

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman speaking to Leadership Prince George's 2017 class.

## EDC Opens Its Doors to Leadership Prince George's' Class for Economic Development Forum

EDC "Evangelist" Baptizes Business Leaders to Become Ambassadors for Prince George's County

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On April 12, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted members of Leadership Prince George's for the organization's Economic Development Day forum. Leadership Prince George's (LPG) is a 10 month program

designed to enhance the leadership skills and networking opportunities for public and private sector stakeholders. EDC President and CEO, Jim Coleman, was one of the keynote speakers for today's session and talked about the resources EDC has at its disposal to promote and support local businesses.

"As cohort members in this year's Leadership Prince

George's program, you are all ambassadors of Prince George's County," said Coleman. "Thank you for what you've done as business leaders. The EDC is here to matchmake you with Federal government agencies and business opportunities to help your company grow. Where Prince George's County goes, so does the state of Maryland!"

Leadership Prince George's, Inc. is an organization dedicated to developing community and business leaders through extensive leadership training, professional development and exclusive networking opportunities with public and private sector stakeholders. The program's

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## Buck Lodge Middle School Student Advances To National Spelling Bee

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Buck Lodge Middle School student Kelly Han won the 2017 Prince George's County Spelling Bee and will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbor in May. She will also participate in Bee Week (May 28–June 3) leading up to the national competition.

Han's awards include a trophy from Champion Awards, Trophies and Goods, Inc.; \$500

check and gift basket from Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU); four roundtrip tickets from Southwest Airlines and a Washington Informer gift bag. Additionally, the Washington Nationals will honor her on home plate during its Easter Sunday game on April 16 at Nationals Park.

"Kelly demonstrates that hard work in school certainly pays off," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Of-

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## Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® Campaign Launched to Deter DUI in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER  
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly a third (31%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,\* free Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout Prince George's County, Maryland on Cinco de Mayo (May 5th).

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2017 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide®

program—now in its third year—will be in operation beginning at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 5, 2017 and continue until 4:00 am on Saturday, May 6, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this nine-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15)

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## Maryland Senate Holds Marijuana Legalization Hearing

By JAKE BRODSKY  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Supporters and detractors alike gathered in Annapolis to testify about two marijuana legalization bills being heard by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Thursday afternoon.

Sen. Brian Feldman, D-Montgomery, is sponsoring a proposed referendum on an amendment to the state's constitution and Sen. Richard Madaleno Jr., D-Montgomery, is sponsoring a bill that would legalize marijuana, and specify how it will be taxed.

Both the constitutional amendment and Madaleno's bill would allow for the legalization of the use, possession, transportation, sale and cultivation of marijuana in the state.

Feldman's referendum, if voters approve it, would allow an individual to possess up to two ounces of marijuana, while Madaleno's allows for one ounce of marijuana but offers different amounts for different

forms, such as edibles or creams, of the drug.

"For the Green Party, we believe in direct democracy, we believe that the people have a right to decide their own future and (Feldman's) bill would set legalization of marijuana as a constitutional referendum for 2018," said Maryland resident Justin Schoville.

Schoville and the Maryland Green Party "have some questions about" Madaleno's bill because of the taxation and regulation aspects, he said.

State analysts said they believe that Madaleno's bill legalizing and taxing marijuana would provide at least an additional \$49 million in annual tax revenues for the state. There would be an initial cost of about \$2.1 million to implement the legalization of the drug.

Feldman's measure does not define how the taxes will be collected, however the revenue

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## A Grateful Accokeek Bingo Player Thanks the Crew That Saved Her Life

By PRESS OFFICE  
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Firefighters, EMT's and Medics were recognized for saving a life during a presentation at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday, February 28. The ceremony included Prince George's County Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale, Deputy Fire Chief (Volunteer Services) Jim McClelland, Assistant Fire Chief (EMS Commander) Brian Frankel and the career and volunteer crews that worked collectively to save the life of a heart attack victim. The crews received the Fire/EMS Departments "Life Saved" coin and a congratulatory letter. However, the award that meant the most was the person whose life was saved was there to thank them.

An adult female suffered sudden cardiac arrest while playing Bingo in Accokeek on Thursday evening, December 22. Fortunately, this event occurred at the Acco-



PHOTO COURTESY PGFD

Crew recognized by Fire Chief Barksdale for saving the life of a sudden cardiac arrest victim. Patient, in MARYLAND shirt, is alive and well and thanked everyone involved at an award ceremony in Accokeek on Tuesday evening.

okeek Volunteer Fire Department where Firefighter/EMTs were readily available and immediately provided life-saving intervention.

The adult female was one of about 100 patrons at the Accokeek Bingo at around 9:15 pm when she suddenly collapsed. She was found to be not breathing with no

pulse. Accokeek Volunteer members working the Bingo were the first to intervene while the combined volunteer and career staffing at the station were quick to respond and continue life-saving efforts including cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED)

to administer a shock in an attempt to stimulate her heart.

Paramedics from the Fort Washington Fire/EMS Station responded to the call and arrived to find CPR still being administered. Firefighters and medics loaded the patient into a transport unit and departed

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### INSIDE

#### "The FBI Building Belongs in Prince George's"

Relocating the FBI to one of the Maryland sites is also the best choice for regional growth and equity. For far too long, and for many indefensible reasons, there has been an unequal distribution of federal resources within the metropolitan area.

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#### National Urban League Mourns The Loss of Civil Rights Champion Roger Wilkins

Born into Jim Crow, he initially thought Barack Obama had no chance of being elected President. Yet he urged his daughter, Elizabeth, to work on his campaign, telling her, "this is your generation's Selma, and you dare not miss it."

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#### Maryland Casinos Drive Opportunity and Growth for Small Businesses

The casino industry is a \$240 billion-a-year industry that supports 1.7 million jobs nationwide. In Maryland, gaming employs roughly 15,000 people, supports \$446 million in wages and generates \$1.7 billion in economic impact.

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#### Movie Review: Logan

There are several brutally thrilling chases, fights, and showdowns in the film—Wolverine is deteriorating, but Jackman's in fine form, and young Dafne Keen is a firecracker—and these are balanced by introspective scenes focused on Logan's internal misery and his uneasiness with the very notion of "family."

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#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Who are some of the greener movie stars out there today and what are they doing to fight for the planet?

—Stacey DiGiorno, Chevy Chase, MD

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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Merry Month of May celebrated at Surratt House Museum

The Surratt House Museum is holding A Merry Month of May Celebration and Open House on Saturday, May 6, 12 noon to 4 pm. You are invited.

Learn from experts about herb, flower and vegetable gardens. Buy fresh-grown produce and products from local vendors. Make and take home crafts. And while you're there, take a FREE tour of the museum and play games on the lawn.

