulk is still standing. Well, sort of standing; recently one whole wall collapsed. Skyline President Stan Holmes has gotten word that it is scheduled for demolition. Can't happen too soon!

An overpass, now under construction, is being built at Brandywine Road and Branch Avenue. Once completed, traffic lights at two locations will be removed.

There is a new sign at Suitland and Randolph Roads, announcing Skyline Park. It used to also list Skyline School, now being refitted as an office building.

A new program has been announced: Adopt a Hydrant. The purpose is to have residents living near a hydrant clear snow away it so it can be accessed in case of fire.

Honored at Nats Stadium as a vet and centenarian

Frederick Francis Moffett, longtime resident of Oxon Hill and a Railway Express Agency retiree, died Jan. 22 at the age of 101. He grew up in Leesburg, Va., and Congress Heights where his family ran a chicken and egg business.

He graduated from Eastern High, served with the Army in WWII, saw combat in North Africa and returned home with a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and shrapnel in his lower back. He married Ella Mills James in 1944 and they settled in Oxon Hill with sons Daniel and Lanny, in a house that Freddie built himself, with family help.

He was an avid deer hunter and a lifetime member of the Tri-State Sports Club. When baseball returned to Washington in 2005, he became a dedicated Washington Nationals fan, and was honored in an on-field pregame celebration of his military service and centenarian status, arranged by the Foundation 4 Heroes of California, Md.

Survivors include three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Services were at Kalas with interment at Union Cemetery, Leesburg.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Alma Richardson, Feb. 10; Ginny Call, Dawn Witherow and David Chambers, Feb. 11; Angie Miller, Katelyn Dudding and Pat Miller, Feb. 13; Joan Rose, Scott Jenkins and Mary Reilly, Feb. 14; Father Ted Hegnauer, Mary Young and Ruby Holloway, Feb. 15; Sarah Anderson and Dean Woods, Feb. 16.

Happy anniversary to Frank and Soo Wilson on Feb. 15; and to Wilda and Joe Cheseldine on their 59th, Feb. 16.

Happy Valentine's Day to all my readers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

WORLD VIEW CLUBHOUSE

World View Clubhouse after school sports and academics has been providing quality child care services for twenty years with their Before & After School program. The locations are Brandywine, Clinton, Temple Hills and Waldorf. Time vary per location. Transportation is provided, homework assistance and care when school is closed.

When school is out Worl View is in. Drop-in service is welcome. Non World View students are welcome. For more information, please contact World View at www.worldviewchristiancenter.com or call 301-372-0053.

BE'LA DONA IN CONCERT

M-NCPPC has partnered with Bowie State University to offer community arts classes and performances at Bowie State University's Fine and Performing Arts Center. Be'la Dona is one of the hottest female groups in the Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia area with their unique style of Funk, Jazz, R&B and rock will perform at the Center February 18, 2017 at 8:00 PM. The cost is \$ 27. Event contact is Jolene

Ivey at 301-437-8394 or joleneivey@pgparks.com.

MATH HELP

Count on us Math Help is available on Comcast channel 96 and Verizon channel 38 Mondays and Wednesdays. The two-hour call in show provides mathematical instruction to elementary and middle school students seeking homework help. Students can submit their math questions by emailing cou@pgpcs.o

HEALTH & WELLNESS ZONE

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

HUNTINGTON

Huntington offers private tutoring for SAT/PSAT/PREP (exam prep for students seeking dramatic score improvements). Huntington is a tutoring solution to help students reach their full potential. Academic evaluation

identifies problem area. Highly trained tutors work individually with students. Huntington helps improve grades, skills and confidence. Visit www.Huntington-Helps.com or call 301-705-7100.

2017 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Make summer memorable for students in grades 2-8 by enrolling them in a summer program that offers activities for grades 2-8. For more information, contact www.pgcc.edu/go/summeryouth or call 301-546-0158.

MARYLAND MADNESS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Come and join us Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 8:00 AM for the Maryland Madness Open Championship, All Star Prep and All Star Cheer and Dance competition. Watch your favorite teams as they compete for championships ring. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$15 for spectators (ages 12 & up); \$10 spectators (ages 5-11). Cost is free for ages 4 and under.

The event will be at The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

Neighborhoods

Governor Hogan Announces Public Charter School Act of 2017, Funding for Classroom Innovation

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan announced new administration initiatives to continue expanding and improving education opportunities for students in Maryland, which include the Public Charter School Act of 2017 and increased funding to encourage innovation and creativity in the classroom. The governor's fiscal year 2018 operating budget, which was introduced earlier this month, includes a \$6.4 billion investment in K-12 education, fully funding the aid formulas and providing record funding for the third straight year.

"I believe that every child in Maryland deserves access to a world-class education regardless of what neighborhood they happen to grow up in," said Governor Hogan. "The proposals we are announcing today ensure that we will continue to increase the choices available to Maryland families and provide high-quality education for all Maryland children."

Building on the Hogan administration's record of innovation and support for non-traditional ideas to improve access to quality education, the governor today introduced the Public Charter School Act of 2017, legislation that would create the Maryland Public Charter School Authority, an independent public charter school authorizer. Public charter schools authorized by this new entity would have increased autonomy and would be exempted from certain aspects of local laws.

Unlike other states with highly effective and expansive public charter school programs, Maryland's program is missing key hallmarks, most notably an independent charter school authorizer and autonomy in regards to budget and staffing. Maryland's current public charter school law is restrictive, vague, and has consistently rendered the state unable to compete for millions of dollars in federal charter school grants.

This legislation also creates a new funding mechanism for public charter schools, where state investments would be delivered directly to the schools. Currently, allocations are disbursed by local boards of education, which have funded public charter schools at far lesser rates than traditional schools.

Governor Hogan also announced the Maryland Education Innovation Fund, a new program that will encourage greater innovation and creativity in Maryland classrooms. This \$1 million allocation will be used to provide planning grants and will prioritize applied learning with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, blended learning, competency-based programs, and economic efficiencies in delivery of educational services.

"In order for our children to succeed in a 21st century workforce, Maryland must continue to promote creative, forward-thinking ways to address the achievement gap in our schools," said the governor.

In January, Governor Hogan announced additional investments to open six new Pathways in Technology Early College (P-TECH) high

schools throughout the state, as well as funding to support students currently enrolled at existing P-TECH schools. P-TECH, co-developed by IBM, is an innovative, nationally recognized education model that blends high school, college, and work experience into one innovative program where graduates obtain a two-year associate degree in a STEM career field at no additional cost. P-TECH Dunbar and P-TECH Carver, both located in Baltimore City, opened for the 2016-17 school year.

Melwood Appoints David Blackledge as Program Director of Veterans Affairs Blackledge joins Melwood after 37 years of military service

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Cari DeSantis, president and CEO of Melwood announced today the appointment of David Blackledge as Program Director of Veterans Affairs. Blackledge, a retired Army Brigadier General, has proven experience in leading large organizations in rapidly changing environments.

Blackledge's military career included operational and leadership position with Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations forces responsible for up to 13,000 personnel and multi-million dollar budgets. While serving as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon, he was chosen as a faculty member for the newly formed Defense Centers of Excellence for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health. Sharing his personal experiences, he quickly became a role model and worked to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues by encouraging service members suffering PTS to seek professional assistance.

"With his leadership experience both in the military and as a civilian, Blackledge will serve as a real asset to our Veterans Affairs program" stated DeSantis. "His personal goal to make a career out of assisting other veterans speaks volumes about his character and will resonate with the rest of the Melwood team."

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, Blackledge joined Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College as the Director of Estuarine Education and Leadership Development. He transformed underutilized woods and wetlands into the Estuarine Education & Leadership Development Center including academic buildings, a ropes challenge course, kayaking, and nature trails. He identified and cultivated community partnerships to broaden the center's mission to incorporate experiential learning, team building and leadership development courses. He is particularly proud of developing nature-based therapy programs for wounded warriors and others with differing abilities. During the last three years, Blackledge generated over \$600,000 in corporate and grant funds.

