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Cheryl Smith Appointed New NABJ Secretary

By PRESS OFFICER NABJ

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is pleased to announce that former Region VII Director, Cheryl Smith, is the organization's new secretary.

Smith was recently appointed to the office by NABJ President Sarah Glover.

"I'm excited to welcome Cheryl Smith to the NABJ board team. Her years of experience serving NABJ on the national and chapter level are noteworthy. She brings a strong passion for NABJ service to the national board once again," said Glover.

An award-winning reporter, Smith has worked as an editor,



PHOTO COURTESY NABJ
Newly appointed NABJ Secretary Cheryl Smith

columnist, and staff writer for *The Dallas Weekly*. She is currently publisher and editor of the IMessenger News Group, a multi-platform news organization that consists of two print

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAKE BRODSKY
Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, D-Harford, stands in her Annapolis office on Thursday, January 26, 2017, holding up a poster in support of naming the canvasback duck as Maryland's state waterfowl. Last session, the bill number was 1037; this year, it's HB61.

Trump Speech Gets Thumbs Down From Maryland Democrats

By TALIA RICHMAN and MIA O'NEILL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Donald Trump's Tuesday night address to a joint session of Congress did little to ease the worries of Maryland's Democratic lawmakers.

Trump's address lacked significant detail, said Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Upper Marl-

boro, and left him "yearning for more."

"This speech was billed as unity and strength, but the actions of the last 40 days were everything but," Brown said in an interview with Capital News Service. "A speech to a joint session of Congress doesn't erase your 40-day record."

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'Quack Quack': Meet Maryland's Proposed State Waterfowl

By JAKE BRODSKY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The state of Maryland has a host of symbols, ranging from iconic, such as the Baltimore oriole and the diamondback terrapin, to trivial, like the state's official sport of jousting or milk as the state's official beverage.

Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, D-Harford, is proposing a bill that would add a new state sym-

bol: the canvasback duck, also known as the "King of Ducks," as the state waterfowl.

The duck would be the first state symbol added officially since 2008, when walking became the state's official exercise and Smith Island Cake became the state's official dessert.

"The canvasback has a very special history on the Chesapeake Bay," Lisanti told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "It is native

to the Chesapeake Bay, it has been recorded here since the time of Native Americans. In addition to it basically just living here, it represents the hunting culture of the area."

Lisanti, whose office is littered with duck decoys, hails from Havre De Grace, Maryland, the home of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The museum, according to Lisanti, was constructed "to illustrate the folk art that has survived

in Havre de Grace and really all up and down the Eastern Shore of Maryland of creating these decoys."

"The symbol of that culture is the canvasback," she added.

Canvasback ducks have a longstanding history in the state of Maryland, according to Chris Sebastian, a public affairs coordinator for Ducks Unlimited.

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One to Watch Local Film Maker Matthew White of Sutter Hoo Studios, LLC

By PRESS OFFICER PGAHC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Matthew White is the co-producer for this year's Grammy-winning feature documentary, *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week—The Touring Years*, directed by Ron Howard. He developed the project starting in 2003 with The Beatles' company Apple Ltd using an innovative production model, one that put archival film research at the head of the production process, allowing the storytellers to play to the strengths of the archives: to let the archives "speak." To do so, he led a sweeping, global hunt for rare and unseen artifacts of The Beatles' tours in hidden archives, collector sources, and people's basements. This operation was conducted at the University of Maryland's McKeldin Library.

White has been a global leader in the care and development of historical media archives for 30 years. He has held senior management positions at National Geographic



PHOTO COURTESY PGAHC
Matthew White in front of a poster for his feature documentary, *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week—The Touring Years*.

Films, where he led the digitization and strategic planning for the archival film and digital media unit, and at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, where he served as Executive Director for the American Archive, a preservation project funded by the US Congress. White has developed and produced programs for TV, feature films, educational media, and digital platforms. Beside the Grammy

Award, White was the winner of the International Documentary Association/ABCNews Video Source Award for his feature documentary, *The Murder of JFK*, and he was co-founder, in 2003, of ACSIL, a trade association of international historical footage licensors, and now serves as the organization's Executive Director. Sutton Hoo Studios, a company he launched with historian Christopher

Vizas, develops media projects to help preserve at-risk historical media. White is also Co-Director of the Prince George's Memory Project, providing current, former, and future residents of the County with a visual record of its people, accomplishments, trials, and community. White has a desk at the Library of Congress's Kluge Center and is based in Mount Rainier, Maryland.

WAR IS DECLARED! WWI Program Announced

By PRESS OFFICER Laurel Historical Society

LAUREL, MD—April 6, 2017, exactly one hundred years to the day after the US entered World War I, the Laurel Historical Society will mark the anniversary with WAR IS DECLARED! The program will explore the lead-up to the war—both nationally, and internationally. Why did the U.S. finally enter the War to End Wars three years after it began in Europe? What impact did it have on Laurel? The program will be held at the Laurel Pool Room, 9th and Main Streets starting at 7 p.m. Suggested program donation: Members \$3.00/Non-members \$5.00.

More than 116,000 Americans died during WWI, including seven from the Laurel area. More than 230 men and women with ties to Laurel participated. The LHS Exhibit Team, including military historian Wayne Dzwonchyk, will lead the discussion.

Laurel had a unique perspective on WWI. In addition to sending its own sons and



PHOTO COURTESY KURT LYON
Jay Lyons at Camp Laurel

daughters, many came to the community from across the US. Camp Meade was established, and thousands of soldiers were stationed at the Laurel Race Track, called Camp Laurel. As a result, legions of soldiers visited the town, for recreation, shopping and other activities. From Liberty Bond

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INSIDE

Wells Fargo Commits to Increase African American Homeownership

Joining Wells Fargo in the effort are the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (composed of African American real estate professionals), which has also set a homeownership goal, and two of the nation's most influential civil rights organizations, the NAACP and the National Urban League
Community, Page A3

Repeat Offense: Private Prisons Resurrection Represents Pay-To-Play

Only six months ago, private prison operators were fighting for their fiscal survival after Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates issued a memo in August that directed the Federal Bureau of Prisons to phase out its use and reliance on private prisons.
Commentary, Page A4

EDC Collaborates With Small Business Owners Hosting First Latin Small Business Roundtable

The EDC realizes the significance of the contributions of the Latino business community and has instituted a policy of making its value proposition available in both English and Spanish to reach a larger audience.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review:

Call Me by Your Name

Drenched in sunlight, the movie is filled with warmth (and hotness), devoid of sappy melodrama but rich with honest emotion that transcends boundaries of sexual orientation. This romance may not have the physical features of the ones you've had, but you've probably felt this longing.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'd like to get into turning my food waste into compost for my garden, but I don't want a stinky pile of table scraps lingering in a pail in my kitchen or backyard. Are there any new high-tech ways to expedite the process?

—Billy A.,
San Francisco, CA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Saying goodbye to Ruby, Skyline's First Lady

Ruby Fowlkes Holloway, the much-beloved matriarch of Skyline, died March 7 at the age of 95. These past few years she has been in residence at Sunrise on Connecticut Avenue where she was fondly known as Ms. Ruby.

She was born in Green Bay, VA, one of the seven children of Claude and Lillie Fowlkes. She was 15 when the family moved to Baltimore because Bethlehem Steel had hired her father. She graduated from Douglas High School in Baltimore and the Cortez Peters Business School.

Her first job was at a defense plant during WWII where she worked on aircraft production, specializing in the assembly of the aft tail. After the war, she worked for the federal government and retired with 30 years' service in 1987. She received many awards for outstanding service and was a strong advocate for those who encountered discrimination in the workplace.

Ruby met the love of her life, Dwight Holloway, through her brother who'd served with Dwight in the Air Force. Dwight and Ruby were wed April 14, 1956, and were seldom apart through the 58 years of their marriage.

In the 1970s they settled on Maria Avenue in Skyline and both became active in the Skyline Citizens Association. Dwight served four years as president and 40 years as chairman of the Road & Safety Committee. Ruby chaired the Membership and Nominating committees, visited the sick and shut-ins and was a wonderful neighbor. When Skyline first sent a "float" to Morningside's annual Independence Day Parade, Ruby was Queen.