The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. For more information, call 301-868-1121 or log-on to [www.history.pgprks.com](http://www.history.pgprks.com).

### Outdoor Flea Market, April 30

Clean out your closet and make a few dollars at the Outdoor Flea Market, Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro, on Sunday, April 30, 9am to 1pm. All ages welcome. Register online in the Parks and Recreation e-store. Residents, \$20; non-resident, \$24.

### People

An unexpected Morningside reunion happened in early March on a cruise ship out of Baltimore bound for the Caribbean. Diane (Miller) Zirkle and Martin Miller who grew up on Pickett Drive; Dennis West, who lived on Marianne Drive; Gina GlagoIa (I don't know her married name), once of Suitland Road; and their spouses encountered each other onboard ship. I imagine some great memories were exchanged.

Vince Citriani, of Upper Marlboro, recently celebrated his 60th birthday with family and friends at Franklins Restaurant, Brewery & General Store in Hyattsville.

Nicole Hayes, 1st-grade teacher at St. Philip the Apostle School, will be presented the Golden Apple Award for excellence on May 4. She is one of ten Archdiocese of Washington school teachers to be honored at the 9th annual Awards ceremony.

Condolences to Chuckie Henry, of Skyline, and all the Henry family on the death of their cousin, Carl Henry.

I'm sorry I missed writing a column last week. I suddenly found myself at Prince George's Hospital with a heart-related problem. But I'm back in good shape, feeling fine. Call with news.

### Changing landscape

Prince George's County finally gets a Whole Food Market. (About time!) It opened with great fanfare on April 12 in Riverdale Park.

For years I've parked free on the Mall to visit the museums and monuments. No more. Metered pay parking is coming. It will be \$2 an hour, in effect from 7am to 8pm every day, including weekends and holidays.

Hyattsville Library closed for demolition on March 31 at 6pm. A new library will open in its space in about two years. Meanwhile, a temporary library is open in the University Town Center, less than half a mile from the current site.

Road work continues at the intersection of Suitland and Alentown roads, and at the entrance to the Beltway off Suitland Road. There are frequent lane closures, including on the Beltway. Drive with care!

### St. Elizabeths Hospital remembered

*Architecture of an Asylum: St. Elizabeths, 1852-2017*, a new exhibit at The National Building Museum, tells the story of St. Elizabeths' change over time, from its 1852 beginnings until now when it's being transformed into offices for the Department of Homeland Security.

I've met several in our community who once worked at St. Elizabeths. The one I knew best was my Skyline neighbor Mabel Harper, chief of nurses there many years ago.

The exhibit runs through January 17, 2018. Hours are Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. The National Building Museum is at 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. Info: 202-272-2448.

### May they rest in peace

I'm sad to announce the deaths of Roberta Murray and Eleanor Mote. I'll tell you more about each of them in upcoming columns.

Robert K. "Bob" Hooker, 88, a 1946 graduate of Bladensburg High, died March 17 at his home in Upper Marlboro. He earned a BA in agriculture from the University of Maryland and served in the Army Signal Corps. He worked for Safeway for more than 40 years and was a member of the Lions Club and the seniors program at Prince George's Community College. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Willie, in 2004 and brothers Karl and Kermit. Survivors include four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, where his memorial service was held. He had recently completed his 24th visit to Baltimore as a part of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging.

Edward Paul Crescenze, 89, former teacher at Oxon Hill High School and a professor of physical education at Prince George's Community College, died in Solomons on April 1.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Jill (Gilmartin) Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; Jim Reilly, David Titus and Barbara Sparks, April 23; Edna Lucas, April 24; Sue Stine McConkey-Mason, Daisy Young, Kenia Spivey and my grandson David McHale, April 25; G.A. DeFelle, April 26; and Michael Call, Apr. 27; Hazel Ball, Rose Tiller, Beverly Gotshall Marquis, DJ Fowler and Jessica Phipps, April 28; Lael McCune, Dorothy Lipka and Morningside Councilman Todd Mullins, April 30.

And May birthdays: Kathryn Deaver, Ann Lacey, Ernestine Taylor Wood, Dante Ross Jr. and Janet Booth Kaye, May 2; my daughter Sheila (McHale) Mudd and Lori Williams, May 3.

Happy 45th anniversary to John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 39th on April 22; Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their 28th on April 22; Janet and Brian Spivey, April 23; Emanuel and Juanita Chaplin, their 54th on April 26; and Jan and Cindy Smith on April 28.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### NAMING CEREMONY PROGRAM

Bowie State University James E. Proctor Jr. Building Naming Ceremony was held on Founders Day, April 12, 2017 at 12:00 noon. Delegate Proctor's long and exemplary service to the state of Maryland, coupled with his tireless resource advocacy on behalf of BSU, honorable service to the nation, and high integrity and good character makes him one of Bowie State's most accomplished and meritorious graduates. The honorific naming of Bowie State's Center for Learning & Technology in recognition of James E. Proctor, Jr. is momentous in the university's history.

### ANNUAL BIKE BLESSING

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church (New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish) invites you to worship with us at our Annual Bike Blessing, Sunday, April 30, 2017. Service is at 11:00 AM and the Bike Blessing is immediately following service. Church address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Church telephone num-

ber is 301-888-2171. Rev. Constance Smith is the Pastor.

### CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

May Cancer awareness colors are Gold/Blue/Purple for Bladder Cancer, Grey for Brain Cancer, Black for Melanoma and Skin Cancer. Visit [www.NFCR.org/cancercolors](http://www.NFCR.org/cancercolors) to obtain more information on cancer awareness colors and cancer awareness months.

### DAY TRIP

St. Dominic's Sodality is sponsoring a day trip to Harrington Raceway & Casino Harrington, Delaware on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The cost is \$40 per person (sorry no refunds available). All money is due no later than June 4th. Rebates are \$15 credit given in free slot play and \$7 credit towards the buffet meal.

Bus leaves from two locations. Knights of St. John's Hall at 10:00 AM (21500 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Maryland) AND Clinton Park and Ride at 10:30 AM (across from McDonald's-Stuart Lane, Clinton, Maryland). Bus will return at approximately 7:30 PM.

Point of contacts are Yvette Parker (301-274-0910), Clara Briscoe (301-449-3121), Clara Thomas (301-579-2779) and Carol Carter (301-579-2344).

### 2017 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Make summer memorable for students by enrolling them in a summer program that offers activities for grades 2-8. For more information, contact them at [www.pgce.edu/go/summeryouth](http://www.pgce.edu/go/summeryouth) or call 301-546-0158.

### CLINTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Clinton Jets Soccer Program has the cure for Winter Cabin Fever Blues. Spring registration is now open and the Jets are ready to take flight in 2017. The soccer program is looking for current and future stars to register for spring. Teams are forming for players age 3-14. Sign your child up now. Register on line at [www.clintonjets.org](http://www.clintonjets.org). If you have interest in volunteering as a Coach or assistant contact Shawn Hampton Soccer Commissioner [clintonjetsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:clintonjetsoccer@gmail.com) or Darrell Gamer Pee Wee Soccer Commissioner [JetsPWSoccer@gmail.com](mailto:JetsPWSoccer@gmail.com).

## Neighborhoods

### Summer Internships for High School Business and Finance Students Offered at Educational Systems Federal Credit Union

ROCKVILLE, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is looking to hire four paid interns to help in its Marketing and Operations departments this summer. Current high school juniors enrolled in a Business and Finance program are eligible to apply.

Educational Systems FCU is honored to support education by providing internships. These positions are designed to help fulfill the Business and Finance program requirements of completing a paid internship between a student's junior and senior year. The internships are for a six week commitment between July 3 and August 19, 2017. The hours are from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

#### Internship Opportunities

- **Marketing:** There are two internships available in the Marketing Department. The successful candidates will be responsible for performing a variety of administrative and support functions for the Credit Union's Marketing team including: taking inventory, packing and labeling event materials, assembling packets and coordinating the delivery of materials. These internships will be at 15901 Frederick Road, Rockville MD 20855.

- **Operations:** There are two internships available in the Operations Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for performing a variety of administrative and support functions for the Card Services and Payment Processing teams including: processing incoming and outgoing mail, completing fraud and dispute claims and filing records. This internship will be at 7500 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt MD 20770.

To apply, candidates should email a letter of interest and résumé to the following address [dweglein@esfcu.org](mailto:dweglein@esfcu.org) no later than April 22, 2017.

### BGE Marks 10th Annual National Safe Digging Month

*Company Reminds Customers To Call 811 Before You Dig*

BALTIMORE, MD—This April marks the 10th annual National Safe Digging Month and BGE reminds all customers and contractors to call 811 to have utility-owned underground lines marked before digging. Nationwide, every six minutes there is damage to an underground utility line because of digging without first calling 811, according to the Common Ground Alliance, the national association that promotes the 811 phone number and safe digging practices. CGA also reports that damages to underground lines have been reduced by 54 percent since the inception of National Safe Digging Month.

Striking an underground electric or natural gas pipe can cause serious injury, damages and service interruptions. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects where a call to 811 should be one of the first steps.

BGE manages nearly 16,000 circuit miles of underground electric lines and more than 7,000 miles of buried natural gas lines in its region, many of which may cross through residential properties. Properly locating these lines is essential to safely completing a digging job. In addition to BGE's lines, there are underground communications cables, water and sewer lines, and other utilities.

When calling 811, customers and contractors are connected to Miss Utility to provide information about their project. Miss Utility will notify BGE and all member utilities of your plan to dig. The utilities will then mark their underground facilities. In some cases, Maryland law requires a call at least two business days in advance of digging.

Once lines are located, excavators also must understand the markings and look for evidence of unmarked lines, such as water and sewer lines on private property. Sewer cleanouts and water valve covers are examples of equipment that can indicate the presence of underground lines.

BGE joins the Exelon family of utilities in marking National Safe Digging Month, and is a member of the Common Ground Alliance to share best practices to promote safe excavation and lower instances of damage to underground lines.

For information on digging safely, including how to get lines marked and what to do after lines are marked, watch BGE's Dig Smart video. Excavators can also contact the BGE Damage Prevention team at 410.470.6698 to arrange for free damage prevention training.

To learn more visit [www.bge.com/811](http://www.bge.com/811).

### Capitol Technology University Announces New President

LAUREL, MD—Capitol Technology University's Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Bradford L. Sims as the university's eighth president, following a nationwide search process. He succeeds Dr. Michael T. Wood, who is retiring after thirteen years at the helm of the Laurel-based independent institution of higher education.

Formerly chief academic officer and professor at Embry-Riddle University - Worldwide, Dr. Sims has built significant experience in higher education over the course of his distinguished career, including as Professor, Dean, Department Chair, Chief Operating Officer, and Chancellor.

Prior to joining Embry-Riddle in 2013, Dr. Sims held faculty and administrative positions at the College of Technology at Indiana State University, Western Carolina University, and the University of Florida. He has also served on the International Council for Research and Innovation, and has worked with several engineering and technology companies.

Dr. Sims will become Capitol's president on June 1, 2017. During May, he will serve as president-elect, working together with Dr. Wood, the Executive Council, and the Board of Trustees to ensure a smooth transition.

"Dr. Sims has an extraordinary spectrum of experience that includes both private industry and academia," noted Harvey Weiss, chairman of Capitol's board. "Having worked in the construction industry before transitioning to academia, he understands that educational institutions best serve their students when they are able to build bridges between the classroom and the broader arenas of work and business. His personal background as a graduate of STEM degree programs has given him a strong sense of commitment to the kind of practical education that Capitol offers."

"We believe he will lead Capitol to even greater heights of excellence, recognition, and value," Weiss said.

Founded in 1927 as Capitol Radio Engineering Institute (CREI), Capitol has since grown to become a full-fledged university offering undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs in business, computer science, cybersecurity and engineering fields. It is a Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency-designated Center of Excellence in cybersecurity education, and has been named by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) as one of twelve educational partners. Resources and facilities at the university include a Cyber Battle Lab, which provides real-time training in cybersecurity, and the Space Flight Operations Center.

### Optelec® CCTV Technology Available Now at Your Library

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) offers the Optelec® CCTV (close circuit television) magnifier with Optical Character Reading (OCR) capabilities that will read aloud any print text for customers with related disabilities at 11 of its 19 library branches. Accokeek, Beltsville, Bowie (upon reopening), Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Laurel, Largo-Kettering, Oxon Hill, Spauldings and Surratts-Clinton are the PGCMLS branches with this assistive technology. Moreover, all PGCMLS public computers are equipped with the Microsoft Windows® magnifier.

The County Library would like to thank the Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) for meeting the special needs of our library customers that would otherwise not have access to information over the internet or in print without the Optelec CCTV magnifier. Library Chief Executive Officer Kathleen Teaze remarked, "The Prince George's County Memorial Library System is delighted that a new door of opportunity has opened for our local residents with disabilities."

Funding for this project was provided through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Training for library staff on how to use the equipment will be provided by the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), a branch of DLDS.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Secrets to Saving on Your Summer City Vacation

Cities attract people for different reasons, which is partly why cities are such popular vacation destinations. Summer is one of the best times to visit, as the long days give you extra hours of sunlight for exploration and many cities host a variety of free activities. The busy season can mean rising prices, but there are a few city-specific savings tactics that can take some of the strain off your budget.



