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PG County Promise Scholarship Program Gets Preliminary Approval

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCC

LARGO, MD—Prince MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced, during the March 15, 2017 press conference where he presented his proposed budget for the 2018 fiscal year, a recommendation for \$1.7 million to fund the Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program for recent county high school graduates who enroll at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). The funds are part of the additional \$3.4 million in county appropriations the college is projected to receive from the county and represents a 9.9% increase from the previous fiscal year, for a total of \$38.3 million. Baker's budget still has to be approved by the County Council, which has until May 31 for final approval.

The proposal to create the program originated from legislation approved by Governor Larry Hogan in response to Maryland House Bill 1087, introduced by the Honorable Alonzo Washington, Delegate, District 22. A 16-member task force was later convened to study the feasibility of creating a program that would provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or state financial aid.

Ninety-three percent of the college's students are county residents. Close to 70% of students who attend PGCC require financial aid to meet the cost of education. The students who receive financial aid are generally from low-income households. The largest amount of aid received by PGCC students are through grants, and to help supplement their educational expenses, many students must turn to loans.

"These funds represent a real breakthrough in addressing the challenges that many of our high school aged residents in Prince George's County are facing when considering how they will fund their higher education pursuits," said Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College. "We are excited that the county has recognized that providing access to higher education is a priority and that the college is critical in helping to meet that need."

The task force recommended that the program be a "last-dollar" program, meaning that any funds students receive would cover the costs associated with tuition and mandatory fees that remain after applying all financial resources. But, even in last-dollar programs, students are still burdened with associated costs

See SCHOLARSHIP Page A5



PHOTO COURTESY MARK E. BRADY, PGFD PIO
Seat Pleasant EMT Phil Martin describes his actions as Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Wood and James McClelland, Police Officer Biddy and police officials listen.

Friend and Fellow Volunteer EMT Saves Life of County Police Officer in Carbon Monoxide Incident

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—On March 22, a Seat Pleasant Volunteer EMT received an award from the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department for sav-

ing the life of a longtime friend and fellow volunteer who is also a County Police Officer. Additionally, the Prince George's County Police Department extended its most sincere thanks to Seat Pleasant Volunteer EMT Phil Martin for his

quick and heroic action in helping to get emergency help to one of their officers.

The County Police explained the scenario as in the early morning hours of March 3rd, Police Officer First Class Ricardo Biddy who is also a

Seat Pleasant Volunteer EMT was leaving his firehouse after his shift in his Prince George's County police cruiser. As Biddy pulled up in front of his

See EMT Page A3

PG County Fire/EMS Place Rehabilitation Unit In-Service

By PRESS OFFICER
MDDHCD

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department has placed in service a Rehabilitation Unit. The Rehab Unit is a temperature and atmosphere controlled response vehicle capable of providing medical care at the basic life support level and when available, at the advanced life support level. "Rehab Unit 800" was officially placed in-service on Sunday, January 7, 2017.

The PGFD Rehab unit is a 2016 Pierce manufactured on a Freightliner M2-106 chassis. It is powered by a Cummins ISL engine with 330 HP along with a Detroit 12,000 lb. front axle and Meritor 23,000 lb. rear axle. The Rehab Unit is part of the Department's strategic vehicle replacement program and cost just under \$500,000. The County purchased the unit through Atlantic Emergency Solutions.



PHOTO COURTESY MARK E. BRADY, PGFD PIO

This unit is a specialized asset that may be requested to support a variety of incident types within Prince George's County, the State of Maryland, and the National Capital Region. These incidents may include, but are not limited to, fires, hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) incidents, mass casualty incidents, medical rehabilitation on large scale incidents, alternate care site support, medical surge events, or as a medical treatment area for a large scale planned event. The unit is dispatched automat-

ically to every significant long-duration incident, on all structure fires and whenever requested by an incident commander or EMS officer.

The Rehab Unit's primary function is to provide shelter and basic rehabilitation functions to members of the Fire/EMS Department during working incidents and/or incidents during extreme weather conditions.

See FIRE/EMS Page A3

County Executive Announces \$5.1 Million Investment in Housing Trust Fund

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—In his budget announcement today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III will invest \$5.1 million in the County's Housing Trust Fund (HTF). HTF will support two new programs—the Workforce Housing Gap Financing Program and the Pathway to Purchase Program.

This budget allocates \$2.6 million for the Workforce Housing Gap Financing Program and

will enable the County to support the development of viable, mixed income communities by providing gap financing for the development of decent and quality workforce housing. The budget allocates \$2.5 million for the Pathway to Purchase Program which will provide down payment and closing cost assistance to approximately 150 eligible first-time home buyers to purchase owner occupied or vacant residential properties in the County. The Housing Trust Fund is an affordable housing production program that will

complement existing Federal and State efforts to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, and affordable housing. Mr. Baker's proposed investment will extend Prince George's County's residential market's recovery and expand the stock of workforce housing.

"We are very happy about this announcement today," said Eric C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Commu-

See TRUST FUND Page A6

Bling for Blue Sends Children With Autism to Summer Camp

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—For the first time ever, the Department of Parks and Recreation is sending 36 local children on the autism spectrum to summer camp for free.

The accomplishment is thanks to the spirit and tenacity

of the Department's staff and support from the community.

"Our Zumba instructor wanted to give back to the community," says Jim Bell, a program specialist. "And their thought process was—they had a lot of kids who benefitted from Zumba who were on the autism spectrum. So the kids had been in the Zumba class

and it helped them come out of their shell so to speak. They had a lot of fun."

From there, the "Light it Up Blue for Autism Zumbathon" and the "5K Glow Walk/Run for Autism" were created. The goal of the events is to raise money

See CAMP Page A6

INSIDE

Hogan-Rutherford Announce Major Funding to Combat Heroin and Opioid Crisis in Maryland

The administration has also addressed the crisis at the regional and national levels. In October 2016, the governor signed a regional compact with Virginia and Washington, D.C. leadership to coordinate the region's response to the crisis.

Community, Page A3

Congress: Don't Hurt Children

The American Health Care Act would reverse progress and make many millions of children worse off by depriving them of the comprehensive and affordable child-appropriate coverage they are guaranteed today, jeopardizing their futures and also the nation's future economic and national security.

Commentary, Page A4

Connecting Returning Citizens to Real Freedom and Prosperity

The panel, made up of reentry professionals and returning citizens alike, engaged in a powerful discussion about how Prince George's County can work as a team to ensure that our returning citizens have the opportunity and preparation needed to succeed.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Fifty Shades Darker

The film has numerous potentially juicy subplots, including encounters with the woman who Mrs. Robinson'd Christian years ago, and with one of his previous submissives, a bedraggled wraith named Leila (Bella Heathcote). But each time melodrama or conflict arises, it is hastily, tidily resolved, sometimes within the same scene.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

The environmental movement was built on the philosophies of people like Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. But who are the great environmental visionaries of our own day and age?

—Betsy Englund, Boston, MA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Mom and 2-year-old die in Suitland Parkway accident

A deadly accident on Suitland Parkway at Forestville Road on March 9 claimed two lives. Ebony Elise Lyons, 23, died on the scene, and her son, Terion Elijah Henderson, 2, died later in the hospital. They leave behind TJ Henderson, a grieving boyfriend to Ebony and father of Terion. The three shared a home in Forestville.

Services were March 22 at Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton. A gofundme fund-raiser has been set up to help TJ with funeral and other expenses.

Coming up

Sad to say, Tucker Road Ice Rink closed Jan. 4 because of a fire, probably started by an electrical problem. The public is invited to a Community Meeting regarding the rink, on Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, in Fort Washington. Go to www.pgparcs.com for more information.

National Association of College Admission Counseling College Fair will be held Thursday, April 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex. College seekers will be able to meet with college reps. The Complex is at 8001 Sheriff Rd. in Landover. Register for details at <http://www.nacacfairs.org/ncf-studentregistration>.

People

Incumbents Vice Mayor Bradley Wade and Council Member Todd Mullins are the only candidates running for the two Morningside Town Council seats. The election will be held May 1.