They were devout members of Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Southeast Washington, where Ruby was elected Deaconess in 1960. She was active with the Women's Club, Family Zone Ministry and Project Spirit, taught arts and crafts in Summer Day Camp and was a Sunday School teacher. In 2003 Emmanuel Baptist honored Ruby and Dwight for their exemplary service.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dwight and six siblings. Her son Dwight F. "Chipper" Holloway Jr., of Annapolis, survives her. Services were at Emmanuel Baptist, with burial at Maryland Veterans Cemetery where she is once again with Dwight.

People

Brenda Farmer, of Skyline, retired Aug. 1, 2016, after 38 years of government service. At the time of retirement, she was with The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Monsignor Richard Hughes, 88, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, died March 6. His funeral Mass was at St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro on March 9. I will pay tribute to him in a future column.

We are proud of the Pumas of Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School who are the County boys' basketball champions for the 2017 season. The high school kids from the Morningside and Skyline attend Wise, which is in Upper Marlboro.

Thin Mint, Trefoil, Tagalong, Do-si-do, Girl Scout S'mores?

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts selling cookies. It started in 1917 when the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, OK, sold home-baked cookies to raise money to send gifts to soldiers in World War I. Soon other troops were selling their cookies. Sales started small but grew into the largest girl-led business in the U.S. Last year's sales were nearly 4800 million.

Cookie sales for 2017 began Feb. 17, but I haven't seen any girls out selling. Call and tell me where I can buy them in our area.

Changing landscape

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, in Church Creek, MD, opened March 4. It's free, and the hours are Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A free shuttle bus is available from 421 Academy Street in Cambridge from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. On-site parking, at 4068 Golden Hill Road, is available Sundays. No food or beverages are sold there. Info: 410-221-2290.

A house on Donna Street, in Skyline, was gutted by fire one night last September. After many requests, the County demolished the dangerous hulk a couple of weeks ago. Left behind is an empty lot, now green with spring grass.

You probably haven't gotten used to the .47¢ stamp, which became first-class postage a couple of years ago, at that time a saving of two cents. Just as well you didn't get too used to it. On Jan. 22 first-class postage was raised two cents and is back to 49¢. As for other postage, the additional ounce is still 21¢ and postcards are 34¢.

Morningside Memories

The Morningside Sportsmen's Club was formed on April 8, 1971 with 41 members. The first annual banquet was in May 1973 at VFW Post 9619. Bob Walker was installed as president. Other officers were: Richard Jurney, vice president; Dice West Jr., secretary; Fred Readon Jr., treasurer; Joe Smith, Jim Watson and Dennis Carr, Board of Directors; and Joe Benden, sergeant at arms.

The Board of Directors "recommended that each member be limited to one drink or one pitcher of beer at the regular business meetings. This recommendation never did get approved." (from Sportsmen's Awards Banquet program, 1991)

Milestones

Happy birthday to Sharon Ryan, Helene Williams, Judy Bornman and Alysha Perez, March 18; Kristopher Calhoun and Audrey Pridgen, March 19; Russ Kyser, Matthew Curcio-Bobbitt and Dejuh Bedewi, March 21; Ruth Anthony, March 23; Hudson Murphy Glaubitz (great-grandson of Morningside Mayor Jerry and Jean Glaubitz) and my great-grandson Jack McHale, March 23.

Happy anniversary to Morraine and Harold Wilson on March 22.

Happy
St. Patrick's Day
to all you Irish!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Elizabeth Davis, Brewer Clark, Shirley Brown, Dezmond Wood, Anthony Oghogho, Safiya Terry-Joseph, Brittany Baker, Denise Reid Bourne, Mildred Edwards, Vedall Grant, Lloyd Brown, Patricia Stephens, Tina Fields, Aja LayLonie Bell, Neil Noel, Maya Stammer, Ronald Davis, Bonnie Fauber, Shirley Jackson, Kenneth Newby (Dr.), Judy Jones-Terry, Amiya Knight, Shonnel Noel, Daniel Jones and Daniel Glee who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays in March.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to Emmanuel and Claudette Oghogho who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their wedding anniversary on March 12, 2017.

DREAM GIRLS AT TOBY'S DINNER THEATER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish, Episcopal Church Women are sponsoring a trip to see *Dream Girls* at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia, Maryland Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Showtime is 12:30 PM (Mati-

nee). Trip includes transportation, Show ticket, a buffet served lunch and all gratuities. Bus departs from St. Philip's 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland at 8:30 AM and Clinton Park & Ride at 9:15 AM.

A deposit of \$20.00 is needed by April 9, 2017 to guarantee a seat and final payment is due by August 13, 2017. Contact Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260 or Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530 for further information.

ITALIAN NIGHT

Baden students, parents/guardians, relatives, staff, and community members are invited to Italian Night (2017 Baden Elementary Annual Italian Dinner & Silent Auction) Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM. "Baden's Got Talent" show starts at 5:45 PM. The location is Baden Volunteer Fire Department, Baden, Maryland. We are in desperate need of volunteers for this event. Middle school and high school students can get community hours.

Menu includes spaghetti, plain sauce, meat sauce, meat lasagna, cheese lasagna, fettuc-

cine alfredo, salad, bread and dessert. You will be able to enter the raffle for a chance to win a bike, and other great prizes.

The cost is \$5.00 per person for Baden PTA members and students. The cost is \$7.00 per person for non PTA members. Children 2 and under eat free. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

2017 MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

We won! Our Bowie State University Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team captured a 62-54 CIAA Championship Victor over the Fayetteville State Broncos at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, NC. Congratulations to the staff, coaches and team.

BOWIE STATE DANCE CONCERT

Join us for an evening of dance and movement performances Friday, March 31, 7:30 PM. General admission cost is \$12. Students, faculty staff pay \$7.00, and children \$5.00. Location is Fine and Performing Arts Center, Movement Studio Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland. Event contact is Bob Bartlett 301-860-3769.

Neighborhoods

Pedestrians Walk With Caution on One Of the Most Walkable Cities in the USA

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Washington, D.C. ranks as one of the top ten most walkable cities in the entire nation, rising to fifth place in the rankings, with a score of 73, and it has the "second highest percentage of walking commute trips of U.S. cities at 11.9%." Two years ago, more than half—54 percent—of the public sidewalks in the nation's capital was considered in "fair or poor condition." In a remarkable feat, it is projected to drop to 14 percent in 2016. But it can be a perilous journey on foot across town or down the block on some sidewalks in the city. Recently, a pedestrian from out of town tripped on a raised sidewalk paver in front of a bank on the corner of 13th Street NW and G Street NW. In addition to bloodying his nose after falling head-first, the pedestrian was rushed to a local hospital in an ambulance due to possible fall-related trauma to his head, eyewitnesses tell AAA Mid-Atlantic.

With the switch from Daylight Saving Time to standard time Sunday, visibility will be diminished during the evening commute by foot, making it more difficult to see or step over cracked and uneven sidewalks or sunken sidewalk sections, which could cause a pedestrian to stumble and fall. "A ¼-inch change in elevation between sidewalk sections is enough to trip a person, especially as we age and tend to shuffle our feet," safety advocates say. Cracked and uneven sidewalks are a major contributor to trip and fall accidents.

Blond on the sidewalk

In recent months other pedestrians have sustained a broken hip, a damaged shoulder and other broken limbs and fractures allegedly after encountering hazards in sidewalks or after slipping, falling or tumbling face-first on defective public sidewalks. More than half of slip or fall accidents occur on walking surfaces. Though the District is making an unprecedented effort to repair sidewalks, some sidewalks are fraught with cracks, chipped pieces of concrete, "cracked, broken or missing bricks, tree roots pushing up through the sidewalk," or uneven or raised elevations in the pavement. The city is more pro-active in addressing the backlog of sidewalk repairs, pedestrian advocates say. The District's transportation department says it will rid the city of all sidewalks in poor condition within the next two years.

"Look down. Highway users, pedestrians and all afoot and about are urged to report broken public sidewalks right away and to go an extra step and snap photos of neglected public sidewalks and email them to the District government, in addition to calling 311," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Property owners and homeowners in the District are responsible for notifying the proper authorities of any slipping or tripping hazards on sidewalks abutting their property."

A path for people apace. Any delay in sidewalk repairs could result in continued accidental falls, near falls and fall-related injuries. Chances are, every commuter, including motorists,

use public sidewalks at some point in their daily commutes. From end to end, the District has 1,415 miles of sidewalks, the very foundation of its pedestrian network and a key component in the city's transportation system. In Fiscal Year 2015, 15 percent of the sidewalk inventory in the city was rated in "fair or poor condition," and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) promises "after the FY 2016 construction season, the percentage of sidewalks in this condition decreases to 14 percent, and by 2018 there will be no sidewalks in poor condition."