**Look for insiders' knowledge about the city.** Many major cities are covered by bloggers who focus on how to enjoy the city on the cheap. You could start your planning by researching online with the keywords "free or cheap" and the city's name. Some of the well-organized websites will even let you filter events by date, cost and your interests.

Also check the city's local newspaper sites for lists of free or cheap events. During the summer, many cities have free outdoor concerts and movie screenings; you can pack a picnic dinner and enjoy the warm weather and show.

**Get around the city like a local.** It might make sense to take an occasional cab, but some cities have robust public transportation systems. Take a few minutes to study the city's layout before arriving and don't be afraid to ask locals for advice or directions.

If you're in town for more than a few days, look into time-based public transportation passes. For example, you can get a seven-day Unlimited Ride MetroCard for subway and bus rides in New York City for \$32. (There's \$1 new-card fee if you're not refilling an existing card.) You can even use it on the crosstown buses that can quickly get you from one side of Central Park to the other.

**Explore new cuisine.** One of my favorite parts about visiting a city is trying the restaurants. Whether you save up and enjoy one of the city's finest eateries or find a hole-in-the-wall hidden gem, there's something for everyone.

Luckily, many cities' must-try foods are on the inexpensive side. Chicago's hot dogs, Portland's doughnuts and Austin's tacos all often cost less than \$5. You can also look for lists of cheap and delicious eats alongside the free-entertainment tips from frugal bloggers and local papers.

High-end restaurants will inevitably be pricey, but if it's on your "must-do" list, there could be ways to save. Some restaurants offer less expensive brunches or early evening tasting menus, or you might be able to grab a small bite and a drink at the bar rather than a full meal.

**Find the deals if you're going to shop.** Some people see shopping as an intrinsic part of a vacation, and cities are often home to chains' flagship stores, boutiques and specialty shops. The wide variety of options could tempt you to overspend, but it also means there are plenty of opportunities to save.

If you're in the luxury market, look for sample sales where high-end brands might be charging (relatively) less for products formerly on runways or showroom floors. Trying to stick to a tight budget? Look for large retailers' clearance sales, particularly if you're visiting when stores are clearing seasonal items off their shelves.

**Think outside the box when it comes to lodging.** Most people know that hotels in the heart of tourist areas are often the most expensive, and many turn to home-sharing sites as cheaper alternatives.

Another trick is to look for availability at hotels in the city's financial district. Holidays and weekends can bring vacancies at these properties, which may mean lower rates. Hotels right outside the main city, but accessible by public transportation, can also cost less.

**Bottom line:** Cities can be expensive, particularly during the busy summer, but there's a reason they're such popular vacation destinations. Whether you're interested in museums, shows, food, historic sites or all of the above, there are ways to save and make the most out of your summer in the city.

### EDC from A1

mission is to encourage greater collaboration and community trusteeship to enhance the participants understanding of Prince George's County and the Region. Marva Jo Camp, Esq. is the Chair of Leadership Prince George's and also the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation.

"Today was particularly exciting for Leadership Prince George's as we received presentations on the County's economic development strategy and priorities, as well as the role of the public and private sector in economic development," said Camp. "Many thanks to Jim Coleman and his staff at the EDC for always being in the

forefront of promoting and supporting economic development in the County."

In addition to the day-long forum, LPG cohort members were in attendance at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Capital Court redevelopment project in Largo. The Capital Court development will replace the former Metropolitan Baptist Church site with high quality luxury and workforce housing, as well as a Think Tank through a collaboration with Leadership Prince George's and the Prince George's Community College.

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact the EDC Executive Vice President, Pradeep Ganguly (pganguly@co.pg.md.us), at 301-583-4602.

## Op-Ed by PG County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III from the *Washington Post*: "The FBI Building Belongs in Prince George's"

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The *Washington Post* published the following op-ed written by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III regarding the relocation of a consolidated FBI headquarters to Prince George's County and the State of Maryland:

### The FBI Building Belongs in Prince George's

by Rushern L. Baker, III

In 1941, with World War II underway in Europe and Asia, President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized the challenges presented by a War Department that was spread out in dozens of temporary buildings on the Mall and around the area. Roosevelt approved Arlington County as the home for what eventually became the Pentagon. By doing so, he created a massive complex that kept this nation secure for decades, but he also created a dynamic economic force for Northern Virginia for decades to come.

Some 76 years later, our nation continues to face threats to our national security. Our threats today are terrorism, cyberwarfare, crime and corrup-

tion. And the agency on the front lines of our nation's domestic security and foreign intelligence is the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today, like the War Department in the 1940s, the FBI is haphazardly dispersed among as many as two dozen buildings, including many that lack security protections. The downtown FBI headquarters, the J. Edgar Hoover Building, is literally falling apart and was not built for the mission of the modern FBI, falling short on the technology, communications and coordination needed to fulfill its responsibilities. The FBI is in desperate need of a consolidated headquarters, and our nation is in desperate need of the most secure headquarters we can provide.

Two of the final three sites identified as potential locations for this consolidated, high-security FBI campus are in Prince George's County. The third is in Springfield. The two sites in Prince George's—the former Landover Mall property and the current Greenbelt Metro station parking lot—are best for the agency, best for the federal budget and best for the protection of this nation. They meet all FBI programming, logistical

and security requirements and have superior amenities and needed resources for the FBI's modern mission.

Of all the advantages our two sites have over the competing Virginia site, time and money are the most relevant. The Virginia site is occupied by two substantial federal agencies that would have to be relocated before the FBI could begin construction, creating a five-year delay in accessing the site and more than \$210 million in additional expenses to the federal government. Our nation's leaders cannot afford to waste that time.

Prince George's County and Maryland, working closely together, have plans in place to allow expedited and timely development of the Greenbelt and Landover sites consistent with all requirements. Prince George's and the state have made \$300 million in commitments to fund the transportation-infrastructure improvements needed at these sites to support the FBI headquarters construction.

Relocating the FBI to one of the Maryland sites is also the best choice for regional growth and equity. For far too long, and for many indefensible reasons, there has been an unequal distri-

bution of federal resources within the metropolitan area.

Prince George's County is home to less than 4 percent of the region's federal office leasing space. We have more than 75,000 federal workers and only 25,000 federal jobs. One has to look no further than rush-hour traffic reports to see it is our residents who are disproportionately forced to endure Beltway congestion. Metro ridership data clearly shows the number of empty Metro cars heading to Prince George's County every weekday morning.