Blackledge earned his MBA from the University of Wisconsin following an undergraduate degree from the United States Military Acad-

emy. His military awards are numerous including four Legions of Merit, given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service and achievement; five Bronze Star Medals, awarded for heroic service or meritorious achievement in a combat zone; and two Purple Heart medals, awarded for wounds sustained in combat.

Blackledge now resides in Lothian with his wife. He is looking forward to working on Melwood's Operation: Tohidu program and living closer to his children and grandchildren.

College Program Announced for Maryland Juvenile Services Center

BALTIMORE, MD—Students at one of Maryland's Juvenile Services facilities have started taking community college classes under a new agreement formally announced in January.

Eligible students at the Victor Cullen Center in Sabillasville are taking online courses offered by Frederick Community College. Two students have already started their coursework, with more soon to join.

The exciting new program, "Building Bridges Toward College Success," held a ribbon cutting on Friday at the Victor Cullen Center Library.

"By providing new academic opportunities, we keep students engaged in learning and focused on the future," said Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. "The new program at Victor Cullen is designed as a launch pad for these students."

Elizabeth Duffy, director of dual enrollment at Frederick Community College, says the program offers an important pathway to further education. "Education is the great equalizer and students need to have access to rigorous coursework to help them achieve their long term goals," she said.

MSDE and Frederick Community College signed a memorandum of understanding last fall, setting the stage for today's announcement. Only students who have completed their high school requirements and proven their ability to do college-level work are eligible.

The Juvenile Services Education (JSE) program within MSDE provides educational services for youths detained and committed by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. Students receive core instruction in mathematics, English language arts, social studies, and science. Career Technology Education courses are also offered, and GED preparation programs are provided. JSE serves approximately 550 youth on a daily basis.

MSDE is continuing to strengthen the educational offerings and resources for Maryland's Juvenile Services Education programs. Last fall, for example, MSDE brought 300 tablet devices to JSE classrooms, providing enhanced instruction and support to students, as well as increasing student engagement in the learning process. All students enrolled in JSE programs now have access to the new technology.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Refinancing Your Debt Could Be a Good Idea If...

Have you ever considered how lenders compare applicants? Typically, the lowest rate goes to those who have the highest likelihood of repaying the loan on time. A lot of data goes into determining that probability, including the person's credit, income and outstanding debt.



As these factors improve, your terms on new loans might improve as well. You could also refinance debts you took on earlier in life to take advantage of the changes. As a result, you might be able to decrease your interest rate, lower your monthly payment and save a lot of money.

Refinancing, which is often done by taking out a new loan to pay off existing debt, can be surprisingly simple. In some cases, you can submit all the information online, and the entire process will only take a few days. However, refinancing more complex debts, such as a mortgage, can take considerably longer.

While refinancing doesn't always make sense, it's worth considering if you're in one of the following situations.

Interest rates dropped. Some loans' interest rates depend on a benchmark interest rate, such as the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). Even if your financial profile stays the same, when the benchmark rate rises or falls, your interest rate on a new loan could rise or fall as well.

You want to change the terms of your loan. Because you're taking out a new loan to pay off existing debt, you might have the opportunity to change the terms of the loan. For example, you could have a variable-rate student loan whose interest rate rises or falls with a benchmark. You might be able to refinance with a fixed-rate student loan and have certainty that your monthly payments won't change in the future.

If you have a lower interest rate after refinancing and have the same amount, or less, time to repay the loan, you can save money over the lifetime of the loan.

You want to lower your monthly payments. Say you have a 30-year mortgage that you've been paying off for five years. If you refinance with another 30-year mortgage, you have an extra five years to pay off approximately the same amount of money. As a result, your monthly payments could be lower, but be sure to take into consideration the fact that you will likely wind up paying more in interest.

Your loan has a cosigner. Perhaps you asked someone to cosign your auto loan to improve your chances of getting approved or getting a lower interest rate. If you're eligible for refinancing on your own, you might be able to release your cosigner and take full responsibility for the new loan.

Proceed carefully because applying for refinancing could hurt your credit. Applying for refinancing often results in a hard inquiry, when a potential lender reviews your credit. Generally, a single hard inquiry won't have a large negative impact on credit, but multiple hard inquiries might.

When you're refinancing a mortgage, auto loan or student loans you can still shop around and try to find the best rate without worrying about your credit too much. As long as the hard inquiries happen within a 14- to 45-day period (depending on the credit-scoring model) the credit-scoring model will consider them a single inquiry.

Consider the fees and find your break-even point before refinancing. Depending on the type of debt and the lender, there could be costs associated with refinancing debt. For example, some loans have an origination fee, either a flat fee or a percentage of the loan amount, which could be significant.

The break-even point is how long it'll take you to recoup the costs associated with refinancing. For example, it could cost you \$3,000 to refinance your mortgage, but you'll save \$150 each month. You'll break even after 20 months because that's when you'll have saved \$3,000 in monthly payments. If you plan on selling the home before the break-even point, it likely doesn't make sense to refinance.

Use the same sort of calculations to weigh the pros and cons of refinancing other types of debts. When it looks like refinancing could be beneficial, shop around to try and find the terms that best fit your needs.

Greenbelts "Reel & Meal" Series Features 13th this Month

On Monday, February 20, the "Reel & Meal" series will feature *13th*, Ava DuVernay's film about the history of racial inequality in the United States and within our nation's prison system. The free show starts 7 pm at the New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt. The film is now an Oscar-nominee in the documentary category. Audience discussion will follow. This month's program is planned by the Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition. Contact justpeacepg@earthlink.net or 301-577-2350.

Maryland Fire Deaths in January Summon A Need for Fire Prevention Awareness

By PRESS OFFICER
State Fire Marshal

PIKESVILLE, MD—The State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci wants to remind all Marylanders of the importance and value of fire prevention. Nine fire deaths have been recorded during the first 30 days of the New Year. Six of these deaths involved victims under the age of 18. Two victims were over the age of 50 and one victim was the age of 41.

Practicing fire prevention along with planning and implementation of escape plans are our first line of defense in surviving the effects of fire. Occupants have three minutes or less from the sounding of a smoke alarm to escape the smoke and toxic gases created by a fire inside the home. "It is imperative we take the necessary precautions to not only prevent a fire from occurring, but to also prepare if a fire develops unexpectedly within our homes," stated Geraci. "We all must take personal accountability in protecting ourselves and our families from the effects of fire."

The following is a condensed list of ways to protect Marylanders from the potential life safety risks of uncontrolled fire in their homes.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. It is also recommended to install smoke alarms inside the bedrooms as well. Test and vacuum smoke alarms monthly. Change batteries every year. Replace smoke alarms after every ten years. Battery-only smoke alarms shall need to be replaced with 10-year long life sealed battery smoke alarms by January 1, 2018.