During 2014 just five percent of the city's sidewalk infrastructure was rated in poor condition, accounting for 69.2 sidewalk miles, and 49 percent were rated in fair condition, comprising 688.6 miles of sidewalk. Even so, 104 sidewalk miles were rated in excellent condition, or 7 percent, and 553.2 sidewalk miles were rated in good condition, comprising 39 percent of the total sidewalk miles. In recent years the city government has spent millions of dollars on sidewalk repairs and replacements. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is slated to repair "350 sidewalk segments" in Fiscal Year 2016, which ended September 30, 2016.

DDOT also pledged to spend three times more on sidewalks in Fiscal Year 2015 than it did on average for the previous five years, and the agency plans to spend seven times more in FY 2016, DDOT Director Leif Dormsjo testified on April 8, 2016. For example, the District government allocated \$4,634,236 for sidewalk improvements in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget cycle. The agency reported "about \$4 million have been spent by DDOT in FY 14 for sidewalk repair and replacement addressing approximately 221 locations." In the city's annual operating budget for FY 2016, nearly \$18 million was allocated "to repair uneven sidewalks" and to build missing sidewalk segments, notes the D.C. Pedestrian Advisory Council.

Unintentional falls contribute to an average of 31,959 deaths annually, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns, and they "account for over 8 million hospital emergency room visits, representing the leading cause of visits (21.3%)." Personal injury attorneys say "a sidewalk injury can result in serious harms to the head, face, neck, and hands." As a rule of thumb in the public realm, the District and most states are liable for their negligence in maintaining public streets and the maintenance and repair of cracked and crumbling public sidewalks. Injured pedestrians seeking redress might face an uphill battle proving the District was negligent, or proving the city had been notified beforehand the sidewalk was cracked or had fallen into disrepair before their fall occurred.

Who is responsible for repairing damaged sidewalks, including sidewalks fronting homes and private property? It all depends on the rules of responsibility, and liability, which vary from state to state. Research shows "property owners also pay for sidewalk repairs in

many other states. "A survey of 82 cities in 45 states found that 40 percent of the cities require property owners to pay the full cost of repairing sidewalks, 46 percent share the cost with property owners, and only 13 percent pay the full cost of repairing sidewalks," as urbanist Donald Shoup explained in *Access Magazine*.

"Treat walking like driving, give it your undivided attention," safety advocates say. That means putting down your cell-phone or the electronic device while walking. Sidewalk falls and sidewalk ruptures from tree roots may cause physical injuries to pedestrians. Los Angeles has pledged to "spend 1.5 billion" on sidewalk repairs over a 30 year period, according to the Los Angeles Times. Yet, 1,509 sidewalk injury claims were filed in Los Angeles over a five year period, however, the city only "paid 65 claims—about 4 percent," the KNBC I-Team found in 2014. It reported, "Some of LA's sidewalks are in such dangerous condition that pedestrians have suffered broken noses, shattered kneecaps, and bloodied faces." Even though LA is often legally responsible, the I-Team found, it usually shirks accountability and refuses to pay claims.

BGE Hosts Vocational Teachers to Spotlight Technology at Work and Potential Career Paths

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) hosted 25 teachers from Baltimore City vocational-technical high schools during its second annual Smart Energy Workforce Development Innovation Day. The teachers spent their professional development day learning about the real-world career opportunities available to their students.

"In order to build a pipeline of qualified, local talent, we are committed to making sure students in Baltimore City are prepared for the many opportunities we have at BGE to build a long and rewarding career," said David Vosvick, BGE's vice president of human resources. "By connecting with teachers at our partner schools, we're innovating to help meet our rapidly-changing needs while also supporting the local community."

Company leaders will provide an overview of BGE projects, recent innovations and current uses for technology in daily operations. Additional discussion will focus on the company's Smart Energy Workforce Development program. This program features innovative approaches to improve pass rates of the industry standard Construction and Skilled Trades test and provides multiple opportunities for students to learn how they can prepare for a career in their trade.

Teachers from Baltimore's Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School (Mervo), Carver Vocational-Technical High School, Edmondson-Westside High School and Green Street Academy attended. Their students study computer aided design, automotive maintenance, pre-engineering, electrical construction and carpentry.

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Rental Properties Can Make Good Investments, But They Come With Risk

Maybe your financial house is in order. Your debt is manageable or paid off. You have an emergency fund and now you're looking for ways to grow your wealth. Or, perhaps you're planning ahead by learning about different investment options. Have you considered becoming a landlord?



Rent prices tend to rise over time, providing an inflation-protected income into your retirement years. You also might be able to cash in big later if the unit's value increases. It doesn't always work out that way, though. Some landlords wind up with a trashed property after evicting a tenant or lose their savings in a natural disaster.

In between the extremes of easy, hands-off income and total ruin are the everyday concerns, benefits and risks that most landlords face.

A few risks you could face as a landlord. Investment property mortgages tend to be a little more difficult and costly to secure than primary residence mortgages. It can also be harder to take cash out of investment properties—either with a cash-out refinance or a home equity line of credit. In other words, you might not have access to the money during an emergency.

Owning a rental property outright can be risky as well. Especially if you're placing a significant amount of your savings in a single investment, the lack of diversification could put you in a precarious situation.

Those aren't the only risks you could face when owning a rental.

- **Finding and keeping good tenants.** Landlords learn from experience that it's worth leaving their rental empty for a month or two rather than pay for an eviction or expensive repairs later. You can pay for professional tenant screening reports or credit reports and call applicants' references before offering a lease.
- **Covering your expenses.** Between taxes, insurance, repairs, maintenance and mortgage payments the monthly and one-off costs can quickly stack up. Some landlords lose money because their rental income doesn't cover their expenses, but they won't be able to attract tenants if they raise it. If the housing and rental markets drop, you could be stuck losing money each month or selling the property at a loss.
- **The time or cost of managing a rental property.** Becoming a landlord is often far from a hands-off job. When the phone rings in the middle of the night because the roof is leaking, you'll need to figure out how to solve the problem. You may be able to hire a property management company to take on this work for you, but they often charge about 8 to 12 percent of your rental income or a flat monthly fee.

Even with the risk involved, there are countless examples of successful landlords. Many find the experience so rewarding that they purchase additional investment properties.

Set yourself up for financial success. What separates the successful and sorrow-filled landlords? Luck certainly comes into play, but you can also take steps to get started on the right foot.

Try to determine a property's capitalization rate, the estimated annual return, before making an offer. To calculate the capitalization rate, divide the annual net income by the property's purchase price.

Your net income will be your rental income, which you can approximate based on rental prices for similar properties, minus your costs, such as maintenance, upgrades, vacancies and emergencies. You may need to consult an accountant to understand how your new tax situation can affect your costs.

Cap rates tend to change depending on the area and type of property. But regardless of what's considered "good" in your area, you can use this formula to compare different investment opportunities.

Bottom line: Many people focus on the positives of owning investment property. An extra income and potential to build equity with their tenants' money seems too good to be true, and it just might be. If you're going to be successful, you should acknowledge the risks that come with the territory and plan accordingly.

BGE from A2

The Smart Energy Workforce Development program was created in April 2015 to develop a qualified, diverse pipeline of applicants from areas in and around Baltimore City for BGE's Utility Trainee (UT) position. In 2016, BGE:

- Hosted 25 teachers during its first Innovation Day.

- Provided more than 40 organizations with BGE's CAST Test Preparation Course and train-the-trainer workshops to prepare these organizations' instructors for leading the course.
- Hosted inaugural class of 13 high school interns from Mervo and Green Street Academy.
- Hosted eight field trips for nearly 150 students.

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Wells Fargo Commits to Increase African American Homeownership

Goal to Advance Responsible Homeownership Includes \$60 Billion in Lending to Create a Projected 250,000 Homeowners in 10 years

By PRESS OFFICER BPRW

ATLANTA, GA—Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC), the leading U.S. home loan lender, today announced a \$60 billion lending commitment to create at least 250,000 African American homeowners by 2027.