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann announced that his new Morningside is Beautiful Project has had two monthly winners thus far: a home on Marianne Drive and one on Pine Grove Drive, chosen based on upkeep and appearance of their home and property. The next winner will be announced the end of March.

Serena Moore, of Camp Springs, traveled to Oregon to

help her mother, Margaret Hopp, celebrate her 100th birthday on March 17.

Jeanette Hite, of Skyline Hills, is president of the Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church in Washington, and is up for reelection.

Jody Bowman Nyers' husband Larry took his first international trip to Lima, Peru, where he explored the area and the amazing sight of Machu Picchu. He tasted the local cuisine of Alpaca and Guinea Pig. Jody said that's something she'd never try. Jody didn't go. By the way, Jody and Larry now live in Conway, SC, but she grew up on Larches Court in Morningside.

Time for Potomac River Cleanup

Volunteers are needed to help the Accokeek Foundation pick up trash and debris from the Potomac River watershed on April 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This annual cleanup helps preserve the natural beauty of Piscataway Park and its several miles of river.

Contact Casey Lowe at volunteers@accokeek.org for more information. (This is a great job for those who need graduation hours!)

Changing landscape

Starting the spring of 2014, visitors were no longer able take the elevator at the Old Post Office and Clock Tower building because Donald Trump was beginning a two-year project to turn the 1899 era building into a 263 room luxury hotel. Well, Trump Hotel is now open. And as of Feb. 9, tours to the clock tower and the observation roof have resumed Thursdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., by entering through the south entrance, near Starbucks off 12th Street NW, just south of Pennsylvania Avenue.

After years of schools opening in August, school year 2017-18 will start Sept. 6, thanks to an executive order from Gov. Larry Hogan.

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's is soliciting bids from qualified contrac-

tors prior to demolition of various county buildings at the Suitland Town Center Project. So, it's moving ahead.

Longtime pastor, Msgr. Hughes, dies at 88

Msgr. Richard Hughes, 88, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington for more than 64 years, died March 6. Services were at St. Mary of the Assumption in Upper Marboro, the last parish he served before retirement in 2007.

He was a Washington native, and was ordained in 1952 in Rome after studying at St. Charles College in Catonsville, St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, and the North American College in Rome.

Over the years, he served a number of parishes, including St. Margaret of Scotland in Seat Pleasant, and was chaplain of several Knights of Columbus councils. He established a clothing bank at St. Michael's in Baden where people could buy articles of clothing for a dime each. He called it "a dime with dignity."

May they rest in peace

I've had reports of several other area deaths, which I'll write about in future columns.

Margaret Gardella Dougherty, 98, of Mitchellville, longtime Forestville resident, died March 17 at Collington. She was a native Washingtonian. In Forestville she served with the Ladies of Charity, Sodality, Meals on Wheels, CCD, Eucharist Ministry, and she sang in the choir, all at Mount Calvary Church. She was preceded in death by her husband John A. Dougherty and her brother Joseph Gardella. Survivors include her children, Margaret, Stephen and Kathleen; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and her brother Stephen Gardella.

Nancy Diane Wolfe, 65, of Chaptico, a 1969 graduate of La Reine High School in Suitland, died Feb. 26 in Waldorf. She was active with county fairs and other civic organizations in Anne

See SKYLINE Page A5

Neighborhoods

Governor Hogan Commemorates Grand Opening of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

ANNAPOLIS, MD—March 10, In honor of Harriet Tubman Day, Governor Larry Hogan today announced the grand opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Church Creek, Maryland. The governor joined nearly 500 guests for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including descendants of Harriet Ross Tubman, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, and county and state officials. Harriet Tubman Day is celebrated annually, both nationally and in Maryland, on March 10.

Governor Hogan also reaffirmed his continued support for erecting a Harriet Tubman statue on the State House grounds in Annapolis, and pledged to commit any necessary funding to see the project to completion. Currently, \$300,000 is allocated in the administration's Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the project.

"Harriet Tubman's contributions to our state and nation transcend race, gender, nationality, and religion, and her legacy continues to inspire others to this day," said Governor Hogan. "This visitor center is yet another way to honor this Maryland hero and serves as an invitation to all people to learn more about Harriet Tubman and how her acts of determination, courage, and selflessness impacted our nation."

The park grounds include seventeen acres of parkland, legacy garden, recreational pavilion, as well as the new visitor center, which contains informative and educational exhibits to commemorate the life and lasting legacy of Harriet Tubman. The state, through the departments of Commerce and Natural Resources, is working together with the National Park Service and Dorchester County at this shared site to recognize and memorialize Tubman as an American hero and civil rights icon.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center is a state-of-the-art LEED-certified facility managed in partnership by the Maryland Park Service and National Park Service. It houses an exhibit hall that features immersive displays, an information desk, a research library, and museum store. The site also serves as the new headquarters for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a National Park Service program. Admission is free.

"Harriet Tubman began her life as a slave right here in Maryland and is now known to the world as an abolitionist, humanitarian, and hero," said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. "With the opening of this impressive facility, the achievements of Harriet Tubman will be on display for Marylanders and visitors alike and preserved for generations to come."

The visitor center serves as a gateway to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. The byway was designated in 2008 as one of the best scenic and historic driving tours in the nation. It takes visitors to cultural and historic sites in one of the most pristine 18th century agrarian landscapes in the country. The designation was a key factor in the awarding of \$8.5 million in Transportation Enhancement Funds and \$1.6 million in National Scenic Byway funds by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

WSSC Commissioners Approve Changes to Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise Program Policies

Policy Changes Reflect 2015 Disparity Study Recommendations

LAUREL, MD—WSSC commissioners voted today during their monthly meeting to adopt changes to WSSC's Small, Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) and Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program policies.

The newly adopted policies incorporate race and gender updates for small businesses directly from the 2015 Disparity Study. Moving forward, gender and race will not be considered when qualifying a small business for the SLBE program. The MBE program will take a small business' gender and race into consideration.

Updates to the program policies include:

- Contract-specific subcontracting requirements;
- Expanded unbundling of large contracts;
- Expedited payments;
- Mentor-Protégé Program;
- Bid price preferences;
- Evaluation point preferences;
- Optimized Diverse Business Development Program (formerly the Sheltered Market Program);
- Small Contract Rotations Program; and
- Graduation Program

The updates set forth in WSSC's MBE program include updated recommended MBE preferences in the four contracting areas of Architecture and Engineering, Construction, Goods and General Services and Professional Services.

With WSSC's MBE program scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2017, the Commission is working with legislators to ensure that this program is reauthorized.

Walmart Associates in Maryland to Receive Share Of Over \$2,000,000 Million In Cash Bonuses

BALTIMORE, MD—Walmart today is announcing that more than 850,000 Walmart associates in the U.S., including over 9,800 in Maryland, will receive a share of more than \$157 million in cash bonuses based on their stores' performance in the fourth quarter. The bonuses, along with an annual pay raise, were included in their March 9 paycheck.

Walmart associates can earn quarterly bonuses based on the performance of their store. Workers in Maryland will share more than \$2,080,000 in Maryland cash bonuses. The bonuses come

on the heels of Walmart U.S. recording its strongest comp sales performance of the year, a 1.8% increase in the fourth quarter. Customer service and inventory have also improved. For the full fiscal year, U.S. associates shared more than \$700 million in bonuses.

"We are proud to reward almost 10,000 associates in Maryland for their hard work and dedication to their stores and our customers," said Michael Collischan, Regional General Manager at Walmart. "At Walmart, we know that the associates are the heartbeat of this company and we are continuously working to help provide them with a good start, a clear path, personal growth and unlimited opportunities. The success of our individual stores, and our company as a whole, is a direct result of their hard work and we know we are better equipped to serve our customers when they succeed."

Over the past two years, Walmart has invested billions of dollars in training, education and higher wages. These investments offer associates skills, knowledge and tools to help them grow with the company and provide great customer service during a time of rapid change in shopping habits. During 2016, Walmart launched new training programs for entry-level associates, frontline supervisors, department managers and assistant managers, creating clearer career paths and preparing them to succeed in a new, technology-enabled age of retail.