- Keep doors closed while sleeping. A closed door will help stop smoke, toxic gases and flames from entering your room, effectively giving you more time to escape or be rescued.
- Plan and practice your home fire escape plan. Know two ways out of every room. Have a predetermined meeting location outside.
- If smoking materials are used, please use a deep ashtray and smoke outdoors. Always ensure smoking materials are completely extinguished when finished.
- Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children. Instruct children to alert an adult if they locate matches or lighters and not to touch them.
- Replace frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged electrical cords.
- Limit use of extension cords and don't overload electrical circuits.
- Never run electrical cords under carpet or rugs.
- Keep the stovetop clean and remove any combustible items on or near the stove area.
- Never leave cooking food unattended. Turn off the stove if you need to leave the room.
- Have chimneys properly cleaned and maintained.
- Never use an accelerant in a fireplace or woodstove.
- Burn only seasoned, dry wood to help prevent creosote build-up in chimneys and woodstoves.
- Keep combustibles three feet away from any heating appliance or fireplace.
- Have your furnace checked and cleaned for proper operation.
- Fuel burning appliances can produce the deadly, tasteless

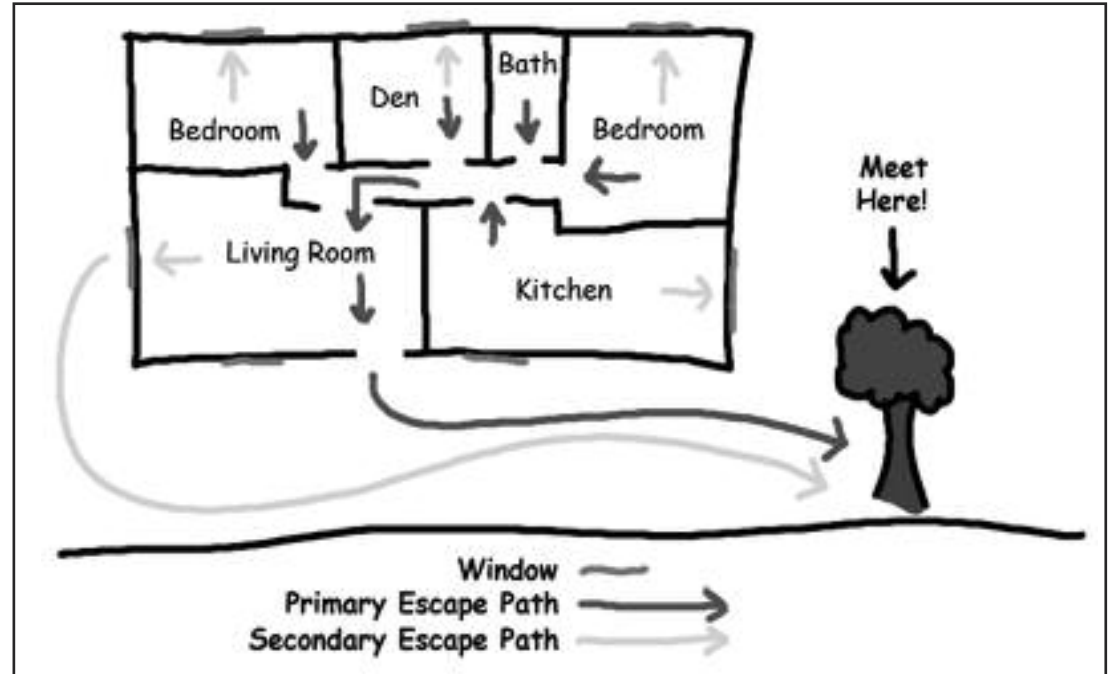


PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHALL

Create a home fire escape plan, and practice with your entire family.

- and odorless gas known as carbon monoxide. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide an early warning of dangerous carbon monoxide levels.
- Always turn off portable heating equipment when leaving the room for extended periods. Portable heaters should never be operated unattended.
- Check the clothes dryer vent pipe and ensure lint build-up is removed.
- Keep flammable liquids in tightly sealed containers and store away from sources of heat.

IF A FIRE OCCURS

Get Out and Stay Out. Leave your home as soon as possible. Do not try to gather personal possessions or attempt to extinguish a fire. Do not use the elevator. Once out, do not go back inside. Call 911 after you leave the home. Go to your predetermined safe location outdoors.

Test the Doors Before Opening Them. Using the back of your hand, reach up high and touch the door, the doorknob, and the space between the door and the frame. If anything feels hot, keep the door shut and use your second exit. If everything feels cool, open the door slowly and exit

as low to the ground as possible if smoke is present.

Stay Low and Go. Crawl low and keep under the smoke, if you are physically able. If not, try to cover your mouth and nose to avoid breathing toxic fumes, and make your way to safety as quickly as possible.

What to Do If You Are Trapped. Close all the doors between you and the fire. Fill cracks in doors and cover all vents with a damp cloth to keep smoke out. If possible, call the fire department and tell them where you are located. Signal rescuers from a window with a light-colored cloth.

Stop, Drop, and Roll. If any part of you catches fire, do not run and do not try to extinguish the flames with your hands. Cover your face with your hands. Drop to the ground, rolling over and over. If you have a disability that prevents you from taking these actions, try to keep a flame-resistant blanket or rug nearby to smother any flames.

Close the Doors. If a fire occurs inside your home, close the doors as you leave to help contain the fire and slow the progression of the blaze.

Please make informed and fire safe decisions throughout the rest of the year to protect yourself and your loved ones. #firesafety

Fracking from A1

released a 666-page report that concluded that fracking could, under certain conditions, impact drinking water resources. The report was the culmination of five years of research and work.

From the report, "Identified impacts generally occurred near hydraulically fractured oil and gas production wells and ranged in severity, from temporary changes in water quality to contamination that made private drinking water wells unusable." Pennsylvania resident Craig Stevens says he has participated in protests in more than a dozen states where fracking has had an environmental impact.

"Fracking contamination knows no borders," Stevens said Wednesday.

Fracking involves pumping a mix of water, sand and chemicals into deep underground wells, breaking apart rocks to extract the natural gas stored inside.

Gov. Larry Hogan told *The Baltimore Sun* in October 2014 that he supports fracking because of its potential to boost western Maryland's economy.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JACK CHAVEZ

Protesters shouted slogans like "Don't frack Maryland, ban fracking now" and "All this fracking's got to go," as various people entered the State House Wednesday morning.

The region has experienced slower economic growth and a higher unemployment rate compared to the rest of the state. Fracking could add more than 3,000 jobs and about \$100 mil-

lion in wages if it were allowed, according to a 2014 Towson University study.

Legislation in Maryland to ban fracking or extend the moratorium had yet to be filed

by Wednesday.

Please note: Capital News Service correspondent Natalie Schwartz contributed to this report.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Says Gutting the Stream Protection Rule Promotes Pollution and Threatens Public Health

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), released the following statement after the Republican-controlled Senate used the Congressional Review Act to repeal the stream protection rule (RIN:1029-AC63). This rule from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement within the Department of the Interior (OSMRE) limited the placement of waste in streams and drinking water sources, as well as the amount of

“Coal miners and their families need jobs, and they need clean water. The two aren't mutually exclusive. What they don't need is the gutting of a reasonable rule designed to protect them from an environmental disaster.”

waste generated overall by mining operations. “Why anyone would vote against clean water is beyond reason. It's not okay to allow dirt, debris and chemicals be dumped into the water sources for our communities. The final stream protection rule was intended to better protect streams, fish, wildlife, and the very communities that get their water from these

sources. This first update in 30 years provided mine operators a modern framework to avoid polluting and minimize the long-term costs associated with water treatment. This was a win for public health, local economies and the mining companies.

“Using the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to attack a rule that protects people and communities from harmful impacts of irresponsible coal mining operations, such as buried streams, floods and subsidence, will benefit the coal companies that cut corners at the expense of the people who live in Appalachia. Coal miners and their families need jobs, and they need clean water. The two aren't mutually exclusive. What they don't need is the gutting of a reasonable Rule designed to protect them from an environmental disaster, which is much more likely to occur with passage of this Resolution of Disapproval.”



The Patuxent Rural Life Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

THE PATUXENT RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

The Patuxent Rural Life Museums, located within the 7,000-acre Patuxent River Park, are a collection of museums and farm buildings dedicated to preserving the heritage of southern Prince George's County. There are several buildings including the Duvall Tool Museum, a 1920's Sears Catalog House, a Blacksmith Shop, a Farrier and Tack Shop, a Tobacco Farming Museum, and the 1880 Duckett Log Cabin with its privy, chicken coop, and meat house. To learn more about the facilities, including days and hours of operation, or to schedule a tour, call 301-627-6074.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Leslie Dunbar: An Indispensable One

When foundation, civil rights and antipoverty leader and supporter Leslie Dunbar died January 4th at 95, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and many civil rights and public interest organizations that have worked over the decades to prevent voter suppression, hunger and poverty lost a strategic, thoughtful, long-term friend. Leslie was one of the most creative, engaged, informed and courageous foundation leaders during a major inflection time in our nation. He was an indispensable ally as the Civil Rights Movement struggled to close the huge gap between racial creed and deed and as hunger and poverty bubbled up to national consciousness with the War on Poverty and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign.