The company's commitment is a direct action to help address the lower homeownership rates in the African American community and follows Wells Fargo's announcement to address Hispanic homeownership rates in 2015. Wells Fargo's commitment seeks to:

- Lend \$60 billion to qualified African American consumers for home purchases by 2027,
- Increase the diversity of the Wells Fargo Home Lending sales team, and
- Support the effort with \$15 million to support a variety of initiatives that promote financial education and counseling over the next ten years.

"Wells Fargo's \$60 billion lending goal can contribute to economic growth by making responsible homeownership possible for more African Americans in communities across the country," said Brad Blackwell, executive vice president and head of housing policy and homeownership growth strategies for Wells Fargo. "We are proud to be the first mortgage lender to make a public commitment to help increase African American homeownership. And, we are grateful for the support of key housing and civil rights organizations, who work alongside us to increase economic prosperity in our communities."

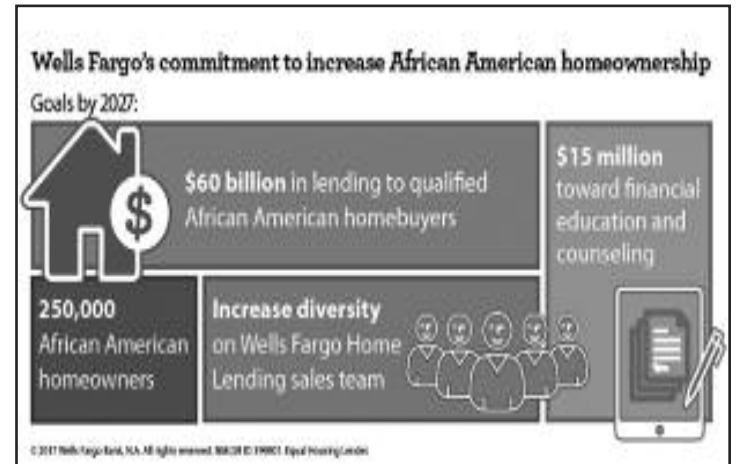
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2024, 75 percent of the expected 14 million new households (renters and owners) in the U.S. will be diverse. African Americans are projected to represent 17 percent, or the third largest segment, of

the new households. Joining Wells Fargo in the effort are the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (composed of African American real estate professionals), which has also set a homeownership goal, and two of the nation's most influential civil rights organizations, the NAACP and the National Urban League. The National Urban League provides homebuyer education and counseling through its network of affiliate offices across the country.

"NAREB applauds Wells Fargo's \$60 billion loan commitment. The bank is the first financial institution to acknowledge publicly Black Americans' wealth-building potential which could be greatly improved through homeownership," said Ron Cooper, president, National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB). "NAREB welcomes their entry into the struggle to close the ever-widening wealth gap for Black Americans, and looks forward to having Wells Fargo as a partner in NAREB's '2 Million New Black Homeowners in 5 Years' program. Let us all work together and grow this initiative which represents a solid and meaningful start for more Black Americans to become homeowners and wealth-builders."

The African American lending commitment is the second initiative from the company's Housing Policy and Homeownership Growth Strategies group, a Wells Fargo Home Lending team advancing homeownership for minorities, first-time homebuyers and low- to moderate-income customers. In 2015, the team announced an agreement with the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals to support their Hispanic Wealth Project.

"Homeownership has become an indispensable part of being a full participant in American society," National Urban



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League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said. "An erosion of homeownership rates among African Americans represents not only a devastating financial loss but a barrier to full participation in the American dream."

In addition, according to NAREB's 2016 commissioned study, "The State of Housing in Black America," housing finance industry barriers such as credit-scoring models, the lack of affordable housing inventory and economic constraints like unemployment and under-employment contribute to low homeownership among African Americans. In addition, barriers to homeownership in black communities include the costs associated with accessing mortgage credit, limited funds for down payment and lender averseness to extend credit to consumers with lower credit scores and smaller down payments. Additional research concludes that the lack of exposure to generations of long-term homeownership and the persistence of myths about homebuying may keep future homebuyers on the fence.

Despite these factors, Wells Fargo has learned through a series of consumer surveys with Ipsos Public Affairs that African Americans view homeownership positively. According to the 2016

survey, 90 percent of African Americans say homeownership is a "dream come true," 79 percent say it's essential for building families and 51 percent are considering buying a home in the next two years.

Wells Fargo offers a number of home financing choices for a wide range of homebuying needs. For example, yourFirst MortgageSM has a homebuyer education incentive and offers a down payment as low as 3 percent for fixed-rate loans; for veterans, a VA loan requires no down payment; and Wells Fargo is the exclusive provider of the Union Plus mortgage program, which offers benefits for most union members and their families. There are also low down payment options for jumbo loan customers.

The Neighborhood LIFT program, celebrating its 50th event on March 3, 2017, offers down payment assistance and homebuyer education to low- and moderate-income homebuyers, and has created more than 13,000 homeowners since 2012. There are still LIFT dollars available in some markets. Learn more at www.NeighborhoodLIFT.com.

For more information or to speak with a home mortgage consultant, consumers can call 1-877-937-9357.

Waterfowl from A1

Canvasback ducks, which use the Chesapeake Bay as a winter migration destination, have a "strong connection" to the bay, Sebastian said in an email.

"Historically, the bay supported more than half of the continental population of canvasbacks during winter. ... Groups of people will gather near Cambridge, Maryland, along the Choptank River to see large flocks of birds."

Today, the largest threat to the birds is the "deterioration of water quality in North America," Sebastian added.

The ducks' preferred food, sub-aquatic vegetation, is be-

coming scarce in the Chesapeake and, as a result, they are beginning to shift their migration patterns further south into the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Diminishing water quality in the 1970s led to a significant drop in the number of canvasback ducks in the area, Lisanti said.

"They disappeared. We didn't have a lot of them," Lisanti said. "Now that the bay is turned around with a lot of our environmental regulations that have taken hold they've come back. (Canvasback ducks) are not only a symbol of our past but they are also a resilience symbol of the health of our bay."

In 1955 and 1956, the bay held 54 percent of all the can-

vasbacks in the country, according to data from the annual mid-winter survey conducted in January by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2014, the bay held just 26 percent of U.S. canvasbacks, while in 2015 the bay held 12 percent.

Data from year to year is not directly comparable because the count of the migratory birds is affected by a number of factors, including weather conditions.

According to Josh Homyack, a waterfowl project leader the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the mid-winter survey has been conducted since the mid-1950s and is normally carried out by states on behalf of the federal

government. Homyack said that the data should not be compared year to year but rather examined as five- to 10-year trends.

The traditional annual survey used for the species count of canvasbacks is normally taken in their northern breeding grounds, throughout the northern Plains, Canada and Alaska, during the summer.

Giving these ducks state symbol status would not affect conservation efforts, Lisanti added.

The next step for the bill, for which Lisanti hopes to garner bipartisan support, is a hearing before the House committee on Health and Government Operations. A hearing had not yet been scheduled as of Friday afternoon.

Museum from A1

drives to knitting for the Red Cross to holding dances and dinners, to grappling with problems of electricity, houses of ill-fame and liquor, the town of less than 3000 became involved in the war effort.

The Laurel Museum's current exhibit: *Laurel's World War I: From Here to Over There* focuses on all these activities, and looks at the aftermath of the April 6 entry into the world-wide conflict. The Laurel Museum will be open from April 6 from 6

p.m.—7:00pm prior to the program. Admission to the museum is free.

The Laurel Historical Society is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel. The Laurel Museum is regularly open Wednesdays and Fridays 10am–2pm; Sundays 1–4pm. The John Calder Brennan research library is open by appointment. For more information, visit the website at www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org. To arrange an appointment or special tour contact: info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or contact them at 301-725-7975. ##



PHOTO COURTESY LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION
Laurel resident Carroll Thies on a motorcycle.

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Statement at the Nomination Hearing of Rod Rosenstein

WASHINGTON, DC—Today U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen introduced Rod Rosenstein at his Senate Judiciary Committee nomination hearing for Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

“Thank you Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein for the opportunity to join Senator Cardin in supporting Rod Rosenstein’s nomination to become Deputy Attorney General. Throughout his 27-year career, Rod has earned a reputation as a fair and focused administrator of justice. As a result, he has served in both Republican and Democratic administrations and has earned the distinction of being the longest-serving U.S. Attorney in the country today.

“Rod has not only aggressively prosecuted dangerous gangs and criminals in Maryland, but also elected officials who violated the public’s trust. He has shown impartiality in these investigations, and his successful prosecutions have led to ethics reforms that increased transparency and public confidence in Maryland.