Opportunity and Advancement

A job at Walmart means opportunity for associates, no matter their education or work background, and when associates are successful, the company is successful. Opportunity and advancement highlights from fiscal year 2017 include:

- Walmart U.S. promoted more than 200,000 associates, including 2,317 in Maryland to jobs with higher pay and more responsibility.
- More than 150,000 associates, including 2,138 in Maryland were converted from part-time to full-time.
- More than 75% of current store management teams started as hourly workers.
- Walmart opened 40 Training Academies—physical facilities that serve as learning hubs for hourly supervisors, department managers and assistant managers from approximately 25 area stores.

Walmart in Maryland

Walmart's recent pay raises are just one part of the company's local investment and impact. In Maryland, the company:

- Operates 59 retail units.
- Spent \$864 million with local suppliers, supporting 24,250 supplier jobs in FYE 2017.*
- Paid more than \$50 million in taxes and collected more than \$150 million in sales taxes in FYE 2016.

*Information supplied by Dunn & Bradstreet

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

It's our Chicken & Waffles (2 Chicken Wings with ½ Belgium Waffle) Sunday, April 2, 2017. Pre-orders accepted and greatly appreciated. Cost is \$5.00. Cost for children (10 & under) is \$2.50. Benefit: St. Philip's Day.

The event is sponsored by St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Point of contacts are Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260 or Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530.

ROBIN HILL FARM

Robin Hill Farm is a great place for Barn Weddings and Country Venue located at 15800 Croom Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. For more information, visit www.robinhillfarmandvineyards.com or info@robinhillfarmandvineyards.com. You can find them on Facebook, Robin Hill Farm or call 301-643-5619.

SEAFOOD DINNER

New Hope Fellowship Christ Church will sponsor their Fish Fry Dinner April 14, 2017 from 11:00 AM until. The address is 22919 Christ Church Road,

Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Call (301) 888-1316 on April 14 to place your order. The Seafood Dinner is sponsored by Christ Church Men, Pastor Constance Smith. Chairpersons are Billy Stewart and Ronald Banks.

All dinners come with green vegetable, potato salad, sweet potatoes, bread and cake. Dinners are Bone Fish \$12.00, Fillet Fish \$12.00, Crab Cake \$16.00, Combination \$18.00, Crab Cake Sandwich \$8.00 and Fish Sandwich \$6.00.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

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

HAPPY 98th BIRTHDAY

Happy 98th Birthday to the American Legion. Brandywine Post 227 at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland celebrated their 69th year, February 5, 2017. Their

Post charter was established on February 5, 1948. The post welcome veterans from all branches of their Armed Forces. The mission is to implement the goals, dreams, aspirations, peace and blessings for their families, country, friends and community. Join them today

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Brandywine North Keys Civic Association was formed in 1980 as a non-partisan, non-political organization, reserving the right to advocate or oppose any legislation affecting the welfare of the Brandywine-North Keys area. The organization shall endeavor to stimulate interest in and to devise ways and means to promote civic, community, and general welfare, giving special attention to public improvement beneficial to the Brandywine-North Keys area.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month September thru June, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Media Center at Brandywine Elementary School. (Visitors are welcome to attend meetings.)

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Mistakes on Your Tax Return Could Lead to an Audit

You're not alone if your heart pounds when you see a letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in your mailbox. While some lucky filers get sent a letter because they're due a larger refund, most of us fear the worst—an audit.

Those fears may be largely unfounded for the average household. Only about one percent of taxpayers get audited, and high-income taxpayers are disproportionately targeted.

If you are audited, it might not be like you imagine. An audit could focus on a particular line entry, credit or figure, and you might only need to mail or fax a copy of the relevant paperwork, such as an insurance report or receipt.

Even so, getting audited isn't fun. In the best case, you have to take the time to dig through your records and respond. In the worst case, you have to do all that as well as pay penalties and interest.

What can you do to help reduce your risk of audit? Audits, or examinations as they're also referred to, could be the result of a random selection, mismatched documents, deviation from the expected "norms" for similar returns or connection to someone who's being audited. But there are a few things you can do to help minimize your chances of being audited.

- **Enter all your information correctly.** Take an extra few minutes to double-check the information you entered when preparing your tax return. A misspelled name or wrong number could lead to an examination.

- **Include information from every form with your return.** When an organization sends you a tax form, it also sends a copy to the IRS. The IRS has an automated system that can flag a return when you don't include information from one of the forms you received.

- **Don't treat a hobby as a business.** You might enjoy your hobby and occasionally make some money from it, but that doesn't make it a business. Business and hobby expenses are treated differently and you can't claim a loss from your hobby. If you try, that could be a red flag.

- **Know the home-office rules.** Many small business owners and contractors work from home, but that doesn't automatically mean you can claim the home-office deduction. You can't claim a guest bedroom where you occasionally work, the room (or part of a room) must be used exclusively and regularly for business.

- **Only claim the EIC if you have earned income.** To qualify for the Earned Income Credit (EIC), you need to have earned income, such as wages or salary, for the year. Other types of income, including alimony, child support, unemployment benefits and Social Security won't qualify you for the EIC.

Working with a professional tax preparer, such as a certified public accountant (CPA) or enrolled agent (EA) could help you avoid making errors, but it doesn't guarantee you won't be audited. Similar types of support are sometimes offered with online tax preparation software for a fee. In either case, if you're required to pay more tax, the bill may get passed on to you.

Don't let fear cost you. Some taxpayers shy away from claiming legitimate credits and deductions because they fear an audit. That could be a costly choice. There's only a small chance you'll get audited, and it could be quick and relatively painless—especially if you keep good records.

Fear also leads thousands of people to fall victim to tax-related scams. Thieves may impersonate an IRS agent, but the IRS will never call or email you requesting a specific type of payment. The IRS only initiates contact with taxpayers by mail, and you can choose among several methods of payment when you owe money.

Bottom line: While there's no way to guarantee the IRS won't ask questions about your tax return, don't let fear of an audit keep you from using the credits or deductions you can rightfully claim. Filing a complete and accurate return could help minimize your chances of an audit, and if you do receive a notice, you may be able to quickly resolve the issue by following the instructions.



Hogan-Rutherford Announce Major Funding to Combat Heroin and Opioid Crisis in Maryland

New Plan Dedicates \$50 Million in Funding Over 5 Years, Taps Senior Emergency Management Advisor to Lead Effort

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today signed Executive Order 01.01.2017.02 declaring a State of Emergency in response to the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis ravaging communities in Maryland and across the country. This declaration activates the governor's emergency management authority and enables increased and more rapid coordination between the state and local jurisdictions. The governor, along with Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, also announced \$50 million in new funding to address the crisis, as well as the appointment of the governor's senior emergency management advisor Clay Stamp to lead the state's coordinated effort to combat the crisis.

Governor Hogan and Lt. Governor Rutherford made the announcement at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown, MD. They were joined by Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Executive Director Glenn Fueston, MEMA Executive Director Russ Strickland, Department of Human Resources Secretary Lourdes Padilla, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Dennis Schrader, Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Sam Abed, Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel William Pallozzi, Dr. Sylvia Lawson of the Maryland State Education Department, and emergency management officials from jurisdictions across the state.

"We need to treat this crisis the exact same way we would treat any other state emergency. With this continuing threat increasing at such an alarming rate, we must allow for rapid coordination with our state and local emergency teams," said Governor Hogan. "We must cut through the red tape so that we are empowering the important work being done in our many state agencies and at the local level all across our state. This is about taking an all-hands-on-deck approach so that together we can save the lives of thousands of Marylanders."

"The fact of the matter is that people all across Maryland, and across our country, are looking for answers when it comes to this heroin and opioid epidemic. Too many families know the devastation caused by this crisis and the death toll is climbing," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "Ultimately, this is about saving lives, and it will take all of us working together in a collaborative, holistic approach to achieve that."