As a White child growing up in Depression-era West Virginia, Leslie would have seemed an unlikely candidate for the key role he played over many decades to ensure justice for poor and non-White citizens. While serving as director of the Southern Regional Council, an Atlanta civic and business association, Leslie worked with Dr. King and other leaders during what he called “a time of mind-changing in the South.” He was a regular fixture following the 1964 Freedom Summer.

As head of the Field Foundation from 1965–1980 Leslie left an enduring positive impact saving lives and strengthening institutions, many of which still exist—including CDF as we evolved from our parent organization the Washington Research Project in 1973. Many of the young organizations Field helped seed and fund in a sustained way during this burgeoning movement building period to end hunger and poverty still exist and have endured over more than four decades thanks to the strong and long term foundation support the Field Foundation provided.

The Children's Defense Fund and I are direct beneficiaries of Leslie's wisdom and long term support. After meeting him in Mississippi as a young attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund,

I moved to Washington to serve as counsel and federal policy liaison for Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign which Field helped support. Widespread hunger and poverty were sapping the spirits and bodies of tens of thousands of poor Black Mississippians. I decided to move to the nation's capital after repeated brutal battles with Mississippi's Jim Crow congressional delegation over efforts to kill the transformative Head Start program after the State of Mississippi turned down the desperately needed Head Start funds as so many callous states today have turned down Medicaid coverage for their needy uninsured citizens. When a coalition of community groups, the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM), applied for and won the federal Head Start money the state declined to use, we had huge re-funding battles which Leslie helped us through. And after the Department of Agriculture continued dragging its feet on getting food to starving children and families who were brought to national light by Senator Robert Kennedy's visit to the Mississippi Delta, Leslie and the Field Foundation funded doctors to visit and doc-

ument severe hunger and malnutrition among Mississippi's Black children.

Not knowing how I would support myself in Washington, and with no office to go to, I left Mississippi with one check from the Field Foundation in my hand to open up what became the first independent non-government funded public interest law office seeking to provide a voice for poor and non-White citizens in the federal policy arena. That grant enabled me to rent a small office and hire a skeletal staff for the Washington Research Project to support the Poor People's Campaign.

The Washington Research Project began in 1968. With Field Foundation anchor support joined later by other funders, we were able to play a strong leadership role over the next years documenting the misuse of federal Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds and suing major Southern employers who discriminated against Black citizens. We also followed up on key anti-hunger demands of Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign

See WATCH, Page A5

Maryland's Senator Ben Cardin Emerging as Leading Trump Foreign Policy Critic

By NATE HAROLD
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After introducing sanctions legislation on Russia and opposing Donald Trump's nomination of Rex Tillerson for secretary of state, Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin is emerging as a leading Democratic critic of the president's foreign policy.

“I think there's a real possibility that we will disagree on significant points and I will be vocal about it,” Cardin said in an interview with Capital News Service.

As the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Cardin will play an influential role by either supporting or opposing the direction of the Trump administration's foreign policy as it takes shape in the coming months.

However, Cardin faces obstacles to challenging Trump, primarily the Republican majority in both houses of Congress.

“It's a democracy, so (Democrats) cannot play a dominant role” at this time, said Leon Aron, resident scholar and director of Russian studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank.

“At the same time, the ranking members are not without influence,” Aron added. “Cardin has proven his concern for human rights and the security of the U.S. over many years. Certainly the Republicans should listen to his advice.”

Cardin is not pleased with how Trump has approached a host of global issues.

“(Trump's) use of social media as it relates to Russia, Taiwan, China, NATO, Mexico ... has been extremely frightening to our traditional allies. It raises questions about America's sincerity about working with these nations,” Cardin said.

Cardin publicly expressed doubts about Tillerson's nomination, questioning both his qualifications and lack of diplomatic experience, and voted against his confirmation.

“Tillerson should play a major role (in foreign policy). Question is how much influence Tillerson will have with Trump and where they want to go,” Cardin said.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., expressed confidence in Tillerson, saying he “will serve the United States well.”

“In both my private meetings with (Tillerson) and in the hours of public testimony he offered before the Foreign Relations Committee, it has become clear he will be an effective leader at the State Department,” Corker said in his remarks on the Senate floor.

Many have raised concerns about the former ExxonMobil CEO's business relations with Russian elites, including President Vladimir Putin.

“I think there's good news and bad news. (Tillerson) probably knows how to deal with unsavory characters and that helps in his relationship with Russia,” Aron said. “He knows key players over there. However, he may decide business is business and agreements are important regardless of the long-term plans of Russia or the United States.”

“That won't work with Putin because his plans are long-range and don't coincide with the United States' worldview ... (Tillerson) will have to take off his ExxonMobil hat and put on the one of secretary of state,” he said.

Cardin will be watching the United States' relationship with Russia closely.

“Both (political) parties have major reservations about Russia and its power ... (Russia's) activities are interfering with our elections and in Europe, and it requires us to show more strength,” the Maryland lawmaker said.

Cardin helped to introduce legislation Jan. 4 that would create an independent, nonpartisan commission to investigate Russia's alleged interference in November's presidential election.

A week later, Cardin partnered with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and other members of Congress to introduce comprehensive sanctions legislation on Russia.

“Now is the time to put partisanship aside and send a signal that the United States will not stand for Russia's aggressive actions,” McCain said in a statement.

“Russia is not a friend,” Cardin said. “They act like an enemy by only doing things that attack us ... hacking, supporting President Assad in Syria, (and) breaking the Minsk agreement in Ukraine.”

Trump's apparently sympathetic views on Russia and Putin complicate matters, the senator said.

“There's no rationale [for Trump's praising of Putin],” Cardin said. “I have no idea why he's doing what he's doing. People say he has business interests in Russia, people say he admires Putin's leadership, but I don't know why he wants to show anything other than isolating Russia, which has been our government's longstanding policy.”

There has been speculation that Trump might lift or loosen the sanctions that Congress has placed on Russia, although multiple high-ranking GOP members have warned Trump against doing so.

“If (Trump) were to release or reduce sanctions on Russia, that would be a possible signal that is very dangerous for U.S. national security interests,” Cardin warned, adding that some Republicans share his concerns.

Trump held phone calls with several foreign leaders, including Putin, last weekend.

Aron thinks that Trump and Putin had a mutual understanding not to discuss the sanctions during their phone call, and that Trump “took the correct stance” on talk of a summit between the two leaders in the coming weeks.

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The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

What To Do When You And Your Boss Disagree

Your boss may be a wonderful person and great to work with, but there are still going to be times when you will have disagreements or differences of opinion. These can be awkward situations, since you know who's in charge but yet you still feel stressed and possibly upset about your reactions.

Since you know workplace disagreements will happen, what you want is a logical process that will get you through such situations without feeling stressed. Your goal is not to win the disagreement, but to get through the process feeling good about how you conducted yourself.

A starting point is to evaluate how important the disagreement really is. We often respond emotionally when there's a disagreement, then find we've made a mountain out of a molehill.

If the problem really does matter, decide whether to deal with it now or later. There's no "right" answer. Sometimes dealing with a disagreement immediately can make you seem argumentative, while at other times, waiting to voice your objections may mean you're acting too late, or are setting up bigger problems. When to act is a decision based on a careful evaluation of the problem and its implications.

Next, consider alternative courses of action. Your boss and you may have opposing directions on the matter at hand, but in reality, there's almost always more than one way to confront a problem. You want to think through any possible alternatives and try to evaluate which one would actually be the best way to proceed.

When you have what you feel is the best alternative, then take action. At this point, the action you're taking is not a heated, emotional response but rather one based on careful and clear evaluation of the situation and possible solutions.

A final step is to evaluate the outcome. You may not have been able to change the decision or action that led to the initial disagreement, but that isn't always your goal. Remember, the boss is still the boss and it's not within your power to change him or her. People are simply who they are.