“In addition to being a top-notch lawyer, he is known for the professional manner in which he runs his current office. In his letter of support, Maryland’s Attorney General Brian Frosh notes that Rod ‘inherited an office in turmoil’ when he became Maryland’s U.S. Attorney, but with a ‘steady hand and superb management’ created a department that is now universally respected.

“Those skills will be put to the test in the coming months.

“It is no secret that Rod is before this Committee at a tumultuous time for the Department of Justice. His job will be to serve justice, not political leaders.

“As Rod and I discussed yesterday, the ultimate question is the same one that Senator Sessions posed

to Sally Yates during her hearing as the nominee to be Deputy Attorney General, when he said, ‘You have to watch out because people will be asking you to do things you just need to say no about’ and went on to ask, ‘Do you think the Attorney General has the responsibility to say no to the President if he asks for something that’s improper?’

“Like Sally Yates, Rod Rosenstein said he would be willing to put his job on the line to uphold the integrity of the Department of Justice.

“Mr. Chairman, I believe that any investigation into the ties between the Trump Administration and Russian interference in our elections will require the appointment of an independent Special Counsel, and I have also joined Senator Cardin in calling for a non-partisan Commission.

“I also made clear to Rod that—if the FBI Director has, in fact, requested that the Justice Department deny President Trump’s unsubstantiated claims about the Obama Administration wiretapping of Trump Tower—then the Department of Justice has a duty to immediately let the public know the truth.

“I think we would all agree that it is vitally important that the American public has faith that our laws apply equally to all Americans, regardless of rank or position. Rod Rosenstein has applied that principle faithfully during his time as U.S. Attorney in Maryland.

“It is essential that the same principle apply at the Department of Justice.

“Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the future holds on these issues of great importance to our democracy. I do know that Rod Rosenstein has a record and reputation of serving justice.

“I also want to express our gratitude to Rod’s wife, Lisa, and his daughters Julie and Allison for joining us today, and for their family’s commitment to public service.”



The Prince George's Ballroom

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S BALLROOM

The Prince George's Ballroom features a grand art deco ballroom and a large brick patio with breathtaking views of the adjoining golf course and distant hills. The Ballroom, with its spectacular wood floors, brass chandeliers and french doors leading to a contemporary sun porch, is an excellent venue for weddings, receptions, and corporate meetings and seminars. The peaceful atmosphere, gorgeous sunsets over the adjoining hills, and lush surrounding woodlands offer the perfect setting for any event. Amenities include tables and chairs, a large commercial warming kitchen, ample free parking, and wheelchair accessibility. Licensed and insured caterers accepted. For fees and availability, please call 301-341-7439.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Pursuing Justice in America for Lent

The brilliant lawyer and author of the critically important book *Just Mercy* Bryan Stevenson said, “We have to judge how we’re doing in America, not by looking at how we treat the rich and the popular and the famous. You have to judge how you’re doing in a country like ours not by how you treat the privileged and the rich but by how you treat the poor and the incarcerated and the condemned.” None of us must be deterred by the fierce thunder and lightning of powerful political forces trampling our American values and the survival needs of our struggling poor children and neighbors. A multi-front radical war against children, the poor, people with disabilities, women, immigrants, refugees and other vulnerable people is underway. Never has there been a more urgent time to combat fear and confusion, stand together and fearlessly demand just treatment for all.

A nation-threatening toxic cocktail of poverty, racial disparities, poor education and racially unjust zero tolerance school discipline policies, and discriminatory arrests and sentencing fuels America’s costly Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis and morally indefensible and unjust mass incarceration system which funnel millions of poor children and adults of color into dead-end lives.

- Black children are over seven times more likely to have an incarcerated parent compared to White children.
- Black youths are more than twice as likely as White peers to be arrested.
- Zero tolerance discipline policies push Black students out of school each day in America fueling the pipeline.
- The U.S. spends over three times more per prisoner than per public school student.
- Black citizens are less than 13 percent of the U.S. population but 42 percent of the 2,905 people currently on death row.
- One innocent person on death row is identified and exonerated for every nine people executed in America. The death penalty kills innocent people.

On March 1, Ash Wednesday began the holy season of Lent. Rooted in the ancient Jewish tradition, Christians celebrate Lent

as a time for penance, fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. In Washington, D.C. a new art installation opened on the lawn in front of the United Methodist Building (100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.) facing the U.S. Supreme Court. Created by gentle gifted artist, former death row prisoner and passionate advocate for justice, Ndume Olatushani, this interactive exhibit is the first stop on the unique *Stations of the Cross* exhibition at 14 locations across our capital city ending at the National Cathedral. It tells the story of the Passion of Christ in a powerful new way for people of all faiths and seeks to remind us of Jesus’s question when He was on the cross, “Why have you forsaken me?”

Ndume came to work at the Children’s Defense Fund in 2012 as an organizer in Nashville, Tennessee after nearly 28 years in prison, 20 of them on death row, until proving he’d been wrongly convicted. During those prison years Ndume became a fine self-taught artist. In this installation Ndume tells his story—a Cradle to Prison Pipeline story—mirroring countless stories of other poor children, youths and adults of color unjustly snared by our

morally flawed criminal justice system. They are the names and faces and lives behind the statistics. They also often mirror the biblical story of Jesus who faced trumped up charges of rebelling against the Roman Empire and was condemned to die on the cross.

The exhibition’s website describes the installation this way: “Standing before Pilate, Jesus is mostly silent as he is condemned to death. Rather than incriminate Jesus, this silence indicts the system that charges him, magnifying the injustice at play. Ndume Olatushani’s art at the United Methodist Building reflects this theme ... A four-by-nine-foot cage, orange jumpsuits, and sign posts draw attention to injustice in varying forms, including wrongful conviction, disproportionate punishment, racial bias, and systemic mass incarceration. The setting of the United Methodist Building, a religious center for justice, sharpens the critique. Facing the Supreme Court, the art installation issues a challenge as with Jesus in Pilate’s court, justice revealed not as a matter of ab-

See WATCH, Page A8

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Repeat Offense: Private Prisons Resurrection Represents Pay-To-Play

“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”

—Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian Novelist, *The House of the Dead*, 1862

Twenty-four hours after the election of Donald Trump as this nation’s 45th president, the stock prices of privately run prisons in this country soared. And this reversal of fortune came as no surprise to private prison operators—or criminal justice reform advocates. With Trump in the White House, privately owned prison companies rightly presumed that they had a staunch ally of their business model and motives in 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

As a candidate, Trump publically praised and supported private prisons. During a town hall meeting, Trump said, “I do think we can do a lot of privatization and private prisons. It seems to work a lot better.” With his appointment of Jeff Sessions—a well-known criminal justice hardliner—as attorney general, his words of praise and support would inevitably transform into the torrent of policies we have been confronted with since his inauguration that absolutely reverse hard fought for strides in criminal justice reform.

Only six months ago, private prison operators were fighting for their fiscal survival after Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates issued a memo in August that directed the Federal Bureau of Prisons to phase out its use and reliance on private prisons. Yates’ memorandum was issued on the heels of a report that concluded private prisons provided limited cost savings—if any; that they were less safe for both inmates and prison staff than in federally run prisons; and, that due to a number of policy initiatives—including reducing excessive drug offense sentencing guidelines for low-level drug de-

fendants—the number of people in federal prisons has been on a decline over the last four years, eliminating the need for private prisons.

Yet, the stock prices of the two largest private prison operators, CoreCivic (formerly known as the Corrections Corporation of America) and Geo Group, have skyrocketed since Election Day. CoreCivic, which donated \$250,000 to Trump’s inauguration events, has seen its share prices shoot up 140 percent. Geo Group, which also donated \$250,000 towards Trump’s inaugural events, along with another \$225,000 donated by a Geo Group subsidiary to a pro-Trump super PAC, has seen a near 100 percent rise in its share prices. The corporations even enjoyed another profit boosting bump after Sessions’ Senate confirmation.

If the fortunes of private prison operators are direct reflections of the harshness or equitableness of our nation’s criminal justice policies, then it is safe to assume that the Trump administration means to put into effect policies that make America’s federal prisons full again.