The State of Emergency declaration is a result of the initial findings of the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) established by the administration in January to facilitate greater collaboration among state agencies, including health and human services, education, and public safety entities. The OCCC's work made it clear that the state needed greater flexibility to activate emergency teams in jurisdictions across the state and engage local communities. The governor's executive order delegates emergency powers to state and

local emergency management officials, enabling them to fast-track coordination among state and local agencies and community organizations, including private sector and nonprofit entities to ensure whole-community involvement.

The governor also announced a supplemental budget of \$50 million in new funding over a five-year period to support Maryland's prevention, recovery, and enforcement efforts. Rather than locking us into inflexible spending through statute, the governor's plan will provide flexibility to public health and safety professionals in order to address this emergency.

Finally, the governor announced that he has tasked his senior advisor for emergency management, Clay Stamp, to oversee this coordinated effort. As Executive Director of MEMA, Stamp managed the administration's response to the Baltimore riots in 2015, and has proven experience with efficiently and effectively facilitating efforts between state, local, and community-based entities to respond to crises in real time.

"As an emergency management professional, it gives me great honor to have been chosen to lead such an important effort, and to serve next to the many dedicated and highly capable people who are working to eliminate the impact this crisis is having on the people of Maryland," said Stamp.

In January, the governor and lieutenant governor announced the administration's 2017 Heroin Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement Initiative, a multi-

pronged strategy to tackle the evolving threat of heroin and opioid addiction. The initiative includes three important pieces of legislation: the Prescriber Limits Act of 2017, the Distribution of Opioids Resulting in Death Act, and the Overdose Prevention Act, as well as important budgetary actions, including \$4 million in new funding to address the crisis.

Since forcefully recognizing and identifying the rapidly growing opioid and heroin epidemic during the 2014 gubernatorial campaign, Governor Hogan and Lt. Governor Rutherford have made proactively addressing this crisis a cornerstone of the administration's agenda. In 2015, Governor Hogan signed an executive order creating the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force, chaired by Lt. Governor Rutherford. The task force developed 33 recommendations focused on prevention, treatment, and enforcement to aggressively combat the opioid and heroin crisis.

The administration has also addressed the crisis at the regional and national levels. In October 2016, the governor signed a regional compact with Virginia and Washington, D.C. leadership to coordinate the region's response to the crisis. This past weekend, the governor discussed the crisis with fellow governors and senior federal officials at the National Governor's Association winter meeting, and raised the issue as a top priority for the state in a meeting with Maryland's federal delegation convened by the governor in February.

EMT from A1

home which was 15 minutes away, he was on the phone with Seat Pleasant volunteer EMT Phil Martin. While idling inside his cruiser while parked in front of his home, Officer Biddy's speech suddenly became slurred and the call was disconnected.

EMT Martin, knowing something could be horribly wrong, immediately called public safety communications who dispatched Police and Fire/EMS. Martin then jumped in his personal vehicle and traced Officer Biddy's route home. Once Martin located the cruiser, he found Biddy unresponsive inside. Other emergency units soon arrived and rushed Biddy to the hospital where he got the help he needed.

It was determined that Biddy's cruiser was leaking carbon monoxide into the car and the reason he was so sick and had passed out was due to CO2 poisoning from the car.

The Prince George's County Police Department is confident that the carbon monoxide leak in Biddy's car was an isolated incident to his cruiser alone. There was repair work performed on the cruiser just a few months earlier at the dealership. As part of an internal investigation, the department learned Biddy had taken his cruiser to county fleet maintenance in January and February after smelling what he



PHOTO COURTESY MARK E. BRADY, PGFD PIO

Martin and Biddy enjoy the moment.

thought were exhaust fumes inside his vehicle. Testing on vehicle by the county, dealership, and hazmat officials found nothing wrong during those visits. After the medical incident, fleet maintenance workers recreated what Biddy had done on March 3rd and discovered carbon monoxide was leaking into the cabin. The cruiser was sent back to the dealership which discovered there was a crack in the engine's manifold.

Officer Biddy and Volunteer EMT Martin are lifelong friends having met when they were just 7 years old. At an interagency press conference today held at the County Police HQ in Landover, EMT Martin was bestowed with a Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department's Emergency Service Award. Volunteer Martin was presented an award from Deputy Fire Chief James McClelland on behalf of Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale.

The Award read:
"Your quick thinking and immediate action helped save the life of your friend and colleague and are commendable and worthy of recognition. Therefore, you are hereby awarded a Fire/EMS Department Emergency Services Award. Your actions reflect well on you personally and professionally and exemplify the excellent caliber of service we strive to provide at all times and in every circumstance."

Fire/EMS from A1

The Rehab Unit is currently assigned to the Capitol Heights Fire/EMS Station 805. Personnel assigned to this station include the core of the Rehab Unit Response Team and have adequate training to function in at least one role of the Rehab Unit Response Team.

Prior to officially being placed in-service the first assignment for the Rehab Unit was to provide services at the scene of the apartment building explosion on Arliss Avenue in Silver Spring in August of 2016. Rehab 800 also provided cooling services for personnel participating in the IAFF Local 1619 Softball

Championship in September of 2016 played in extreme heat and humidity. On both of these multi-day incidents the unit was not fully outfitted with all required equipment, however, was able to provide cooling to assist in keeping personnel healthy.

The attached images were captured after an apartment fire in the 1900 block of Rochelle Avenue in District Heights on March 20, 2017. All personnel in images gave consent to be photographed. Every firefighter was required to go through a rehab process prior to leaving the scene. Vital signs are monitored and documented by members of the Rehab Unit Response Team.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Led by Ben Cardin, Chesapeake Bay Senators Urge Appropriators to Reject President Trump's Dangerous Cuts to Bay Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators representing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed blasted President Trump's budget released Thursday that would zero out funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program and severely cut funding for other core programs to maintain and restore the health of the Bay, which is an economic lifeline for the region. Led by Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Senators Tom Carper (D-Del.), Bob Casey, Jr. (D-Pa.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), Chris Coons (both D-Del.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) joined together as a regional delegation to immediately urge appropriators to reject the shortsighted and dangerous cuts put forward by President Trump. Their letter can be found here and is in full below.

"President Trump's budget cannot be taken seriously. He claims to want to help strengthen our economy and create jobs while simultaneously wanting to eliminate critical federal investments that allow Chesapeake Bay states like Maryland to prosper," said Senator Cardin. "The president needs to understand that a healthy Bay means a healthy economy and this cannot be accomplished without a strong federal partner. Less pollution means more oysters and crabs, healthier farmland, more boats and tourism on the water, and more jobs. As a region, we are urging appropriators to quickly reject the president's budget before the absurdity of his proposed cuts causes ripples of uncertainty and fear across the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed economy."

"Thousands of Delawareans and millions across our region depend on a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. Slashing the funding that allows the EPA to maintain this environmental and economic resource is short-sighted and irresponsible," said Senator Carper. "It's critical that we keep fighting to protect the Chesapeake Bay so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy it the same way we have for generations."

"At a time when Chesapeake Bay health is finally showing signs of improvement, this Administration ought to be doubling down on efforts to reduce pollution, not drastically cutting back," said Senator Casey. "I will continue to fight for additional resources to help Pennsylvania and all Chesapeake Bay states meet their cleanup obligations."