Fly off the handle and get in a heated argument with your boss and neither you nor your boss are going to feel good about it. But react with a well-reasoned, carefully-thought-out approach, and you'll end up feeling less stressed and much better about this work situation.

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

Watch from A4

for which we served as federal policy liaison. It became clear in the post King-Kennedy era that poor adults faced a shrinking constituency and that focusing on children to help prevent adult poverty was a sound and strategic strategy so the Children's Defense Fund was born in 1973.

The needs of children out of school, without homes, and without health care were carefully documented and followed up on with Leslie's support. These reports provided the groundwork for ongoing advocacy to assure millions of children access to health care, nutrition, Head Start, child care, a right to education if disabled, escape from adult jails in many states, and protections for children in foster care and in need of mental health supports. The first juvenile justice arm of the Children's Defense Fund was headed by Judge Justine Wise Polier, a great retired juvenile court judge in New York City and was lodged in the Field Founda-

tion's offices in New York City. Under her leadership CDF prepared groundbreaking reports including Children in Adult Jails—after her staff visited 500 jails across America and found children in adult jails everywhere; Children Without Homes; Children of Women Prisoners; and Unclaimed Children, about the unmet mental health needs of children. All came from that era of strong Field Foundation support under Leslie's leadership.

As a wise and farsighted philanthropic leader, Leslie was willing to invest in institutions and people who demonstrated effectiveness and outcomes from the bottom up and not from the top down. The Field Foundation stuck with a network of public interest advocates over many decades to ensure continuity of impact. How I hope many more foundation leaders like Leslie will emerge going forward. His long term investment in antipoverty and hu-

See WATCH, Page 8

Property and Casualty Losses Are Vexing, But They Shouldn't be Taxing at Tax Time

Grab Your Camera, Go All Around Your Home, Record Your Belongings

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—No one likes to think about it. But deductible casualty losses can result from a fire, a car crash, a theft, vandalism, storms, including a hurricane and tornado, sonic booms, earthquakes, and terrorist attacks. If you experience a loss, first, notify your insurance claims department or your insurance agent promptly. Then think itemized deductions. As the tax filing season continues anew, the AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Agency is encouraging home owners and renters to take time and create a home inventory list to avoid one less headache.

Research shows that more than half of American consumers do not have an inventory of the possessions they would want their insurance company to replace in case of a fire, theft, extreme weather, or other disaster, explains AAA Insurance. The inventory also comes in handy for tax purposes if you have losses that insurance does not cover. Be prepared for the sudden, unexpected, or unusual.

Sometimes it seems the next calamity or catastrophe is always lurking around the corner. If you suffer a loss, whether it stems from a casualty or theft loss or a disaster loss (including federally declared disaster areas), don't have a panic attack. Unfortunately, it is part of the warp and woof of life. First things first: file an insurance claim, and remember, you might also be eligible to claim it, or to write a portion of the loss off on your federal income tax returns, according to the AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Agency. Complete Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 4684.

Keep in mind: "You have to prove to the IRS that you are the rightful owner of the property," tax consultants advise.

"Whether you're a minimalist with few possessions or have rooms overflowing with stuff, a thorough home inventory can streamline the claims process and even help you verify losses for your income tax returns," said Elise Burstson, an Insurance Counselor with AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Agency in Washington, D.C. "Preparing in advance for an unexpected disaster could mean a little less stress along the way and a faster return to normal life."

Casualty losses are generally deductible in the year the casualty occurred, according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). "Generally, you may deduct casualty and theft losses relating to your home, household items, and vehicles on your federal income tax return," explains the IRS. "You may not deduct casualty and theft losses covered by insurance, unless you file a timely claim for reimbursement and you reduce the loss by the amount of any reimbursement or expected reimbursement," the IRS continues.

While the prospect of building an inventory may feel daunting, there are many approaches. Begin by documenting your most valuable possessions. Note how much each item costs, when it was purchased and serial numbers, if applicable. Don't forget the garage, basement, attic and storage shed.

Here are five easy steps to creating a home inventory list:

1. Grab your camera or smartphone and take a slow walk through your home. Take photos or a video of your possessions. Again, make sure to

keep electronic copies in an easily accessible place. Photos and video you take with your phone may automatically be saved to cloud storage. Check your mobile phone plan details to be sure.

2. Create a list via paper, computer spreadsheet or mobile app. The Insurance Information Institute's Know Your Stuff® home inventory app not only helps you record a comprehensive list of your belongings, organized by room, it also lets you input your insurance policy information, so you have everything you need in one place in case of losses. If you wish to use paper, make sure it is in a secured notebook.

3. Save your receipts when you make key purchases and store them with the inventory. Note the model and serial numbers of the items.

4. Add up the replacement costs for all of those items to make sure you have enough insurance. Double check, because not all policies cover the actual replacement costs. Also, in some cases, an additional endorsement may be needed for valuables like jewelry, cameras, furs, firearms, trading cards and comics, or other items. The availability of endorsements varies from state to state, however, so find out which endorsements are offered in your area.

5. Store your home inventory and related documents in a safe and easily accessible place. This can be done online, with friends or family, or in a safe deposit box. Don't rely solely on your home computer, which should always be backed up, in case of fire or a hard drive crash.

"Creating a simple home inventory helps you track what you own and what it is worth,"

added Burstson. "It can be invaluable in deciding how much insurance coverage you need, to say nothing of ensuring you are adequately protected if you ever need to file a claim."

The nation's 2017 tax filing season opened January 23, and tax returns are due April 18 this year.

Taxpayers can file the loss on Form 1040, Schedule a (PDF), Itemized Deductions, (or Schedule A in Form 1040NR (PDF), if you are a nonresident alien). However, if your property is personal-use property or isn't completely destroyed, the IRS advises, the amount of your casualty loss is the lesser of:

- The adjusted basis of your property, or;
- The decrease in fair market value of your property as a result of the casualty.

"The filing deadline to submit 2016 tax returns is Tuesday, April 18, 2017, rather than the traditional April 15 date, the IRS explains. "In 2017, April 15 falls on a Saturday, and this would usually move the filing deadline to the following Monday—April 17. However, Emancipation Day—a legal holiday in the District of Columbia—will be observed on that Monday, which pushes the nation's filing deadline to Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Under the tax law, legal holidays in the District of Columbia affect the filing deadline across the nation."

AAA Insurance offers coverage for cars and home, life and health, travels, business and more. To find out more about homeowners, condo, or renters insurance, contact your AAA Insurance agent or call 866-636-2377 or 202-481-6811 to review eligibility for discounts and any coverage you might need.

Liquor from A1

isolation we are proposing creates much stronger oversight and accountability by shifting the appointment responsibility to the County. By providing local control and accountability over this Board, our residents and businesses can be better assured that any corruption, malfeasance, or unethical behaviors will be quickly detected, investigated, and corrected."

The County Executive's Liquor Board Reform Legislation alters the current appoint-

ment process so that the County Executive shall appoint the Board members, who must be also confirmed by the County Council. In addition, the County Executive would appoint the Director of the Board, who would also be confirmed by the County Council. These changes to the current process are designed to reduce the possibility of political influence through public committee sessions and public hearings for the board members and the director-nominee.

The other significant change is the conversion of the inspec-

tors from Board appointees to County employees. By requiring a competitive hiring process, it will drastically reduce the political influence in the selection of the Chief Liquor Inspector, 2 Deputy Chief Inspectors, and the 24 part-time liquor Inspectors. The County Executive's proposed Liquor Board Reform Legislation was created using elements from other Maryland jurisdictions.

Of the pending legislative proposals County Executive Baker said: "I know that the problem of combating the trou-

bling issue of corruption is something that concerns all of my fellow colleagues in the Prince George's House and Senate delegations and some have taken alternative approaches to tackling the problem. I strongly believe the approach I put forth will be most effective in ending the scourge of corruption in our County because it adds a key component of accountability and professionalism to the process. Nevertheless, I pledge to work with all my colleagues on these proposals during the next several weeks of the legislative session."