Private prison operators stand at the ready to profit from policies that embrace large-scale incarceration. CoreCivic and Geo Group both stand to profit mightily from increased immigration enforcement. Not only do both companies run the majority of for-profit prisons, but they also own facilities used to detain undocumented immigrants. Last year, over 60 percent of Homeland Security detainees were reportedly held in privately owned prisons. Trump has also called for the construction of more jails along the Mexico/United States border to accommodate the expected upsurge in our nation’s detainee population. Recently, the White

See PAY-TO-PAY Page A5

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Retirement Can Sometimes Bring Relationship Issues

Retirement is something most couples look forward to. It can mean more free time and the chance to do more things you've both been anticipating.

But sometimes retirement can bring changes that add significant stress to a marriage. One reason is that many people fail to realize that retirement means more than simply not working. Retirement usually brings major changes not just to the retiree, but to his or her spouse as well.

One such change is the loss of identity that often comes with leaving a job. Upon retirement, you are suddenly no longer a "teacher," or "department manager," or whatever job description that you probably had for several years. Since our society tends to value work and job titles, when you're no longer working it's not uncommon to feel a sense of diminished self-worth because you are no longer "doing something of value."

The result can sometimes be serious depression, especially for someone who has been dedicated to a job and hasn't developed many friends or interests outside the workplace. Such depression can bring health problems and certainly add stress to a marriage and possibly lead to meaningful relationship issues.

Retirement financial stresses can also be a source of marital stress. For most people, retirement income seldom matches those old work paychecks, yet expenses of travel or medical issues might be significantly higher.

Even the extra time together that retirement makes possible can be a source of stress. Someone newly retired may interrupt the established daily routine of his or her spouse, expecting to be the center of attention now that going to work is behind him or her. In some cases that extra time together may highlight marriage problems that were more easily ignored when work kept the couple separated for much of the day.

Retirement doesn't always bring stress and problems to a marriage. Most couples handle retirement and the changes it brings extremely well. But if there are warning signs that retirement is putting a strain on your relationship, seek help if the problems are serious.

There are professional counselors who specialize in retirement and relationship issues. The ACA website at www.counseling.org can help you find a professional counselor through the "Find A Counselor" tab at the top. What they have to offer can help make possible a relationship in which the partners are not just retired, but also happy and satisfied.

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

Pay-to-Play from A4

House signaled "greater enforcement" of federal laws against recreational marijuana use, which could translate into greater numbers of inmates in our federal prisons.

All it took was a one-paragraph memorandum addressed to the acting director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, for Sessions to reverse the previous administration's directives on for-profit prisons: "I hereby rescind the memorandum dated August 18, 2016, sent to you by former Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates, entitled 'Reducing our Use of Private Prisons.'" In that memorandum, former DAG Yates directed "that, as each contract reaches the end of its term, the Bureau should either decline to renew that contract or substantially reduce its scope in a manner consistent with law and the overall decline of the Bureau's inmate population." The memorandum changed long-standing policy and practice, and impaired the Bureau's ability to meet the future needs of the federal correctional system. Therefore, I direct the Bureau to return to its previous approach."

This 14-word statement of rationale should send a chill down your spine: "impaired the Bureau's ability to meet the future needs of the federal correctional system." You may diverge from Sessions on policy, but you cannot fault his logic. As long as we the people complacently allow the Trump administration to criminalize and harshly penalize low-level crimes, and engage in the mass arrests and detention of undocumented immigrants in our name, the administration will need the extra bed space to warehouse all those bodies.

NABJ from A1

newspapers, one digital news magazine, an online radio show and a television program.

She is especially proud of her work with the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists Urban Journalism Workshop, where she has made an impact on aspiring journalists from middle school to age 55.

Smith, a Florida A&M University graduate, previously served two terms as NABJ Regional VII Director. She is the president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists.

"I am excited about the opportunity to once again serve NABJ at the national level. This is a critical time when the successful execution of

NABJ's strategic plan is necessary and the industry is rapidly evolving," said Smith.

The organization's former Secretary Sherlon Christie stepped down for family reasons.

"I wish outgoing NABJ Secretary Sherlon Christie well. He is a longtime supportive member and strong leader. I hope to see him on the NABJ board again in the future," said Glover.

About the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ):

An advocacy group established in 1975 in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization for journalists of color in the nation and provides career development as well as educational and other support to its members worldwide.

EDC Collaborates With Small Business Owners Hosting First Latin Small Business Roundtable

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On February 23, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) brought together 20 key business leaders from the County's Latin small business community for a frank conversation about getting connected to resources at the first Latin Small Business Roundtable. During this exclusive meeting, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, along with the EDC's Latin Small Business Liaison Rocio Treminio-Lopez talked to Latin business owners from a variety of industry sectors about how partnering with the EDC can help their businesses grow.

"Prince George's County is truly an international portal to the United States. Its Latin small business community produces millions of dollars in revenue for the County every year," said Coleman. "We are delighted to utilize this Roundtable as the vehicle to partner with the Latin community and connect its businesses to customers, contracts and capital. It is our responsibility as the economic engine of the County to actively engage and support everyone who creates jobs and contributes to our economic success."

The Latin Small Business Roundtable is the brainchild of Ms. Treminio-Lopez, who is also the first Latina mayor of Brentwood. Attendees at this historic



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (center) with Latin Small Business Owners and EDC Staff at conclusion of First Latin Small Business Roundtable.

meeting also included Council Member Deni Taveras, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Angela Franco, and Salvadorian American Chamber of Commerce President Carlos Romero. Each of them were impressed with the Roundtable and appreciated seeing the EDC collaborating with the Latin business community to help them navigate the local business agencies, network to bring in new business and connect to the talent pool of County residents that makes their companies thrive. For many of the business owners in attendance, it was their first time coming to this type of a County forum.

"Connecting the community with the County's resources is one of my primary goals," said Treminio-Lopez. "Through my

work in the community, I am well aware of the services that businesses are in need of, regardless of ethnicity. I see my role as being the connector; I enjoy connecting local companies to the resources they need to be successful. Because when they are successful, Prince George's County is successful."

According to the U.S. Census, 17.2% the population in Prince George's County are of Latin descent. The EDC realizes the significance of the contributions of the Latino business community and has instituted a policy of making its value proposition available in both English and Spanish to reach a larger audience. Attendees of the Roundtable were appreciative to learn that the EDC not only an economic engine but is also culturally aware.

"I appreciate the leadership and partnership the Latino community has with Jim Coleman and the EDC Team. They really understand the importance of the Latino business community in the greater Prince George's County economic development spectrum," said Taveras. "Producing a presentation in Spanish signifies their cultural appropriateness and breeds trust that will benefit local businesses for years to come. This was a great event."

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact Rocio Treminio-Lopez (RTreminio-Lopez@co.pg.md.us) or contact Pradeep Ganguly (pganguly@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650 or visit the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation website at www.pgcdec.com.



CREATING RAIN GARDENS THAT ARE EASY TO LOVE

WORKSHOP FEE:
\$20
/per person
(includes a light lunch)

This workshop is for contractors and homeowners who want to learn to create their own rain gardens that remove pollutants from stormwater runoff, provide habitat for pollinators and benefit the environment.

The workshop will cover the basics of rain garden design, construction and maintenance. A brief presentation on Prince George's County's Rain Check Rebate Program will be given by a member of the County's Department of the Environment.

Join us to create a rain garden that will delight everyone who sees it for years to come.

**SATURDAY
MARCH 25**

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Colmar Manor Community Center
3701 Lawrence St.
Colmar Manor, MD 20722




For more information contact: Port Towns Community Health Partnership (240) 366-7542 or placematterspgc@gmail.com

REGISTER ONLINE @
<http://tinyurl.com/beautifulraingardens>






OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Call Me by Your Name

Call Me by Your Name

Grade: A-

Not Yet Rated.

will end up being rated R for a little profanity, brief nudity, some strong sexuality
2 hr., 10 min

Call Me by Your Name, a gay coming-of-age romance set at an Italian villa in the summertime (the best possible location for such a story), isn't sexual so much as hormonal. It's not about doin' it; it's about wanting to do it, about discovering what "it" even is. Drenched in sunlight, the movie is filled with warmth (and hotness), devoid of sappy melodrama but rich with honest emotion that transcends boundaries of sexual orientation. This romance may not have the physical features of the ones you've had, but you've probably felt this longing.