It is clear that the best choice to address traffic congestion, help grow our region in an intelligent manner and provide value to the U.S. taxpayer is found in either of the two Prince George's sites. It is imperative to the security of our nation that this decision is made now and the FBI is provided with a modern consolidated headquarters facility as quickly as possible to provide the best defense against criminals, terrorists, and foreign and domestic threats.

Just as the location of the Pentagon in Northern Virginia changed that area forever, the choice of a Prince George's County site for the FBI would fundamentally reinvent this county.

### Marijuana from A1

raised must be spent on public school education, construction and capital improvement, substance abuse treatment and prevention, mental health services and recidivism, reduction and reentry services.

"The legal cannabis market in Colorado generated nearly \$1 billion in total sales and \$135 million in tax revenue for the state," the Maryland Public Policy Institute said in a January report. "Tax collections in Maryland could easily equal or exceed those in Colorado."

However, some argue the legalization of marijuana could have unfortunate effects on communities.

"Nobody is talking about it," Aubree Adams, a Pueblo, Colorado, resident told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "Homelessness is up, high crime is up."

Adams traveled to Maryland to testify on the negative effects of marijuana which, she said, "almost destroyed my son."

After Colorado legalized marijuana in 2012, Adams'

eighth-grade son "accessed edibles" at school.

"It's everywhere, you can't keep it away from the kids," she said.

By his freshman year of high school, her son tried to kill himself after a fit of marijuana-induced psychosis.

Her son attacked his younger brother before putting a gun to his own head, she said. He did not pull the trigger, she said, but later that night attempted to overdose on 250 ibuprofen pills.

"He vomited all night long in his sleep," Adams said.

Her younger son has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the incident, she said.

Adams' older son currently lives in Houston and is part of a treatment community—which is more intensive than inpatient rehab, she said.

There is emerging research linking marijuana and suicide rates, wrote Christine Miller, a scientific adviser for drug education groups, in her testimony to the committee.

"Marijuana is not unique in this regard, because like

all (drugs), it depletes the reward centers of the brain," Miller wrote.

In Colorado, suicide rates have increased "in lock-step with increases in their marijuana use rate," she wrote.

Suicide rates in Colorado have reached all-time highs and each one of Colorado's 21 health regions had a suicide rate higher than the national average, according to a February report by the Colorado Health Institute.

Despite this, Feldman said, there is insufficient scientific evidence linking marijuana usage and psychosis.

However, for some, marijuana can be a remedy.

When used responsibly by adults, marijuana can be a "good alternative to prescription drugs," said Ethan Howard, an Owings Mills, Maryland resident and the deputy director of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws—or NORML—Maryland.

Howard also supports legalization because of the disproportionate arrest rates between Caucasians and African Americans in cases involving marijuana.

"Legalization will level the playing field," he said.

Adrian Matthews, a Baltimore resident, the director of technology for NORML Maryland, said he does not have concerns with keeping marijuana away from those younger than the legal age.

"We prevent it the same way we've been preventing alcohol," he said. Stores will require ID to purchase it and parents will "lock it up" away from their children.

Additionally, the street market for the drugs will be lower because people will be incentivized to sell legally, he said.

Maryland legalized a medical marijuana program in 2013, however the process has been delayed due to a high number of applications and scrutiny. The patient registry is expected to go live by the end of March, Medical Marijuana Commission Chairman Paul Davies said Thursday afternoon.

Adams said she will "pray and hope it doesn't pass," while Feldman said he "simply (has) a question for the people of Maryland to weigh in on this."

### SoberRide from A1

safe transportation home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

Last year, 225 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Cinco de Mayo SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays this year starting on December 15, 2017 and operating through and including New Year's Eve.

(In March 2017, WRAP announced a partnership with the ridesharing service Lyft to provide WRAP's SoberRide serv-

ice in the Washington-metropolitan area through 2017. SoberRide, the popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, will now be solely available via the Lyft mobile app ridesharing platform.)

"In 2015 and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly a third of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Cinco de Mayo involved drunk drivers," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "Worse, 51-percent of male drivers ages 21-to-34 killed in U.S. Cinco de Mayo crashes over the last half-decade were drunk."

SoberRide is offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland

counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year's Cinco de Mayo SoberRide campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Miller-Coors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 66,756 free safe rides home to

would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the non-profit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with historically keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at the website; www.soberride.com.

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# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



### Maryland Delegation Supports Community Group's Resolution of NextGen Flight Issues at BWI, Urges FAA to Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer, along with U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen joined Congressmen Elijah Cummings, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes, John Delaney, Anthony Brown, and Jamie Raskin in support of the D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable's proposed resolution of the NextGen flight path issue at BWI Airport and urged the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to act.

"This Resolution satisfies the FAA's request that a Community Roundtable reach a consensus position before the FAA will consider returning to previous flight paths," the lawmakers wrote. "Now that the Roundtable has acted, we call upon you to accept the Roundtable's Resolution and take swift action to revert to pre-NextGen flight paths. It is essential to provide relief to the affected residents until an acceptable solution can be devised."

Full text of the letter follows:

Dear Administrator Huerta:

We are writing to you in support of the D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable's "Resolution to Revert to Pre-D.C. Metroplex/NextGen Procedures" that the Roundtable sent to you on March 31, 2017, a copy of which is attached.

As you know, the implementation of NextGen flights in 2015 has created an intolerable situation for those living under the flight paths. These residents cannot work or study at home, converse in a normal tone of voice, sleep well, or simply have the quiet enjoyment of their property. This is an unacceptable and unsustainable situation.

The D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable was formed by the Maryland Aviation Administration in response to the Federal Aviation Administration's request for a BWI community consensus before taking steps to change the NextGen flight paths. In its letter to Senator Benjamin Cardin dated December 12, 2016, the FAA stated that it is "committed to giving full and fair consideration to any formal CR [Community Roundtable] endorsed changes, which could include returning to previous flight paths if that is a consensus position after getting input from affected communities."

The Roundtable is comprised of representatives from each of the affected communities around BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, as well as representatives from the aviation industry. Two appointed representatives from each legislative district in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties are included, as well as representatives from the offices of the Anne Arundel County Council President and the County Executives of Anne Arundel, Howard, and Baltimore Counties.

At its meeting on March 21, 2017, the members of the Roundtable voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution:

The D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable requests and recommends that the FAA immediately revert to flight paths and procedures that were in place prior to implementation of NextGen and the D.C. Metroplex plan (i.e., the status quo ante) in order to provide urgent relief to residents adversely affected by these new flight

See FAA Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### National Urban League Mourns the Loss of Civil Rights Champion Roger Wilkins

"We have no hope of solving our problems without harnessing the diversity, the energy, and the creativity of all our people."