FBI from A1

change the local economy. County Executive Baker and his economic development team have been working on this endeavor for six years.

"I encourage any Prince Georgians interested in learning more about the new consolidated FBI Headquarters project and overall process to attend these meetings," said Prince George's County Executive Baker. "This

is anticipated to be a \$2.5 billion project that will create 11,000 jobs at one of the three locations. We are confident and optimistic that with two of the three final sites at Greenbelt and Landover, we have superior locations and infrastructure, as well as the best deal for the U.S. taxpayers."

The GSA is holding these public meetings to discuss the updated transportation impacts related to the consolidation of the Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation Headquarters (FBI HQ) at a new permanent location at either Greenbelt, MD; Landover, MD; or Springfield, VA. GSA is currently preparing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for its action to acquire a consolidated FBI HQ at a new permanent location. The Draft EIS was released in November 2015, for a 60-day public comment period. This update provides an opportunity for the community to

start formulating their comments on the Final EIS as well as to ask questions, provide input, and learn how to participate in the FBI HQ transportation activities after the conclusion of the Final EIS.

More information on the project can be found at: <http://www.gsa.gov/fbihqconsolidation>. If you require any additional assistance, please contact Denise Decker at 202-748-7691 or fbi-hqconsolidation@gsa.gov.

Cardin from A4

Europe's relationship with the Trump administration, especially after Trump's disparaging remarks about NATO, will be another focus for Cardin and foreign policy leaders, especially as it relates to Russia.

"Europe is a lot closer physically with Russia,"

Cardin said. Europeans have "seen Russia's physical integrity and know the consequences ... There are European countries that are really fearful of Russia taking over land, and they understand dramatically firsthand that this is real. Russia needs to be checked."

Thus far, the Trump administration has not painted a clear

picture of its foreign policy objectives, although that may soon change. The Senate confirmed Tillerson Wednesday and he was sworn in at the White House hours later.

Cardin said he remains "concerned as to what their priorities will be."

"I want to know that (Trump) recognizes that America is the

leading voice in the world in promoting democracy and freedom of the press, and countries around the world who are struggling look to America for leadership," the Maryland lawmaker said. "My main concern is that these countries know they have us to look up to and that they have a champion in Trump as president of the United States."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Moonlight

Moonlight

Grade: A

Rated R, a lot of profanity,
some graphic sexual dialogue,
some sexual activity

1 hr., 50 min

"Who is you?" That question, phrased in the vernacular of a demographic that is often scorned, ignored, or pitied, is asked more than once in *Moonlight*, a quiet, poignant movie about many things, including identity, race, sexuality, poverty, and masculinity. There are several movies' worth of themes to consider in this single, deeply felt drama of elegant, heartbreaking simplicity, centered on a character trying to answer that question.

Written and directed by Barry Jenkins from an unproduced play by Tarell Alvin McCraney, *Moonlight* is told in three sections, each identified by the name our protagonist goes by at the time. His given name is Chiron (emphasis on the "shy"), but as a small, taciturn 9-year-old living in a drug-ridden Miami slum, he's called Little (played by Alex Hibbert). His mother, Paula (Naomie Harris), is an actual crack whore; his father is not in the picture. His father figure becomes Juan (Mahershala Ali), the Cuban-born man who also happens to be Paula's drug supplier.

Livelihood aside, Juan isn't a bad role model. He lives in a clean, comfortable home with his wife, Teresa (Janelle Monae), who becomes a surrogate mother for Little when Little's own mom can't (or won't) take care of him. At school, Little is picked on for being soft. He wrestles and play-fights with his only friend, Kevin (Jaden Piner), to prove otherwise, in a scene of innocent, pre-sexual horseplay. Sitting at the kitchen table with Juan and Teresa, Little asks what a "faggot" is and wonders if he might be one.



The tender, heartbreaking story of a young man's struggle to find himself, told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain, and beauty of falling in love, while grappling with his own sexuality.

At 16, Chiron goes by his real name (he's played by Ashton Sanders now). He's still withdrawn, a little spacey, and bullied for his slight queerness. He's still friends with Kevin (now Jharrel Jerome), who boasts crassly of his own (straight) sexual encounters but is capable of tenderness.

In the third section of the film, several years later, Chiron is a young adult (Trevante Rhodes) and goes by Black, the nickname Kevin gave him in high school. Black has emulated the only role model he ever had, following in Juan's footsteps in physical appearance as well as profession. When he hears from Kevin (Andre Holland) for the first time in years, all those old feelings come rushing back.

Jenkins, a 37-year-old Miami native with one feature under his belt (*Medicine for Melancholy*, 2009), scores several coups here, not least of

which is finding three superb, mostly unknown actors to play Chiron. I don't care that they don't really look like the same person at different ages because they all feel like him, each one giving a delicate performance that seems to borrow from and influence the other two. The three Kevins also do fine work, especially the middle one, Jharrel Jerome, on whom it falls to handle the character's most complex emotions. Mahershala Ali is only in the first section, but his conflicted righteousness and basic decency linger in the film the way they do in Chiron's memory.

As teenagers, Chiron and Kevin have a beachside conversation charged with emotion and vulnerability, a conversation about emotion and vulnerability:

KEVIN: You cry, Chiron?

CHIRON: I cry so much sometimes I think one day I'm gone just turn into drops.

KEVIN: But then you could just roll out into the water, right? Roll out into the water like all these other muh***ers out here tryna drown their sorrows.

CHIRON: Why you say that?

KEVIN: I'm just listenin' to you, nigga. Sound like some-thin' you wanna do.

CHIRON: I wanna do a lotta things that don't make sense.

I wanna do a lotta things that don't make sense. The experience of being a poor, black, parentless, closeted gay teenager is highly specific, but as someone who was once a middle-class, white, well-parented, closeted gay teenager, my heart bursts with empathy at that line. There is a lifetime of subtext in it. I wanna do a lotta things that don't make sense. If you have no idea how that feels, *Moonlight* will show you.

PGCEDC from A1

crowd a glimpse of what the DOE buys and its forecast of contract opportunities over the coming months provided them with a leg up on how to position their companies for growth.

John Hale, III, the former Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business (OSDBU), the agency within the DOE tasked with positioning small businesses to become subprime contractors on major federal procurements, talked about the DOE's mission regarding energy security, nuclear security, environmental responsibility and enhancing the efforts in scientific discovery and innovation. Through OSDBU, the DOE builds sustainable small businesses that enhance its corporate pipeline and efficiency supply-chain. Mr. Hale also told attendees the DOE bought items such as Engineering Services, Remediation Services, Facilities Support Services, Computer systems Design Services, Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal, Research and Development in Biotechnology and Security Guards an Patrol Services.

"Today was a terrific day at the Economic Development Corporation. We got to explain what the DOE does, but more important, we were able to

show businesses how to create wealth and create jobs," said Hale. "The partnership between the Department of Energy and the EDC has been fantastic. From the 'Thirsty for Business Thursday's' to this procurement forum, we are finding talented entrepreneurs in our own backyards. That's what it is all about. We look forward to partnering again with the EDC throughout 2017."

The forum also featured the County Office of Central Services, its Supplier Development and Diversity Division (SDDD), as well as former sub-contractor and prime contractor for the DOE, Ken Boras who spoke to the quality, expertise and technical support that is needed to be successful in winning government contracts. Roland Jones, Director of the Office of Central Services and Cyndee Phoenix, Executive Director of SDDD talked with attendees about how the agency connects local, small, disadvantaged, minority and veteran owned businesses to resources, contract opportunities, training and development and strategic partnerships. They also talked about the County's vendor registration and certification policies, the types of commodities the County purchases and what it is expected to purchase in the near future.

"Today was an outstanding event. The continued combination of County, State and federal resources that are being presented to local companies gives an indication to the amount of diligence the County is providing to suppliers," said Jones. "No one can make excuses about not being knowledgeable, not being exposed or not having the opportunity to network with people in government. Networking forums of this magnitude offer local businesses the opportunity to exchange ideas with decision makers and with fellow suppliers. Efforts made by the Baker Administration to provide people with access to wealth are unmatched by any other jurisdiction in the area."