It is 1983. Oliver (Armie Hammer), a strapping twentysomething grad student who looks like Armie Hammer, arrives at the summer home of Prof. Perlman (Michael Stuhlbarg), his wife (Amira Casar), and their 17-year-old son, Elio (Timothée Chalamet). The Perlmans are multicultural polymaths, fluent in a few languages, well-monied and socially liberal, affectionate as a family. Elio, a willowy, introverted teen, is typically bored with the students who come to work with his father each summer, but he's fascinated by Oliver's casual confidence and simultaneously put off by his cockiness.

Whatever Oliver's personal proclivities might be (we aren't given any backstory), he and Elio both behave like everyone else, dancing and flirting with local girls at parties, reading books while lounging poolside in their swim trunks. They become friends, of a sort, though Elio is unsure how deep that friendship is, whether Oliver views him as a peer or as his



ROTTENTOMATOES

It's the summer of 1983, in the north of Italy, and Elio Perlman, (Timothée Chalamet) a 17-year-old American-Italian boy spends his days in his family's 17th century villa lazily transcribing music and flirting with his friend Marzia (Esther Garrel). One day Oliver, (Armie Hammer) a charming, 24-year-old American scholar working on his doctorate arrives as the annual summer intern tasked with helping Elio's father (Michael Stuhlbarg), an eminent professor specializing in Greco-Roman culture. Amidst the sun-drenched splendor of this sensual setting, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever.

professor's kid. Through the summer, Elio simmers.

It all leads more or less where you'd expect it to, but director Luca Guadagnino (*I Am Love*, *A Bigger Splash*), working from André Aciman's novel, lets it develop naturally, building on glances, implications, and indirect acknowledgments. Guadagnino's co-writer and producer is James Ivory, of the august Merchant-Ivory label, and his restraining influence can be felt. Elio and Oliver (and the other guests) are often wearing nothing but shorts, as is seasonally appropriate, so even incidental physical contact has an added charge, and their legs and torsos are lovingly photographed by cinematographer Sayombhu

Mukdeeprom. But the film's sexual activity is discreet, not exploitative, and the film leaves much unsaid. The word "gay" and its synonyms are never spoken. Any lengthy, angsty conversations Oliver and Elio may have about their secret love and the consequences of revealing it are held out of our hearing.

In that respect, *Call Me by Your Name* is different from many gay-relationship films, where the central conflict is that the relationship exists. Oliver and Elio's liaison is certainly problematic—it's a conflict—but the primary struggle is within Elio. To that end, Timothée Chalamet (who was 20 when the film was shot) gives an astonishingly sensi-

tive performance, capturing the awkwardness and exuberance of unexpected love with devastating accuracy. Armie Hammer, who's seldom been given an opportunity to shine, also does good work, adding a layer of tenderness to his foundation of natural charisma.

And then there's Michael Stuhlbarg, coming through with a closing speech that encapsulates, with perfect clarity and insight, the themes of this beautiful, deeply erotic film. It's an ode to love in all its forms, to the very idea of Love as an essential part of humanity that we should grab onto whenever it finds us. That the story happens to involve absurdly good-looking people is just icing on the peach.

Trump from A1

And although the address had a markedly more optimistic tone than the one Trump delivered at his inauguration, Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Kensington, said he remained disappointed.

"The tone of the speech was slightly improved from what we saw in the inaugural address, which was full of 'American carnage' and blood and gore and violent imagery, so that's mildly reassuring," Raskin said in a CNS interview, "but the basic conceptual infrastructure of that speech still had Steve Bannon's imprint all over it."

For Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, the speech sounded more like it belonged on the campaign trail.

"What the American public needs is good policy, not good rhetoric," Hoyer said in a video posted to Twitter shortly after the address.

Despite criticism from Maryland's Democrats, the delegation's sole Republican said Trump "hit all the right buttons" in his address.

"The president moved from campaign mode into presidential mode and I think it was obvious," Rep. Andy Harris, R-Cockeysville, said on WBAL Radio's "News Now" Wednesday morning. "We've all been waiting to see that ... I just

hope the Democrats and Republicans reach across the aisle and work together to promote what the president talked about last night."

One of the primary concerns among Maryland Democrats was the absence of solid domestic policy proposals from Trump's speech, particularly in relation to issues like infrastructure, job creation and health care.

"He has failed to put forward an economic plan or offer a concrete proposal for sustained job creation," Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., said in a statement. "And he failed to drain the swamp in Washington, instead installing Wall Street billionaires in his Cabinet and failing to address serious questions about his campaign's relationship—and his personal business ties—with Russia."

Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Towson, called for "steady leadership, not another round of empty promises."

"The president was long on salesmanship and short on concrete proposals that will help hardworking Americans," he said.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Baltimore, echoed the sentiment, adding that the "state of the union" he sees each day is one of fear and uncertainty.

"The American people are waiting on President Trump to keep his promises," Cummings

said in a statement. "Where is his alternative to the Affordable Care Act that will provide even better and more affordable health care for everyone? Where is his plan to invest in our nation's infrastructure? Where is his plan to help Americans living in urban areas like Baltimore?"

Trump called on Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act during his speech, asking both parties to "save Americans from this imploding Obamacare disaster." He laid out five principles he said should drive the creation of a new healthcare system.

But his failure to elaborate on the details of any replacement plan worried Brown.

"He's had 120 days since Election Day to put together his plan to expand access to health care to more and more Americans," he said. So far, he added, there have been no signs of a concrete plan for a new coverage system.

In the audience sat Ola Ojewumi, a community organizer and women's health advocate. Hoyer invited the Beltsville, Maryland, resident to be his guest at the address.

Ojewumi received a heart and kidney transplant when she was a child. Late in life, she was diagnosed with cancer and "had it not been for the (Affordable Care Act), Ola would

have been uninsurable," Hoyer said in a statement.

The healthcare bill enabled Ojewumi to stay on her parents' insurance until she was 26 years old.

"I hope that Ola's story and those of other constituents attending the address will remind Republicans of the harmful impact that repeal would have on Americans across the country," Hoyer said.

Rep. John Delaney, D-Potomac, posted a video to Facebook after the speech, pointing out that Trump didn't mention the "elephant in the room: the situation with Russia." The omission seemed glaring to other members of the congressional delegation as well.

"The president talks about countries respecting our sovereignty and then doesn't even mention Russia's attack on our free, democratic system," Sen. Ben Cardin, the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a video posted to Twitter.

Raskin also thought there was something missing.

"He could have spent the entire address apologizing to all the judges and members of Congress and citizens that he has maligned and vilified," he said. "There was no apology and there was no real plan for economic progress for people who have been left behind."

Tips and Tricks for Successful Entertaining

How Fake News Might Affect Your Favorite Foods



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDPOINT

(BRANDPOINT)—The "certified organic" seal is synonymous with healthy living and clean eating. But what exactly does it mean? And who decides what is or is not certified organic?

In the United States, food is certified organic by the United States Department of Agriculture. The seal verifies that a product has been made with 95 percent "certified organic" ingredients and minimally processed. The remaining 5 percent allows for the use of ingredients that are not organic, but have been approved by the USDA because they are safe and eco-friendly, and have no organic alternative.

These approved additives are reviewed regularly by the USDA, which is currently deciding whether to continue to allow one of them in organics: an essential, natural ingredient called carrageenan.

Carrageenan is made from red seaweed that is sustainably grown and harvested by family farmers in oceans around the world. It is an ingredient in everything from yogurt to infant formula to baked goods, and has been used by home cooks for hundreds of years. The USDA has approved the use of carrageenan in organic foods since 1990.

So why are they considering removing it now? Because of a dangerous trend where the loudest voices, no matter how irrational or bullying, drown out reason and sound science.

Which is just one reason keeping carrageenan in organic foods should be important to everyone who enjoys healthy, safe food that tastes good, too.

Here are a few more:

Because you love the taste of your favorite ice cream, yogurt, almond milk, protein shake ...

If carrageenan isn't allowed in organic foods, many of our favorite products will be changed. Food companies will have to use other ingredients to replace carrageenan—ingredients that are not as natural or safe as red seaweed, and will not produce the same products we know and love.

Because you care what's in your food.

Carrageenan can't be replaced with just one food ingredient, and multiple additives mean longer labels. Carrageenan is GMO-free and made from sustainably harvested seaweed; its replacements are grown from bacteria in a vat or otherwise manmade.

Because babies should be able to eat organic, too!