—Roger Wilkins

For Roger Wood Wilkins, the Civil Rights Movement was the family business. When Wilkins was born in 1932 in segregated Kansas City, Missouri, his uncle Roy Wilkins already was a well-known journalist and activist serving as assistant NAACP secretary, and later would serve as executive director. His mother, Helen J. Claytor, was Secretary of Interracial Education for the National YWCA and later would oversee the organization's integration.

"My uncle lived in a building on Sugar Hill [in New York City]," Wilkins told NPR in 2011. "W.E.B. Du Bois lived there. And Kenneth Clark lived there. And Thurgood Marshall lived there. So when Roy would invite me to dinner, you know, these giants were in the room."

Wilkins interned for Marshall while a law student at the University of Michigan.

As a newly-minted in 1957, Roger Wilkins was facing a prosperous career in the private sector in New York. But the Little Rock Nine—the first Black students to desegregate an all-white high school in Arkansas after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision—changed his plans.

"And so you couldn't say to yourself, well, let those kids do it," he said. "If you were alive, you had to say, I want to do something. I want to become involved."

He worked for a few years as welfare case-worker in Cleveland before joining the Kennedy Administration in 1962 as a special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Under President Johnson, he led the newly-created Community Relations Serv-

ice, which describes itself as the U.S. Justice Department's "peacemaker for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and disability."

"The racial upheavals in this country in the '60s came loaded with a heavy history," Wilkins wrote in 2005 upon the 40th anniversary of the Watts riots. "Many of the participants had lived through it; others had absorbed knowledge carried by their parents and grandparents of the soul-shriveling cruelty of the post-bellum rural South, of the northward migration during World War II when defense jobs opened up, of the physical brutality and guile southerners used to keep their labor force submissive and cheap. They remembered the promised cities full of good jobs, and how many of them just missed out as America passed its industrial peak. Finally, they surely understood the grim and fetid realities of the northern ghettos to which they were consigned."

At the end of the Johnson Administration, Wilkins accepted a position with the Ford Foundation. There he worked closely with the National Urban League and then-President Whitney M. Young, funding a program Young created called New Thrust, which developed the leadership skills of urban Black youth.

In 1972 he began writing editorials for the *Washington Post*, where he won a Pulitzer Prize for his commentary on Watergate, and spent the rest of his career as a journalist, author and educator.

As is the case for many of our parents and grandparents, Wilkins' life story is the story of civil rights in the 20th and 21st centuries. Born into Jim Crow, he initially thought Barack Obama had no chance of being elected President. Yet he urged his daughter, Elizabeth, to work on his campaign, telling her, "this is your generation's Selma, and you dare not miss it."

## The National Capital Trolley Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

### THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, D.C. and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 5pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm (March 15–May 15; June 15–July 15; and October 1–November 15). Admission is \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children (17 and under) and Seniors (65 and over). For more information, visit <http://www.dctrolley.org/>.

## Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



### Van Hollen, Senate Democrats Demand Fair And Consistent Treatment of Student Loan Borrowers in Public Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On April 7, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) joined Senators Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Patty Murray (D-WA), and 31 other Senators to send a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos expressing concern over announcements that borrowers may not be able to rely on notices they have previously received about their eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

"Our nation's student loan borrowers who uphold their commitments expect the federal government to do the same," wrote the Senators. "Members of our military, first responders, teachers, social workers, public defenders, and many other honorable public servants across the country are dedicating 10 or more years of their lives to help their communities in return for the basic promise of relief on their student loan debt."

"It is unacceptable for the Department to have told students they may rely on PSLF to help pay their student loans, only to have that assurance suddenly revoked. Borrowers who have been told in error that their employers qualify for PSLF should at a minimum be grandfathered-in for the period they were previously approved, even if the Department intends to change its determination about qualifying employment going forward."

Following recent reporting by the *New York Times* and others about the uncertainty created by the Department's latest court filings, many student loan borrowers were concerned and confused about their future financial obligations even while they work to serve their country or community in positions of public service. As of December 2016, more than 550,000 borrowers have submitted at least one approved form to certify their employment. However, roughly a third of all submitted employment certification forms have been denied.

The letter requests Secretary DeVos further streamline the ap-

plication process and make it more transparent to reduce the confusion and inconsistency for PSLF borrowers, such as issuing clear guidance about eligible organizations. The letter also calls for improving the notices sent to PSLF applicants, including clear instructions on how to appeal decisions about a borrower's eligibility.

In addition to Senators Van Hollen, McCaskill, Gillibrand, Nelson, and Murray, the letter was signed Senators Schumer (D-NY), Leahy (D-VT), Feinstein (D-CA), Wyden (D-OR), Durbin (D-IL), Reed (D-RI), Cantwell (D-WA), Menendez (D-NJ), Cardin (D-MD), Sanders (I-VT), Casey (D-PA), Klobuchar (D-MN), Whitehouse (D-RI), Shaheen (D-NH), Bennet (D-CO), Franken (D-MN), Coons (D-DE), Blumenthal (D-CT), Baldwin (D-WI), Donnelly (D-IN), Hirono (D-HI), King (I-ME), Kaine (D-VA), Warren (D-MA), Heitkamp (D-ND), Markey (D-MA), Booker (D-NJ), Hassan (D-NH), Warner (D-VA), Carper (D-DE), and Brown (D-OH).

The text of the full letter is below and a PDF of the letter can be found at [https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/sites/default/files/04.06.17\\_DeVos\\_letter\\_re\\_public\\_service\\_loan\\_forgiveness.pdf](https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/sites/default/files/04.06.17_DeVos_letter_re_public_service_loan_forgiveness.pdf).

Dear Secretary DeVos:

We write with great concern over the U.S. Department of Education's ("Department") lack of consistent, transparent, and fair treatment of student loan borrowers participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness ("PSLF") program.

Our nation's student loan borrowers who uphold their commitments expect the federal government to do the same. Members of our military, first responders, teachers, social workers, public defenders, and many other honorable public servants across the country are dedicating 10 or more years of their lives to help their communities in return for the basic promise of relief on their student loan debt. Many of these individuals have decided to borrow

See BORROWERS, Page A5

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Test Anxiety Can Be Overcome

Warmer temperatures, longer days ... all sure signs it's time for students to face a barrage of testing. From end-of-year subject exams to standardized national tests, there's more than enough to challenge the average student. Unfortunately, for some students, any testing presents a significantly stressful situation. It's called "test anxiety."

Students who haven't studied or who never grasped the subject matter understandably have reason to feel nervous about tests, but that's not the same as test anxiety.