Bringing important forums such as the DOE Procurement Opportunity Day to small, local businesses in Prince George's County would not be possible without the gracious support of companies like PEPCO Ex-elon, BECO Management and WashingtonFirst Bank. Along with local sponsors Joseph Greenwald and Laake Law, Ve Water and Independent Strategic management Solutions, the local business community in Prince George's County left the forum well informed and engaged in what they needed to do to become subprime and

prime contractors for the U.S. Department of Energy.

"PEPCO is proud to be a corporate sponsor of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. Their work helping local, small and diverse business enterprises realize their full potential is critical to strengthening and growing the Prince George's County economy," said Donna Cooper, President of the PEPCO Region, PEPCO Holdings. "The more opportunities local businesses have to expand, the more opportunities they have to hire more Prince George's County residents. We applaud these type of networking events, as they are important reminders of the partnerships that are important to fostering and sustaining our local and regional economies."

Attendees from Prince George's County and the surrounding region were delighted to be able to speak freely with the executives from DOE and the Office of Central Services. Several companies had recently relocated or expanded into Prince George's County, and others were convinced by the end of the forum that Prince George's County is the best place for them to truly grow their businesses.

See PGCEDC Page A7

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Why Jack Johnson's Family Should Refuse Any Exoneration



There is a push underway—long championed by Republican Senator John McCain and Representative Peter King—to secure a pardon for the legendary boxer Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion of the 20th century. In 1913, Johnson was convicted by an all-white jury on "Mann Act" charges—otherwise known as "white slavery"—for transporting a white sex worker named Lucille Cameron across state lines "for immoral purposes." Even though, Johnson married Cameron several months later, the state still pushed the case until Johnson was found guilty. It was a racist conviction aimed at bringing low a fighter who was never afraid to wear expensive clothes, consort with white women, and tell mainstream America that they could kiss his ass. He was also perhaps the most powerful symbol of resistance to white supremacy since Nat Turner, inspiring spirituals and songs of protest from the fields of sharecroppers to the hard labor of chain gangs.

Johnson received the maximum sentence of a year and a day in federal prison, but instead of accepting their verdict, he lived in exile for seven years. Then he eventually returned and served his sentence in Leavenworth Prison. McCain was asked by *The Undeclared*'s Jesse Washington about whether he believed President Obama would deny the pardon. He said, "I hope not, but I'm afraid so. I'm very confused by it. I have not understood, where this is an egregious act of racism, that the president of the United States wouldn't want to correct history."

But the question is not whether the US government will "right this wrong" but whether Jack Johnson's family should even allow the US to sit in judgment of this towering figure. Johnson lived a rebel's life, and his persecution by this government is precisely part of what makes him such a powerful symbol of resistance to this day. He was both brash and uncompromising in an era when public lynchings against black men took place on weekly basis. Johnson was not an explicitly political figure like Muhammad Ali, making speeches against the Philippine American war. But as a walking, self-conscious political symbol, he explored new boundaries. Johnson was flagrantly flamboyant, described as a "dandy" by a white press shocked by a famous boxer who wanted to look good, dress fine, and not give a damn who was scandalized. From the American Legion to Booker T. Washington, they threw their punches and Johnson slipped every one like a weak left jab.

Jack Johnson's open mockery of the ceremonies of white supremacy made him more than a boxer. It made him the lightning rod of white rage and exemplar of Black Pride. This swelled to an apex on July 4 1910, when Johnson famously destroyed the "Great White Hope" Jim Jeffries in a much anticipated fight. Afterwards the *New York World* wrote, "That Mr. Johnson should so lightly and carelessly punch the head of Mr. Jeffries must come as a shock to every devoted believer in the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race."

The shock turned deadly after Jeffries was finally counted out. Violent race riots erupted around the country, in which white mobs attempted to enter black urban neighborhoods, and were repelled. After the smoke cleared, dozens of African Americans were dead in the most widespread urban cataclysm that the United States would see until the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination in 1968. The US government did not take this moment to decry racist violence, but instead turned its ire on boxing, voting to restrict films of fights and even debating the banning of boxing altogether. They also set about the relentless persecution of Jack Johnson. This led WEB DuBois to issue these immortal words about Johnson in 1914. "Why then this thrill of national disgust? It comes down, then, after all to this unforgivable blackness."

As if it wasn't obvious enough—with Senator McCain and his history of anti-immigrant, anti-Asian racist baggage as well as Rep. Peter King, the supreme anti-Islamic bigot in Congress leading this charge—the push to pardon Jack Johnson is more about how this country wants to regard itself today than any sense of righting past wrongs. It is a bellow of the hollow conceit that racism is a disease existing primarily in the past and treats a pardon for Jack

See JACK JOHNSON Page A7

Calendar of Events

February 9 — February 15, 2017

Cooking Up African Culture

Date and Time: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 6:30–8 pm
 Description: Join us to learn about the unique relationships different cultures have with foods and how they prepare meals! As the United States is a melting pot of cultures and experiences, participants will learn how American culture has absorbed traditional African meals and allowed them to grow into mainstream dishes enjoyed by millions of people daily. We will prepare a dish that everyone is sure to enjoy!
 Cost: Resident: \$8; Non-Resident: \$11
 Ages: 16 and older
 Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782
 Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Seniors: Black History in Motion

Date and Time: Friday, February 10, 2017, 10:30 am–12 noon
 Description: Come celebrate Black History with a live musical performance!
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 60 & better
 Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts
 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Platinum Movie: Miles Ahead (2015)

Date and Time: Friday, February 10, 2017, 11 am
 Description: A critically acclaimed exploration of the life and music of Miles Davis, with director Don Cheadle in the title role and also starring Ewan McGregor.
 Described by the Chicago Tribune as “a fluid, well-staged, freely inventive response to a man’s life and music,” *Miles Ahead* shatters the biopic mold with its original and clear-eyed look at one of jazz music’s greatest artists.
 Cost: \$2/person
 Ages: 60 & better
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtrene Teens: Skate Night

Date and Time: Friday, February 10, 2016, 7–10 pm
 Description: Bring a friend and hit the floor for a night of non-stop skating fun. Don’t forget to wear socks.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 13 & up
 Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden 20706
 Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Smithsonian Discovery Associates *How Old is a Hero? Young People of the Civil Rights Movement*

Date and Time: Saturday, February 11, 2017, 2 pm
 Description: Discovery Theater’s original touring production introduces us to young heroes—and calls us to join them in changing the world. Meet Ernest Green of the Little Rock Nine, the first student to graduate from an integrated high school.
 Claudette Colvin, the 15-year-old who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus (nine months before Rosa Parks); and Ruby Bridges, who won equal rights before she could read. Moving archival musical recordings accent these scenes of struggle and hope.
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: All age welcome
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Freedom Before Father Abraham: “... Natural Freedom is the Right of All mMen”

Date and Time: Saturday, February 11, 2017 12 noon–4 pm
 Description: The Surratt House Museum will display 10 freedom papers of local historical significance relating to slavery in Prince George’s County. Spanning 1781–1858, the documents demonstrate the variety of experiences of both slaves and freedmen, and how they came to be free. From noon until 4 PM on February 11, 2017 the owner of this collection (that totals 30 documents) will be present to discuss the collection and answer questions. The exhibit is on display in our Visitor’s Center.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All Ages Welcome
 Location: Surratt House Museum
 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735
 Contact: 301-868-1121

Black History Festival: Expressions of a People

Date and Time: Sunday, February 12, 2017, 1–6 pm
 Description: You’re invited to a Black History celebration featuring musical performances, children’s activities, workshops, and entertainment for the entire family.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
 Contact: 301-203-6070; 301-699-2544

Seniors on the Move: National Museum of African American History and Culture Event

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 9 am–4 pm
 Description: Learn about the richness and diversity of the African American experience by visiting The National Museum of African American History and Culture. Discover how the diversity of the African American experience, accomplishments, and contributions helped to shape this nation. To date, the Museum has collected more than 36,000 artifacts and showcases hundreds of inspirational men and women, both nationally and globally. Bus leaves promptly at 9 am. Please wear comfortable shoes. #APeoplesJourney
 Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-Resident: \$10
 Ages: 60 & Better
 Location: College Park Community Center
 5051 Pierce Ave., College Park, MD
 Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Is Scientific Consensus Around Human-Caused Global Warming a Myth?