Carrageenan is the only stabilizing ingredient used in organic liquid infant formula. Removing it means new moms and dads may lose this option for their babies.

Organic foods should be affordable and accessible to everyone.

For many, eating organic is a luxury they can't always afford. Adding multiple ingredients to replace carrageenan means the cost of a product may increase even more. This isn't just bad for you and your wallet; anything that makes organic products less competitive is harmful to the whole industry.

Because carrageenan is essential to vegetarian, halal and kosher foods.

Carrageenan is a plant-based ingredient often used to replace animal fats and gelatin. Without carrageenan, some organic products will no longer be able to meet certain dietary restrictions, or the taste of those foods may suffer.

Because the livelihood of seaweed farmers (and our world) is at risk.

Seaweed is one of the most sustainable crops on the planet, and it's harvested by family farmers in coastal communities around the globe. Growing and harvesting the red seaweed used to make carrageenan requires none of the fertilizers, pesticides or other chemicals used in land-based farming.

This fall, the USDA will make its final decision on the future of carrageenan and its use in organic products. For these reasons and more, it is important that the USDA approves carrageenan for use in organics, making sure organic and nutritious food options are available to everyone.

ADVERTISE! WITH US

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Calendar of Events

March 16 — March 22, 2017

Xtreme Teens: May the Luck of the Irish Be With You

Date and Time: Friday, March 17, 2017, 7–10 pm
 Description: Come join us for a fun night wearing the color green. We will play Irish games, eat green foods, and make up Irish folktales stories.
 Cost: Free with SmartLink ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Good Luck Community Center
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Smoothie Night

Date and Time: Friday, March 17, 2017, 7–10 pm
 Description: Have a smoothie on us! Come out and enjoy music, board games, and video games in the teen center lounge, while enjoying drinks from our nutritious smoothie bar.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Langley Park Community Center
 1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

Thad Wilson Quartet, featuring Vocalist Kristin Callahan

Date and Time: Friday, March 17, 8 pm
 Description: Everyone who has heard Kristin Callahan agrees that her voice is fresh and vibrant, a vocalist to watch for years to come. She appears with incredible trumpeter and bandleader Thad Wilson, who has played with many renowned jazz artists and toured the world, performing in numerous jazz festivals.
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Live Animal Show

Date and Time: Saturday, March 18, 2017, 10–11 am
 Description: Meet the nature center's live animals including reptiles, amphibians, and birds of prey.
 Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4
 Ages: Ages 2 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-699-2544

Wellness: Get Fit Mobile: Bootcamp Pop Up

Date and Time: Saturday, March 18, 2017, 3–5 pm
 Description: Come and join us for a high intensity, personal training style workout specifically designed to build strength and increase endurance.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue Bladensburg, MD
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Human Board Games

Date and Time: Saturday, March 18, 2017, 7–10 pm
 Description: Enjoy a night of Human Tic-Tac-Toe or Human Connect Four! These will be games that will blow your mind.
 Cost: Free with SmartLink ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Good Luck Community Center
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Super Hero Zumba Glow Party

Date and Time: Sunday, March 19, 2017, 2:30 pm–4 pm
 Description: Come dressed as your favorite Super Hero to win prizes and help us celebrate your favorite Zumba Instructor's (Tyra) birthday! Snacks will be provided.
 Cost: Residents: \$5 Non-residents: \$7
 Ages: 6 and up
 Location: Langley Park Community Center
 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-445-4512

Classical Recital: Jooyoung Kim

Date and Time: Sunday, March 19, 2017, 3 pm
 Description: Critically-acclaimed pianist Jooyoung Kim is known for her dazzling technique, superb musicianship, and exquisite artistry. Since making her debut at the age of twelve as a soloist with the Korean Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Kim has presented numerous solo and chamber recitals in Korea, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Russia, and the United States. Following the recital, please join us for a reception sponsored by CAAPA: Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.
 Cost: Free; \$5 donation appreciated
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Put Your Best Fork Forward

Date and Time: Monday, March 20, 5–6 pm
 Description: Put Your Best Fork Forward this March in celebration of National Nutrition Month! Join us for FREE step-by-step cooking demonstrations where you learn how to prepare delicious, healthy meals and snacks, as well as enjoy free food samples! Registration is not required. Class Topic: Nutrition—The Right Balance
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Kentland Community Center
 2413 Pinebrook Ave., Landover, MD
 Contact: 301-386-2278

EARTH TALK ...

Composting in the Kitchen Without the Stink

Dear EarthTalk:

I'd like to get into turning my food waste into compost for my garden, but I don't want a stinky pile of table scraps lingering in a pail in my kitchen or backyard. Are there any new high-tech ways to expedite the process?

—Billy A.,
 San Francisco, CA

Composting is a natural process of recycling food and organic matter and exposing it to oxygen so it can decompose into a nourishing soil amendment. Whether you let your municipality process your food and yard waste into compost, or do it yourself at home, you're doing right by the environment.

The problem with dumping food and plant waste into the regular garbage bin is that it won't decompose in a landfill where it's buried under layers of inorganic matter, unexposed to oxygen. When organic waste is trapped in a landfill it can generate large amounts of groundwater-polluting leachate and potentially flammable methane (a potent greenhouse gas) as bacteria try to break it down in the absence of oxygen.

Given how easy it is to compost these days, it's hard to believe that food and yard waste make up as much as 30 percent of the waste we send to landfills. Luckily if you want to

make your own compost at home or don't have curbside food/yard waste pickup, there are plenty of easy, low-cost ways to get started.

The Epica Stainless Steel Compost Bin is a great way to starting recycling food waste right from your countertop. The Epica's airtight lid and replaceable charcoal filter work together to confine any harsh smells. Another plus is the attractive stainless steel exterior, designed to last a lifetime and warranted against scratches, cracks or chips. And all you need to clean the Epica is water, soap and a sponge.

Other products can speed up the process of making garden-ready compost right in your kitchen. For instance, the Food Cyclor CS-10 (\$299) employs motorized agitators to break down cooked and uncooked food waste into small particles which are then heated and sterilized. The dishwasher-safe, countertop-sized unit makes ready-to-use compost within three hours.

If you want to go even bigger, Zera's new appliance-sized Food Recycler (\$1,199) reduces food waste by over two-thirds its original volume and can handle a week's worth of kitchen scraps. It makes usable compost in 24 hours, and is also connects to your home's wifi network so you can monitor and control it re-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Zera's Food Recycler lives in the kitchen and makes it easy to turn your food waste into garden-ready compost.

motely via an app. Yes, there's even an app for that!

Old-school (outdoor) composters might want to check out Yimby's low-cost, worry-free Tumbler Composter (\$81). Just insert your food scraps and/or yard waste, close the door and turn it manually 5–6 times every 2–3 days. The exterior is a recycled plastic bin with a steel frame, and can stay outside all year in any weather. The Tumbler Composter has a 37 gallon capacity, but takes two weeks or longer to turn your scraps into compost.

Composting is great for fertilizing your home garden, and it's satisfying to make something useful for free out of waste that you would otherwise just discard. However, if you just want

to make a difference but don't need the compost itself, municipal food waste curbside pickup is probably a better way to go. Whether you outsource the compost-making to your town or do it yourself at home, you can feel good that you're doing the right thing by the environment.

CONTACTS: EPA's Composting at Home, www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home; Zera, www.zera.com.

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INTRODUCES

PROTECT THE PRODIGY SUMMIT




Tying the roots of our past to the branches of our future!

TOPICS:

- The Importance of Leveling The Playing Field of Education
- Preparation towards Employment Careers and Success
- Mental Health and STD IQ
- Strengthening Relationships between Law Enforcement and Urban Youth
- Music, Media, Identity and The Message

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
 DARIUS STANTON II

Date: April 15, 2017
TIME: 10AM-3:30PM
PLACE: Seat Pleasant Activity Center (301) 773-6685
 5720 Addison Rd
 Capitol Heights, MD 20743

GUEST PANELIST:
 Jeremy Newkirk, CEO, BeOfficial MG
 Darius Stanton Sr., COO, Men Aiming Higher
 and more....

LUNCH PROVIDED

THE COST: FREE

This event will be for male youths ages 14-21 and free to the community at large. Registration/ RSVP can be made online at https://goo.gl/forms/7x1KMpt6bRH3JR1D3_pTp032017@gmail.com (240) 300-8266 George Hodge or (240) 640-2902 Brian Shivers