Some nervousness when facing any test is normal, but test anxiety brings on much stronger feelings. Experts say test anxiety is actually a form of performance anxiety, the feeling someone may experience before appearing in a show, playing a crucial game in sports or walking into an important interview.

For most people, the result is simple nervousness that quickly disappears once the activity begins. With true test anxiety, however, the symptoms can be much stronger. The person might experience a stomachache, a headache, or an elevated heart beat. In severe cases there may be feelings of panic, of having to throw up or even of passing out.

These reactions are caused by the body releasing adrenaline as it prepares you for "danger." And as the person imagines the bad things which might happen, it can become a repeating cycle that leads to even more fears and anxiousness.

How to deal with test anxiety? The simplest step is to be prepared. It's called self-efficacy. The more competent you feel to take a test, the less anxious you'll feel. Being prepared means not cramming the night before, but studying over time, eating healthfully and getting plenty of rest.

Thinking positively and trying to relax also helps. Concentrating on negative thoughts and fears simply increases stress and anxiety. Instead, positive thoughts about how much studying was done and how well the material is known can help build confidence and encourage calm.

It's also important not to expect perfection. When a student stops worrying about his or her inability to be perfect and instead focuses on simply doing his or her best, it helps create a confident attitude and reduce stress.

And if test anxiety is such a problem for your student that he or she finds it almost impossible to successfully take a test, seek professional help. Your school counselor or a local professional counselor has a variety of tools to help address this problem.

*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*

### Spelling Bee from A1

ficer. "Over the past four years, our district has increased its focus on literacy with the ultimate goal that all students will achieve at high levels. On behalf of Prince George's County Public Schools, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kelly and wish her continued success."

Isha Sesay from Charles Carroll Middle School was the

runner-up. She received \$150 from ESFCU.

The *Washington Informer* and *Informer Charities* hosted this year's countywide bee, which included public, private and homeschooled students in grades six through eight. The competition was held March 17 at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center on the University of Maryland campus. Next year's bee will be open to fifth-graders as well.

### FAA from A4

paths and procedures, while a more deliberate and public-facing process to develop and implement NextGen and a D.C. Metroplex plan is undertaken.

This Resolution satisfies the FAA's request that a Community Roundtable reach a consensus position before the FAA will consider returning to previous flight paths. Now that the Roundtable has acted, we call upon you to accept the Roundtable's Resolution and take swift action to revert to pre-NextGen flight paths. It is essential to provide relief to the affected residents until an acceptable solution can be devised.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,  
Annaliene Davis (Hoyer), 202-225-3130  
Ian Jannetta (Van Hollen) 202-228-0672  
Sue Walitsky/Tim Zink (Cardin) 202-224-4524  
Fabion Seaton (Cummings) 202-225-4741  
Jaime Lennon (Ruppersberger) 410-746-7954  
Dan Jacobs (Sarbanes) 202-225-4016  
Will McDonald (Delaney) 202-225-2721  
Matt Verghese (Brown) 202-225-8699  
Lauren Doney (Raskin) 202-225-5431

## Maryland Casinos Drive Opportunity And Growth for Small Businesses

*American Gaming Small Business Jobs Tour Makes First Stop in Prince George's County to Highlight \$1.7B Impact—Nearly 3,000 Small Business Jobs*

By PRESS OFFICER  
AGA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The casino gaming industry supports 350,000 small business jobs nationwide and nearly 3,000 of them are in Maryland, the American Gaming Association (AGA) announced today at Eastern Food Services, Inc., a local food provider in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Today's event, part of the AGA's American Gaming Small Business Jobs Tour, highlights the direct role MGM National Harbor plays in supporting Eastern Food Services, Inc., a company that provides M life water bottles and other food services to the recently opened Maryland casino. Eastern Food Services is one of many companies nationwide that benefits from partnering with a local casino.

"Casino gaming is and always has been a strong community partner in Maryland and across the country where hundreds of thousands of small business jobs are supported," said Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of AGA. "The industry exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit with a special emphasis on creating good local jobs for American workers both inside and outside our casinos in nearly every state."

The casino industry is a \$240 billion-a-year industry that supports 1.7 million jobs nationwide. In Maryland, gaming em-

ploys roughly 15,000 people, supports \$446 million in wages and generates \$1.7 billion in economic impact.

"The gaming industry is a critical source of opportunity and growth for small businesses like Eastern Food Services," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "Partnering local businesses through the Community Benefits Agreement with MGM National Harbor has proved to be a highly successful venture, and has assisted in the creation of more than 4,000 new jobs, with nearly half of those hires coming from within Prince George's County itself. I applaud the gaming industry's willingness to give back to the community, and look forward to furthering our relationship that will generate jobs and sustainable growth for years to come."

This week, AGA released a report, *The Gaming Industry's Impact on Small Business Development in the United States*, that examined nearly a dozen U.S. gaming markets and assessed casino gaming's direct and indirect impact on local, small businesses. Researchers from Spectrum Gaming Group concluded that gaming's widespread impact is felt in markets across the country, but has larger impacts in small to mid-sized communities where local businesses work to integrate into gaming operations.

The report concluded that "the State of Maryland has been proactive in ensuring that a broad range

of businesses share in the benefits of gaming by directing 1.5 percent of all casinos' slot proceeds go to the Maryland Casino Business Investment Fund (MCBIF)."

This fund provides capital for small, minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses in Maryland and 50 percent of the funds are directed to target areas that surround the state's six casinos. In addition, nearly 80 Prince George's County-based businesses were involved with the construction of MGM National Harbor that totaled \$214.3 million for the local businesses.

Nationwide, the report concluded that the casino gaming industry generates \$52 billion in annual revenues for American small businesses and supports \$13 billion in small business employee wages. In addition, \$52 billion in annual small business revenues go toward real estate, finance, health care, STEM, manufacturing, information technology and other industries.

"Since we arrived in Maryland, MGM National Harbor has placed a tremendous emphasis on engaging locally owned small businesses," said Bill Boasberg, General Manager of MGM National Harbor. "During our construction and now in our regular operations we strive to serve as a champion for local business engagement. We were able to identify and award 32 percent of our construction contracts to qualified Prince George's County enterprises."

"Choosing Prince George's County for MGM's property confirmed that the area is filled with first-class talent and is a world-class destination," said Chris Umstot, General Manager of Eastern Food Services, Inc. "Under the guidance of our owner we look forward to doing our part to make sure MGM National Harbor is successful and Prince George's County prospers."

Eastern Food Services, Inc. is the first stop on AGA's American Gaming Small Business Jobs Tour. The tour is part of AGA's Get to Know Gaming (G2KG) campaign, a multiyear, integrated public affairs campaign rooted in authoritative research which touts the value of gaming nationwide. To date, through its Gaming Votes initiative and broader G2KG campaign, AGA has visited Iowa, Ohio, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri and Pennsylvania.