Dear EarthTalk:

What exactly is the “Myth of the Climate Change 97%” mentioned by Senator Inhofe during recent confirmation hearings Trump’s cabinet post nominations?

—Rosemary R., Clifton, NJ

The so-called “Myth of the Climate Change 97%” refers to the argument made by climate skeptics who dispute the notion that 97% of climate scientists have achieved consensus that global warming is occurring and is caused by human activities. Oklahoma Republican Senator James Inhofe, a notorious climate skeptic, referred to this “myth” in recent confirmation hearings for Scott Pruitt, President Trump’s choice for administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Inhofe, who is funded by the notorious Koch brothers and other big fossil fuel interests, has stated that only God can affect the climate, and is one of the most outspoken voices in Congress for turning our backs on the Obama administration’s climate progress.

No one knows for sure, but the 97% number likely first cropped up in 2013 from a study by Australian researcher John Cook, who surveyed 11,000+ climate science reports published between 1991 and 2011 in search of attribution of blame

regarding the cause of global warming. According to Cook, two-thirds of the reports his team at the University of Queensland’s Global Change Institute surveyed made no mention of whether global warming was happening, per se. But 97.1% of the remaining 4,000 reports that did acknowledge the occurrence of climate change “endorsed the consensus position that humans are causing global warming.” Furthermore, Cook followed up by asking a sample of 1,200 report authors to determine whether their research confirmed that global warming is human-caused, with 97.2 of those respondents concurring.

But critics attacked Cook’s findings almost as soon as they were published. Richard Tol, a Dutch economist at England’s University of Sussex, first publicly articulated doubts about the 97% number in 2014 when he peeled off a team of researchers writing up a draft report for the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—he claimed his colleagues were too alarmist. Tol stated that while he believes climate change to be real and likely human-caused, he also felt that Cook’s research methodology was flawed and that the 97% findings were “essentially pulled from thin air [and] not based on any credible research whatsoever.” Tol then orchestrated a “reanalysis” of Cook’s data set and concluded that really only 91%



CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE, FLICKRCC

Climate skeptics like Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) dispute the notion that 97% of climate scientists believe global warming is human-caused.

of climate scientists think global warming is human-caused.

Tol, who subsequently joined the advisory board of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, a think tank that greens consider “the U.K.’s most prominent source of climate change denial,” isn’t the only climate skeptic to pile on against the 97% claim. In a 2014 *Wall Street Journal* commentary piece, Heartland Institute president Joseph Bast and former NASA climatologist Roy Spencer claim that the “so-called consensus comes from a handful of surveys and abstract-counting exercises that have been contradicted by more reliable research.”

But despite this quibbling, it’s clear that the vast majority of climate scientists agree that human activity is behind our current cli-

mate woes. Whether or not 91% constitutes “consensus” is a matter of semantics, and vocal minorities on the topic (like Senator Inhofe) will always speak up to defend their point of view. What scares the American people is when such a vocal minority has the ear of the White House.

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), www.ipcc.ch; “The Myth of the Climate Change 97%,” goo.gl/tl2oIR.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

PGCPS Graduation Rate Reaches Record High

High School Graduation Rate Exceeds 80 Percent for the First Time Since 2010

By PRESS OFFICER
 PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—More than 81 percent of seniors in the Class of 2016 graduated from Prince George’s County Public Schools—the highest number since 2010.

According to data released from the Maryland State Department of Education, the four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) rose 2.6 percentage points, moving from 78.8 to 81.4 percent. The PGCPS rate now exceeds 80 percent for the first time since the state began tracking cohort data in 2010.

Eight high schools meet the system’s goal of a minimum 90 percent graduation rate:

Academy of Health Sciences at PGCC (100 percent), Bowie (90.2 percent), Charles H. Flowers (91 percent), DuVal (92.4 percent), Gwynn Park (94.6 percent), Eleanor Roosevelt (91.5 percent), Frederick Douglass (92 percent) and Surrattsville (90.8 percent).

Since 2013, the PGCPS graduation rate is up 7.3 percentage points, from 74.1 percent to the current 81.4 percent.

“We have made remarkable progress,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. “I am excited about the growth in this important measure. Our progress reflects not

only the dedication of students and staff, but also the strength of new partnerships with families and the community.”

Overall, 18 of 22 high schools improved over last year’s rate. Gwynn Park High School had the highest graduation rate. Surrattsville High School had the largest increase, up 10.6 percentage points since last year.

The school system’s 2.6 percentage point increase is the second-largest statewide. In addition, the PGCPS dropout rate decreased to 13.9 percent, down from 15 percent in 2015.

To support student success, the district is focused on literacy, improving teaching and learning, expanding teacher mentoring and professional development, using data to target student needs, offering online credit recovery programs and encouraging in-school alternatives to suspensions.

Comprehensive high schools with graduation rate gains of three or more percentage points since 2015 include the following:

- Surrattsville—10.6
- Gwynn Park—7.4
- Suitland—6.8
- Potomac—5.3
- Charles Herbert Flowers—4.9
- Bowie—4.7
- Friendly—4.6
- Forestville—4.0
- High Point—3.3

School	2015 ACGR	2016 ACGR	ACGR Change
Academy of Health Sciences at PGCC	100.0	100.0	0.0
Gwynn Park High	87.2	94.6	7.4
Duval High	91.7	92.4	0.7
Frederick Douglass High	90.4	92.0	1.6
Eleanor Roosevelt High	90.5	91.5	1.0
Charles Herbert Flowers High	86.1	91.0	4.9
Surrattsville High	80.2	90.8	10.6
Bowie High	85.5	90.2	4.7
Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High	87.4	89.2	1.8
Laurel High	82.8	85.4	2.6
Fairmont Heights High	86.5	85.4	-1.1
Oxon Hill High	83.7	84.6	0.9
Largo High	82.4	84.2	1.8
Crossland High	81.3	82.0	0.7
Friendly High	76.1	80.7	4.6
Forestville High (closed June 2016)	75.5	79.5	4.0
Suitland High	72.3	79.1	6.8
Potomac High	71.0	76.3	5.3
Parkdale High	76.8	74.5	-2.3
Central High	75.0	73.9	-1.1
Bladensburg High	73.6	73.5	-0.1
Northwestern High	66.6	69.3	2.7
High Point High	59.2	62.5	3.3
All Prince George’s Schools	78.8	81.4	2.6

PGCEDC from A6

“I am so happy that I took the time to come to the EDC’s event today. I am so grateful to the EDC for putting on this

type of forum. It is so needed,” said Claretta Rideout, owner and CEO of DeQuan’s Construction, LLC. “Having the opportunity to meet one-on-one with integral people

who are really interested in helping us win contracts, provides us with an opportunity to grow. As an out of the area company, we learned how we can be successful moving into

the area. As a construction management team growing for 17 years in Baltimore, we are excited about expanding to Prince George’s County and creating new jobs.”

Jack Johnson from A6

Johnson as part of the “healing process” so we can move on to our post-racial future and “a more perfect union.” Pardoning Johnson in this political climate would be an act of vanity, not justice, using his story to sell a lie about the present. We are a country that just used the political tool of 18th and 19th century slaveholders—the electoral college—to elect a white supremacy

sympathizer even though he received three million less votes than his opponent. This is a sick system, and it lacks the moral authority to pardon Jack Johnson for any reason other than its own public relations. It’s not for us to forgive Jack Johnson. The opposite is the case. If he were still alive, the Galveston Giant would look John McCain and Peter King square into their mottled, hypocritical faces and say, “Pardon this.”

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