"The President's budget proposal to entirely eliminate funding for the Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort is incredibly short-sighted. The Chesapeake Bay is an essential economic engine in this region, supporting thousands of jobs in the fishery and tourism industries and generating millions in revenue each year," Senator Warner said. "Since the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program in 1983, we've seen tremendous improvements in the health of the Bay. I strongly urge congressional appropriators to reject the President's request, and look forward to working with the entire regional delegation to Congress to ensure we don't endan-

See CHESAPEAKE BAY Page A5



Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OXON COVE PARK AND OXON HILL FARM

Part of the National Park Service, Oxon Cove Park is a historic district with buildings dating back to the early 1800's and a living farm museum. Learn about the property's evolution from a plantation to a hospital farm, to the park it is today and explore the history of Maryland and farming through the park's variety of hand-on activities, including living history programs. The park, including Oxon Hill Farm, is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except on January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25). Admission and activities are free, though groups of 5 or more require a reservation for participating in programs. Call 301-839-1176 for more information. Oxon Cove Park is located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Congress: Don't Hurt Children

"I believe that the odds were stacked against me from the day I was born. She was never really a mother to me. She was never around," says Bethany, a Washington, D.C. student born to a mother struggling with addiction. Bethany became involved in the child welfare system at age four: "I remember they took me away, and then I got to shower for the first time in months, because at the time we were living in an abandoned apartment. It felt wonderful! I was finally able to get clean." After that Bethany went through a series of placements in foster homes, hospitals, and residential treatment centers which relied on Medicaid to provide the critical health and mental health services she needed. With the right supports, including treatment for depression, she started to thrive in school. Today Bethany is a high school senior on track to become valedictorian and looking forward to being the first in her family to go to college. But without the health and mental health care she needed how would Bethany's story have ended?

The Children's Defense Fund has made giving every child a healthy start a core part of our mission for all of our 44 years. We are extremely concerned that the American Health Care Act under consideration by Congress right now would undo more than 50 years of progress made expanding comprehensive child-appropriate health coverage to tens of millions of children. Today, thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), 95 percent of children in America have health coverage—an historic high. But now the American Health Care Act is snatching away what is a basic human right and threatens all this at a time when our children need us to continue to move forward, not backwards. As the bill moves closer to a vote by the full House of Representatives, we are urging Congress to "vote NO."

The American Health Care Act:
 • Changes Medicaid's financing structure to pay for massive tax cuts for wealthy

individuals and corporations. This would end Medicaid's guarantee of affordable, comprehensive health coverage for poor and low-income children and other special health care needs. The new Medicaid per capita cap would limit access to health coverage for children but not reduce their health needs or costs of care. Over time, it would shift costs from the federal government to states, counties, local communities, providers and beneficiaries. State and local governments would have to cut eligibility, services or both to continue to provide comparable care to the 37 million children currently enrolled in Medicaid. Children are nearly half of Medicaid recipients and any changes to Medicaid would have a disproportionate impact on the quality comprehensive child specific health and mental health services and treatment children currently receive and need.

• **Repeals the foundation of the Affordable Care Act, resulting in the loss of health coverage for millions of children, low-income parents and other adults.** The Republican American Health Care Act will end the ACA's Medicaid expansion over time, despite the fact that 31

states and the District of Columbia have extended Medicaid coverage to 26 million low-income parents and other adults. The ACA's targeted subsidies would be replaced with less affordable tax credits and parents will end up having to pay more for less comprehensive coverage—or go uninsured altogether. Research clearly shows children are better off when their parents have health insurance coverage. When parents get treatment for their own health and mental health problems, it strengthens children's developmental outcomes.

• **Jeopardizes the ability of other child serving systems such as Education and Child Welfare that depend on Medicaid to offer critical help and support to children in care.** Children with disabilities who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that call for special services to be delivered in the schools or children with abuse histories or disabilities that require treatment in foster homes or residential treatment will be at special risk.

• **Severely limits access to mental health and substance abuse treatment needed to**

See WATCH, Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



American Health Care Act: Un-American, Un-Healthy, and Un-Caring

"All the progress that we've made in controlling costs and improving how health care is delivered, progress that's helped hold growth in the price of health care to the slowest rate in 50 years—all that goes away. That's what repeal means. It would be bad for everybody. And the majority of Americans, even if they don't know that they're benefitting from Obamacare, don't want to see these benefits and protections taken away from their families now that they have them."

—President Barack Obama

It's no exaggeration to say the Affordable Care Act of 2010 was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in modern American history, particularly in regard to its impact on communities of color.

Before the ACA, nearly a quarter of African Americans were uninsured. That rate has been slashed in half. Nearly 8 million now have access to no-deductible preventative care. The ACA's expansion of Medicaid was critical for African Americans, who make up nearly one-in-five enrollees. And the investment of billions of dollars in community health centers, which disproportionately serve Black neighborhoods, has helped to narrow health disparities.

Dismantling the ACA, as Congress and the President seek to do with the introduction of the American Health Care Act, would be nothing short of a disaster for communities of color and Americans over 50. It's a windfall for the wealthiest Americans, wrenched from the poor, the sick and the struggling. In short, it's un-American.

More than 24 million Americans could be uninsured by 2026, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. The White House's own internal estimate places that number even higher, at 26 million.

The ACA is not perfect, but the American Health Care Act does not seek to address its imperfections. Its primary feature is a massive tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. Premiums for

older customers will skyrocket to unaffordable levels, forcing many of them to forego insurance. It further removes the individual mandate, which requires most Americans to purchase insurance, and the employer mandate requiring large employers to provide insurance to employees.

Weakened protections for people with pre-existing conditions would hit communities of color particularly hard, because African Americans have disproportionately higher rates of chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes and face higher rates of HIV and cancer.

Particularly devastating to America's most vulnerable citizens would be the gutting of Medicaid. CBO estimates 14 million fewer people would be enrolled in Medicaid compared to current law. Cutting and capping funding to the states will lead many of the 31 that adopted the Medicaid expansion to drop it, leaving millions uninsured, and to restrict coverage for those who do remain enrolled. Uncoupling funding for Medicaid from its actual cost will lead to a downward spiral that leaves low-income Americans even more vulnerable.

Nearly every feature of the AHCA benefits the wealthy at the expense of everyone else. Because its Universal Health Care Tax is based on age, instead of income, it redistributes subsidies from the poor and middle-class Americans to the wealthy. Low-income workers who can't afford the maximum contribution to Health Savings Accounts, designed to cover high deductibles receive fewer benefits and likely won't be able to save enough to cover their costs. The proposal also includes a tax cut for insurance company executives making over \$500,000.

The architects of this un-American proposal have demonstrated breathtaking callousness in response to criticism. Suggesting people choose between a smartphone and healthcare is not

See AHCA Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Making the Most of That College Visit

The campus visit can be an important step in selecting a college or university. Whether the school(s) under consideration are local, or across the country, visiting the campus provides a first-hand opportunity to evaluate the school and its programs.

But to get the most out of the visit it's important to do more than simply follow the student tour guide around campus and then head back home.

A starting point, before visiting any college campus, is to decide if the school is right for the student on several levels. Does it offer the programs that meet the student's interests? Is it big enough, or small enough, to feel comfortable for the student? Is it affordable for the family? Info to answer these broad questions will be available thru the school's website.

If a school is of interest, use the website again to check out their campus visitation programs. Most schools ask prospective students to pre-register for tours, and may also allow them to register to sit in on a class, or to spend a night on campus.

It's important to take full advantage of your time on campus. The campus tour, always led by an upper-classman in love with the school, certainly offers a lot of information. But remember that he or she is being paid, and has been trained, to make the school sound good.

Make the most of the tour by paying attention and asking questions. It helps to have a list of questions ready ahead of time. And take notes. It's hard to remember all of what's seen and heard, especially if multiple schools are going to be visited. But also feel free to do some investigating beyond the tour.

Take time to talk to other students on campus. The campus student union building or campus coffee shop will always yield students or faculty willing to talk about their experiences at the school.

It's also a good idea to try to talk with staff and faculty in the major being considered. Many professors are happy to talk with a prospective student about their field and the school's offerings. Getting permission to sit in on a class in the major being considered is another way to learn more.

Choosing the right school can be a stressful decision for any family. But do some investigating with a thorough campus visit and that stress can be greatly reduced.

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

stem the tide of opioid and other addictions for children, youths and adults, destroying families and likely sending more children into foster care and homelessness. Changes proposed to both the ACA and Medicaid would limit coverage of these treatments.

CDF calls on Congress to protect children's current health coverage as it considers the American Health Care Act and vote NO unless significant changes are made to ensure the "do no harm" standard, a core tenet of medical treatment, is followed. The American Health Care Act would reverse progress and make many millions of children worse off by depriving them of the comprehensive and affordable child-appropriate coverage they are guaranteed today, jeopardizing their futures and also the nation's future economic and national security.

Children who cannot see or hear the teacher, have undiagnosed attention deficit disorders, or are suffering from depression and other mental health disorders are less likely to learn in school. Congress and the Administration should continue to make it easier—not harder—for children like Bethany to get the critical supports they need to survive, thrive and contribute to our nation. So help us speak up.

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

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

Skyline from A2

Arundel, Charles and St. Mary's counties.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Wayne Booth, Susan Frostbutter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Melissa Lytton,

Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5; and Jonathan Charters, April 6.

Happy 28th anniversary to Walter and Fannie Dimes who were wed April 1, 1989 in Frederick.

Connecting Returning Citizens to Real Freedom and Prosperity

Prince George's County EDC Kicks Off 'ReEntry Month' With Community Discussion on Real Solutions That Help Returning Citizens

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On Friday, March 10, 2017, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), in partnership with the County's Workforce Development Board kicked off 'ReEntry Month' by hosting a Community ReEntry and Employment Discussion. More than 100 stakeholders gathered for an open dialogue about the barriers returning citizens encounter when coming back to the community. This panel discussion included representatives from the Office of County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, the local law enforcement community, the County Department of Corrections, the County Department of Social Services, Maryland Legal Aid, the business community and the non-profit community who provide resource assistance to returning citizens. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and Workforce Development Board Vice President Rosalind White welcomed the stakeholders and congratulated them for being a part of such an important forum.

"We have angels among us removing employment barriers for over 1,800 County residents each year who are seeking to reenter our workforce and secure good, high wage jobs," said Coleman. "The wonderful work that the Workforce Services Division and its Board are doing to help our residents secure the necessary training to get good jobs is not just a slogan, we are serious about this mission. Bringing this group of community leaders and resource providers together is critical because reentry is an important issue in our County. In Prince George's County, we are committed to ensuring that no resi-

dent is left behind and that all of our residents have the opportunity to get a good paying job so that they can take care of themselves and their families."

One such angel is Pete Goodson, the EDC's Workforce Services ReEntry Coordinator who has, conservatively, helped over 10,000 returning citizens find the pathway to success over the last 15 years. Panelist Felicia Douglas is one of Mr. Goodson's success stories. Ms. Douglas is a returning citizen who, through Mr. Goodson's mentorship and guidance is president of her own company that helps others create their own success stories.

"When I returned from my incarceration, my main barrier to success was fear and not knowing where to find the services I needed to reclaim my life," said Douglas. "I needed mentors like Pete Goodson at the One Stop Center to remind me that although my housing had been taken away, my job position had been taken away and I had been disassociated from people, that was in my past. Connecting to mentors helps build your confidence. You still have your skills and there are services in the community that can help you return to your life, but you must fight your fear and have faith. Faith will truly free you."

The panel, made up of reentry professionals and returning citizens alike, engaged in a powerful discussion about how Prince George's County can work as a team to ensure that our returning citizens have the opportunity and preparation needed to succeed. Hot topics included access to resources that have a proven track record of providing desired results and outcomes. Panelist Linda Turner, Manager of County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) shared



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC Workforce Services Division Director Walter Simmons, (4th from left) and EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, (2nd from right) with panelists at the Community ReEntry and Employment Discussion.

her enthusiasm for working with a diverse group of reentry professionals and stakeholders.

"Returning citizens are a high priority in County Executive Baker's TNI initiative. We have found that career training and sustainable employment are critical in the success of decreasing crime in the County. I'm looking forward to working with my fellow panelists to continue to transform lives."

Caryn York, an advocate with the Job Opportunities Task Force and supporter of the 'ban the box' movement, brought up the importance of eliminating the very hindering stigma attached to being a returning citizen. Finally, the panel talked about ways to increase access to expungement. Often, returning citizens have offenses that are eligible to be erased from their record. Some do not know that this service is available. For those who do know about the expungement process, there is often a financial barrier that keeps them from getting rid of a critical obstacle to sustainable employment.

The EDC has dedicated the month of March to not only helping our returning citizens combat unique barriers but also to guide them through the process of attaining a sustainable job. EDC Workforce Services Division Director Walter Simmons summed up the importance of focusing on the success of returning citizens in the context of improving the workforce system.

"The partnership between the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board and the Economic Development Corporation is critical in identifying innovative opportunities to help our returning citizens," said Simmons. "Bringing these stakeholders together allows us to identify our strengths, our weaknesses, and most importantly what our gaps are and how we can overcome them. With the brainpower of the 60 stakeholders and 12 panelists who participated in today's discussion, we can now set the footprint on how we move forward improving our workforce system to help our returning citizens move into gainful employment."

Chesapeake Bay from A4

ger the years of progress that have been made in restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay."

"Cutting the programs that protect our clean water won't create good-paying jobs, it won't raise wages for workers in the region, and it certainly won't make anyone healthier," said Senator Gillibrand. "Congress should reject President Trump's irresponsible budget proposal and instead fight for funding that protects the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of all Americans."

"As I have said, I haven't met a West Virginian that doesn't want clean air to breathe and clean water to drink," Senator Manchin said. "The Chesapeake Bay is an invaluable body of water that does wonders for our ecosystem. I am proud of the work that has been done through these programs to restore the nation's largest estuary, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to maintain their existence."

"We are blessed in Delaware with lands and waterways that are a source of pride, including the Nanticoke River," said Senator Coons. "The Chesapeake Bay supports the livelihoods of millions across our region, and our state agencies and landowners rely on

this funding to ensure that we can continue to be careful stewards of the bay. I will keep fighting to ensure that we can continue to preserve the health of this vital resource."

"Because of bipartisan support for Chesapeake Bay cleanup, pollution is down, oyster and crab populations are up, and more people are able to enjoy the Bay. Saving the Bay is good for the environment and good for the economy," Senator Kaine said. "In his joint address to Congress, President Trump stated that his Administration will work to 'promote clean air and clean water.' But today, just two weeks later, his budget proposes to eliminate the Chesapeake Bay Program. It is clear now what the President's promises are worth."

"The budget cuts proposed by President Trump would seriously damage our efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay—and threaten the jobs that depend on a healthy Bay ecosystem," Senator Van Hollen said. "There is absolutely no justification for loosening rules on polluters and dismantling the Bay cleanup effort, which is what the Administration's proposal would do. We must stand together and fight for the Bay so that the watermen, the tourism and boating industries, and all those who value clean water and clean air are protected from the Trump Administration's assault on our environment."

Scholarship from A1

that come with being a student, such as transportation, childcare, materials, and supplies.

In making this announcement, Prince George's County could be among the first five jurisdictions in the state of Maryland to implement a Promise Program and could be added to a list of early adopters of some form of debt-free community college nationwide.

According to research compiled by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Promise Programs have shown to increase enrollment in public school systems and

higher education institutions. These programs bridge the existing education and wage gaps for minority, low-income, and first-generation students.

"What we know is that no single entity in the Prince George's County community, which includes the college, individuals, businesses, institutions, and government, can achieve the proven benefits of Promise Programs by acting alone," Dukes said. "The implementation of a program such as this one is an opportunity for county stakeholders to work together to achieve desirable educational, economic, and social benefits."

About Prince George's Community College

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015–2020), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of stu-

dents who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving more than 40,000 individuals annually, the college is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George's County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. PGCC is fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education through 2025. For more information, visit the college website at www.pgcc.edu.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Fifty Shades Darker

Fifty Shades Darker

Grade: B+

Rated R, a few scenes of very strong sexuality, a lot of general smuttiness and language, and a lot of female nudity and a little male nudity

1 hr., 58 min

Fans of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* movie may have been nervous when they heard the sequel, nonsensically titled *Fifty Shades Darker*, would have a different director. I'm kidding, of course; people who liked *Fifty Shades of Grey* don't pay attention to things like that. But if they did, they could rest easy, as James Foley seems committed to preserving the atmosphere of flavorless, plot-free tedium and unsexy smut established by Sam Taylor-Johnson (and, presumably, carried over from E.L. James' novels, though there is no realistic way to know for sure).

This time, bland billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) persuades spineless Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) to be his girlfriend again by promising to keep the sex vanilla. "No rules, no punishments." That urgent need he has to dominate his lover? He can totally ignore it and be chill. Ana thinks this sounds like a good plan and starts dating him again, though she puts off having sex for two whole days.

But hold the phone, Hector! Christian immediately starts being possessive and controlling even though he said he wouldn't! He does the usual



ROTTENTOMATOES

Anastasia has broken off her relationship with the troubled Christian to pursue a new career in a Seattle publishing house.

things: buys the company Ana works for—it's a small publishing house, where she's the assistant to fiction editor Nick Hyde (Eric Johnson), an aggressively solicitous horndog set up to be a problem later in the film—and puts \$24,000 in her bank account against her will. Typical domineering boyfriend stuff. Ana identifies Christian's controlling behavior as problematic and potentially relationship-ending, but she stays with him because at least he's still respectful of boundaries in bed, where it counts.

The film has numerous potentially juicy subplots, including encounters with the woman (Kim Basinger) who Mrs. Robinson'd Christian years ago, and with one of his previous

submissives, a bedraggled wraith named Leila (Bella Heathcote). But each time melodrama or conflict arises, it is hastily, tidily resolved, sometimes within the same scene. Christian's helicopter goes missing? Back in a minute. Fiction editor Nick Hyde, absent since his introduction, reappears to make obscene advances on Ana? She kicks him in the groin and runs off; he's fired and she gets his job. The movie is ruthless about this, smothering all sparks of a plot before they can take hold.

For a movie about intense emotions, it's curiously flat, as Dornan and Johnson both tend to maintain almost neutral expressions even when hearing or saying things of great passion.

Perhaps this is an acting choice? Or perhaps the inept and pedestrian dialogue defies delivery? (The screenplay is by Niall Leonard. Who can say how much of it is straight from the book?) At any rate, it's vital that Ana and Christian constantly declare their love for one another, because the viewer would never know it by watching them. They don't amuse or delight each other. They aren't witty, interesting, or smart. They have nothing to talk about besides their relationship (which at all times sucks for one or both of them) and their individual past traumas. Nothing seems authentic in this world; everyone's fetishes and hang-ups come across as just goofy. Or maybe that's just Seattle?

Camp from A1

to benefit children with autism in Prince George's County.

The Department initially wanted to donate the money to a non-profit, but to ensure 100% of the funds would go towards helping children and not towards overhead—the Department created its own program—the 'Camp Bling for Blue' scholarship fund.

The 'Camp Bling for Blue' scholarship fund allows children on the autism spectrum to enjoy new experiences throughout the summer with their peers, while alleviating some of the financial burdens on their families.

The scholarship is entirely based on donations from individual community members and businesses. The funds then spon-

sor individual campers up to \$300 per calendar year.

Families in Prince George's County are grateful for the support.

Moulin Majamba says she's happy her daughter Seema was awarded scholarship money and will attend summer camp this year. Majamba says during the school year, Seema is the only girl in her class—which has affected her self-esteem and confidence. Now, Majamba thinks summer camp can change that. She says, "Seema is going to enjoy herself in the inclusion camp, and most of all—she will build up her confidence and social skills. She is already talking about it, and looking forward to the summer camp."

Katherine Myles, whose son Samuel Jr. was also awarded

funds, says, "As you know, he was very fortunate to receive the award last year and I must say that he enjoyed his session at the camp. The staff is great!" She adds, "If not for the Bling Scholarship, I may not have discovered the camp and all the wonderful doors that it has opened for Samuel Jr."

Since the program began in 2014, the scholarship fund has sent 67 children on the autism spectrum to camp for free. Next year, the Department is hoping to send around 50 to 55 children to camp. With the average scholarship amount awarded coming in around \$180, the Department needs between \$9,000 and \$9,900 to cover the need.

And that's where this year's fundraising events come in.

The **5K Glow Walk/Run for Autism** is Saturday, April 1, and starts at 6:30 PM at Watkins Regional Park. It's \$15 a person if you register by March 25. After that, the price is \$20 per person.

The **Light it Up Blue for Autism Zumbathon** is being held Sunday, April 2 from 2-4 PM at the South Bowie Community Center. The event costs \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Entertainment News and Information

Journey to the Music: Tips for Music Festival Travel



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

There are many ways you can enhance your experience when you visit a music festival—and some of them may surprise you.

(NAPSI)—In the U.S. alone, there are now more than 800 music festivals annually, and according to Nielsen, 32 million people go to at least one of these festivals a year, traveling an average 903 miles to get there. If you're one of these travelers, you know how rewarding and exhilarating it is to see some of your favorite bands beside a few hundred thousand fellow fans. If not, you may want to consider these cool benefits of festival travel.

Explore a new destination in a unique way. When you visit a destination during a festival, you'll see a completely different side of the local culture than you would normally. At High Water Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, for example, they celebrate the best of Southern cuisine with local chefs collaborating on their favorite dishes for a unique, family-style dining experience. Not only do you get to see the best in Southern music, but you get to eat some of the best Southern cooking, too.

So much music in one place. Though the price of tickets ranges dramatically, with dozens of bands playing, you're more than likely to get your money's worth by seeing a few of your favorite artists. Festival goers also get to discover new and upcoming artists they'd have never heard before. At Hangout Music Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama, music ranges from folk to country to rap to pop, with more than 60 bands scheduled to play over the span of three days. Talk about an eclectic mix of music.

A group experience. Music festivals typically serve up something for everyone, which makes it an excellent activity for a group trip. On top of the camaraderie, you'll also be able to split costs. One way to save is to stay in a vacation rental home with a company such as Wyndham Vacation Rentals. With amenities that typically include multiple bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, a washer/dryer and more, you'll get way more than you would by camping out on the festival grounds.

It's not all about the music. Music festivals are not just about the music anymore. They are platforms for philanthropy, sustainability, fashion and healthy living. Coachella has been informing fashion trends and retailers over the past several years and always includes some type of sustainability and charitable component for guests to be a part of making a difference in the community.

Learn more about music festival destinations and vacation rentals at www.VacationDifferently.com. The travel resource offers great tips on family travel, ideas for vacation rental accommodations, and inspiration on a different way to travel.

Trust Fund from A1

Development (DHCD). "The Housing Trust Fund will enable the Department to expand our work with affordable housing developers and meet our goals of increasing the housing stock available for working families in Prince George's County."

After County Council budget approval, money from the Housing Trust Fund will be made available at the beginning of the new fiscal year. DHCD would be able to offer up to \$15,000 in down payment and closing costs for the Pathway to Purchase Program. The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County implements the Pathway to Purchase Program.

DHCD would also issue an announcement informing real estate developers that it has \$2.6

million available for gap financing for workforce housing construction and rehabilitation.

Over the past 5 years, DHCD has successfully co-financed 6 new construction projects and helped preserve 13 affordable housing projects through renovation and rehabilitation. These include multi-family and senior communities. DHCD has awarded over \$10 million in HOME Loan funds to real estate developers building new construction and rehabilitating and preserving affordable homes in Prince George's County. This translates into 100 new rental townhouse units and 620 rental apartment units. DHCD was able to leverage its \$10 million in gap financing to over \$153 million in affordable housing development for Prince George's County.



RECYCLE THE RAD WAY

Are you buying a new appliance and wondering what to do with your old refrigerator or hot water heater? Recycle it the RAD way! Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) is the safe and proper disposal of old appliances. There are significant benefits to recycling the RAD way including saving landfill space and energy, and avoiding the release of hazardous materials such as oil, mercury and greenhouse gases into the environment.

The Prince George's County Waste Management Division offers FREE pick up of old appliances, furniture and tires from your home. To schedule a pick up, contact County Click at 3-1-1 or visit countyclick.princegeorgescounty.gov.

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

Proudly Serving Prince George's County
Since 1932

Calendar of Events

March 30 — April 5, 2017

Wellness: National Nutrition Month: Eating for the Diabetic

Date and Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 6–7 pm
 Description: March is National Nutrition Month! Put Your Best Fork Forward with free healthy cooking demonstrations. Learn how to prepare delicious, healthy meals and snacks in these step-by-step cooking demonstrations. Enjoy a sample of the delicious creations. All ages welcome. No registration required.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All Ages
 Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY: 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Poly Pong

Date and Time: Friday, March 31, 2017, 7–10 pm
 Description: If you like ping pong, then you will love poly pong. Come out and join us in this fast-paced game where four people play at once!
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
 Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Just the Fellas Overnight Adventure

Date and Time: Friday, March 31, 2017 10 pm–7 am
 Description: Participate in a variety of team-building activities, sports of sorts, educational workshops and a night of exciting and creative programming. Be prepared for a night of fun! Bring an extra pair of sneakers for outdoor play. Registration/check-in begins at 9 pm. See you there!
 Cost: \$10 with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Bagels With Bunny

Date and Time: Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9:30–11:30 am
 Description: Children will enjoy eating bagels with the Bunny and participating in an Egg Hunt. There will also be arts and crafts, and refreshments available.
 Cost: Free with SMARTlink ID
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Creature Feature: All About Raptors

Date and Time: Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10–11 am
 Description: Meet and learn about raptors, including hawks and owls.
 Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4
 Ages: Ages 3 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-699-2544

Good Neighbor Day

Date and Time: Saturday, April 1, 2017, 1 pm
 Description: UMD students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local residents are invited to join the community for Good Neighbor Day—a day of service. We will focus on clean-up efforts that contribute to a great quality of life for all College Park residents and celebrating being a good neighbor, every day of the year.
 This event is a partnership between Maryland University, the City of College Park, and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 13 & up
 Location: College Park Community Center
 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD
 Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Light it Up Blue Zumbathon

Date and Time: Sunday, April 2, 2017, 2–4 pm
 Description: Join us for our annual Light it Up Blue Zumbathon! All proceeds raised help to send children on the autism spectrum to summer camp.
 Cost: \$15 (in advance); \$20 (at the door)
 Ages: 16 & up
 Location: South Bowie Community Center
 1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-249-1622; TTY 301-699-2544

Miss Nelson is Missing

Date and Time: Monday, April 3, 2017, 10:15 am and 12 noon
 Description: Room 207 has the worst behaved students in the whole school, but when their sweet teacher Miss Nelson vanishes, the class is taught by a strict substitute, and the students want to find Miss Nelson.
 This lighthearted musical based on the popular children's book reminds us all to appreciate the people we have.
 Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more
 Ages: Recommended for Grades K–Grade 5
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Walk and Talk With the Doc

Date and Time: Monday, April 3, 2017, 8:30–9:30 am
 Description: Walking is good medicine, and it is a great way to connect with others. In this popular FREE program, health care professionals will share information and lead group walks. No registration is required. Just put on your walking shoes and join us!
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: 50 & up
 Location: Lake Artemesia Natural Area
 5400 Block Berwyn Rd. at Ballew Avenue
 Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
 Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Environmental Heroes LaDuke, McKibben and Fox Inspire Millions to Take Action

Dear EarthTalk:

The environmental movement was built on the philosophies of people like Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. But who are the great environmental visionaries of our own day and age?

—Betsy Englund,
 Boston, MA

Thoreau, best known for his book *Walden*, taught us how to live a simple life and take pleasure in nature's splendor all around us. Leopold's 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, encouraged us to respect the land and its inhabitants and manage it with future generations in mind. And Carson, whose book *Silent Spring* is credited with advancing the global environmental movement, taught us that the world would be sick, let alone way too quiet, without the soundtrack of wildlife. While these voices from the past still guide our conservation ethic, a new generation of visionaries is reimagining what it means to be an environmentalist in response to the new existential challenges facing our species and our planet.

One of them is Winona LaDuke, who cut her activist teeth in the 1980s when she helped launch the Indigenous Women's Network and campaigned for tribal land claims in Minnesota. In 1993 she partnered with the folk-rock duo Indigo Girls to launch Honor the

Earth, which raises awareness and support for Native environmental issues and develops resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. Honor the Earth uses music, the arts and the media to spread awareness about our dependency on a clean, healthy planet. Most recently, LaDuke set up her tipi at one of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest camps; she has been outspoken about the need to reject such projects and the oil slated to run through them.

Many Americans first learned about the potential perils of climate change from Bill McKibben's 1989 book *The End of Nature*. McKibben has subsequently penned more than a dozen books on related topics, and in 2006 crossed over into activism, helping lead a five-day walk across Vermont calling for action on global warming. He went on to launch 350.org, a global climate organizing effort named after climate scientist James Hansen's contention that atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide above 350 parts per million would be unsafe for humanity and the planet. Pioneering the use of social media to grow its ranks, the group co-ordinated 5,200 demonstrations in 181 countries as part of its "International Day of Climate Action" in October 2009 and rallied hundreds of thousands more people at subsequent events. 350.org is currently gearing up for the People's Climate Mobilization on April 29, 2017 and is hoping for a record turnout in Washington D.C. and at other si-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Activist Winona LaDuke recently set up her tipi at one of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest camps and has been outspoken about the need to reject such projects and the fossil fuels slated to run through them.

multaneous rallies around the world. McKibben remains an outspoken critic of both the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipeline projects.

While McKibben worked his way into our hearts through his writing, Josh Fox did it with video. The filmmaker's 2010 documentary *Gasland* focused on the environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") of shale formations to recover natural gas deposits. The Oscar-nominated film became a key lever in the anti-fracking movement and Fox went on to become a vocal opponent of fracking. In 2016, Fox traveled the country on behalf of Bernie Sanders's campaign for President and helped pen a historic climate amendment to the Democratic Platform calling for the institution of a national carbon pricing system, the phase out of

gas-fired power plants and higher efficiency standards for federal energy projects. Fox currently works as Creative Director for Our Revolution, a non-profit Sanders launched following the 2016 Democratic primaries to get more Americans involved in the political process and organize and elect progressive candidates.

CONTACTS: Honor the Earth, www.honorearth.org; 350.org, www.350.org; Our Revolution, www.ourrevolution.com.

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

FAME SUMMER MUSIC & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Applications are open for two summer enrichment programs: Beats Books & Hooks and Summer Music Technology, using music as a basis for engagement. The programs are designed for rising 7th through 12th grade students and are taught by highly respected music professors, educators and professional musicians.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Explore cutting edge recording software
- Compose music
- Develop proficiency in computer technology
- Produce finished CD and MP3 files to share digitally and publish online
- Enjoy master classes with recording artists, engineers and/or producers

- Be introduced to the business of music
- Learn about education and career opportunities,
- Learn proper use of social media and other online tools
- Receive a certificate of completion,
- And Much More!

REGISTER NOW

Registration Closes: May 6, 2017

Early Bird Special until March 10th. Some financial assistance available.

BEATS BOOKS & HOOKS

SESSION 1

ATTENDEES: Rising 7th, 8th & 9th Graders
DATE: June 19-23, 2017 (5 days)
TIME: 9am - 4pm
LOCATION: Dr. Henry Wise High School
 Upper Marlboro, MD

SESSION 2

ATTENDEES: Rising 10th, 11th & 12th Graders
DATE: June 26-30, 2017 (5 days)
TIME: 9am - 4pm
LOCATION: Dr. Henry Wise High School
 Upper Marlboro, MD

SUMMER MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

SESSION 1

ATTENDEES: Rising 7th, 8th & 9th Graders
DATE: July 10 - 14, 2017 (5 days)
TIME: 9am - 4pm
LOCATION: University of Maryland School of Music
 College Park, MD

SESSION 2

ATTENDEES: Rising 10th, 11th & 12th Graders
DATE: July 31 - August 4, 2017 (5 days)
TIME: 9am - 4pm
LOCATION: University of Maryland School of Music
 College Park, MD

For information Visit: www.FAMEORG.org/Summer2017 • Email: info@FAMEORG.org; Call: 301-805-5358

FAME Summer Programs are made possible in part by

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