About AGA: The American Gaming Association is the premier national trade group representing the \$240 billion U.S. casino industry, which supports 1.7 million jobs in 40 states. AGA members include commercial and tribal casino operators, suppliers and other entities affiliated with the gaming industry. It is the mission of the AGA to be the single most effective champion of the industry, relentlessly protecting against harmful and often misinformed public policies, and paving a path for growth, innovation and reinvestment.

### Borrowers from A4

for their education explicitly because the option to receive relief on their debt allows them to afford the lower pay and benefits that are associated with the public sector, and in our rural, tribal, and other under-resourced communities.

Recently, the Department has suggested that some individuals may not be able to rely on the prior notices and advice they have received from the agency and its designated contractor. It is unacceptable for the Department to have told students they may rely on PSLF to help pay their student loans, only to have

that assurance suddenly revoked. Borrowers who have been told in error that their employers qualify for PSLF should at a minimum be grandfathered-in for the period they were previously approved, even if the Department intends to change its determination about qualifying employment going forward.

Additionally, the Department has created a great deal of confusion for applicants who are employed by non-profit organizations that provide certain types of public service, but are not categorized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To clarify this confusion, we re-

quest that the Department further define and formally clarify the types of eligible employers that qualify for PSLF. These include, but are not limited to, organizations working in the areas of emergency management, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public interest law services, early childhood education, service for individuals with disabilities and the elderly, public health, public education, and school-based services.

This guidance should be publicly accessible in a prominent location and include real-world examples of organizations that qualify in each of these fields.

And, when the Department receives requests to approve new employers it has not previously considered, these borrowers should receive a timely response.

PSLF borrowers also deserve the highest standards of customer service when making progress toward their debt relief. There are several steps that should be taken to improve the user experience with PSLF. When the Department or its designated contractor issues denials of employment certification to borrowers, these communications should give bor-

See **BORROWERS**, Page A7

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Logan

Logan  
Grade: B  
Rated R, pervasive harsh  
profanity and graphic violence,  
brief boobs  
2 hrs., 17 min

Logan is the third standalone film for Hugh Jackman's knife-fisted X-Men maverick Wolverine, completing the weary trilogy with something fans have long waited to see: Wolverine's adamantium claws slashing through human skulls like they were piñatas.

Yes, we're in hard-R territory here, with Mr. Logan (and others) doing fatal, bloody damage to numerous people, swearing like sailors all the while. Liberated from the confinement of the PG-13, director James Mangold (who also made 2013's *The Wolverine*) gets to show the anti-social X-Man's anger, pain, and violence in graphic detail. Sometimes this makes scenes more intense than their counterparts in other comic book movies; sometimes it only makes them more graphic. The film feels nothing like a fantasy-oriented superhero flick—why, there's not even a post-credits scene teasing the next film!—and plays instead as a compelling, overlong, grown-up, 21st-century Western with a tinge of sci-fi. It's good, but it can be grueling.

It's set in 2029 (like that's gonna happen). All mutants are dead or in hiding, and it seems that no new ones are being born. It is no longer hip and trendy to be a mutant. Logan—drunk, decaying, and sullen—is working as a chauffeur in El Paso, caring for the dying Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), who's stashed across the border in a structure that prevents his dangerous brain waves from getting out or being detected. Caliban (Stephen Merchant), a sun-phobic albino mutant, tends to Charles' daily needs while Logan works to save up money to get them all somewhere safe.



It's 2029. Mutants are gone—or very nearly so. An isolated, despondent Logan is drinking his days away in a hideout on a remote stretch of the Mexican border, picking up petty cash as a driver for hire. His companions in exile are the outcast Caliban and an ailing Professor X, whose singular mind is plagued by worsening seizures. But Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy abruptly end when a mysterious woman appears with an urgent request—that Logan shepherd an extraordinary young girl to safety. Soon, the claws come out as Logan must face off against dark forces and a villain from his own past on a live-or-die mission, one that will set the time-worn warrior on a path toward fulfilling his destiny.

Our reluctant hero soon finds himself saddled with another burden, a little girl named Laura (Dafne Keen) who has mutant powers not unlike his own and is also in need of getting somewhere safe. Laura puts the “mute” in mutant, but what she lacks in conversation she makes up for in slicing through the limbs and torsos of henchmen. There is an everlasting supply of henchmen to be skewered, sent by a robotic-armed dirtbag named Pierce (Boyd Holbrook) who represents certain mutant-oriented sinister forces. But as usual, Wolverine's greatest enemy is himself.

Mangold, who co-wrote the screenplay with Scott Frank (*The*

*Wolverine*) and Michael Green (*Green Lantern*), doesn't hide his cowboys-and-Indians inspirations; at one point, the characters watch *Shane* on TV. With its violence-haunted protagonist and settings in Texas, Mexico, and Oklahoma, Logan follows the tropes and structure of many classic Westerns, including a sidetrack where Logan, Laura, and Charles help a farm family in need of justice. There are several brutally thrilling chases, fights, and showdowns in the film—Wolverine is deteriorating, but Jackman's in fine form, and young Dafne Keen is a firecracker—and these are balanced by introspective scenes focused

on Logan's internal misery and his uneasiness with the very notion of “family.”

In all, it's a fittingly funereal swan song for Jackman's version of the character (if this is indeed his last ride), one that should please viewers who are emotionally invested in him. That doesn't include me, alas. Just as *The Wolverine* did, Logan strives for and often achieves respectability, but it still gets bogged down by what is to me the character's fatal flaw: his sully, doleful personality. It's even more pronounced when he doesn't have the other X-Men to provide contrast. This is a well-made but exhausting elegy.

## Oyster Sanctuary Bill Finds Support in House of Delegates

By JACK CHAVEZ  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The House of Delegates voted 102-39 on March 17 in favor of a bill that would keep intact existing oyster sanctuaries on the Chesapeake Bay, a blow to the commercial fishing industry's efforts to expand the state's oyster fisheries.

Supporters and opponents of the bill, named the Oyster Management Plan, are both saying that their solution is best for the long-term health of the bay and its oyster population, which helps clean the Chesapeake by filtering nutrients like excess algae out of the water column.

“(The Oyster Management Plan) protects the fragile progress that has been made to date in recovering oyster populations,” the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said in written testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee on Feb. 24. “This bill would in no way impact (the Department of Natural Resource's) ability to manage the public oyster fishery, including the development of rotational harvest management for public oyster bottom.”

Bill opponents, such as the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, disagreed, saying that harvesting in the sanctuaries is vital to maintaining existing oyster stock in “idle” areas.

“There's this idea that the sanctuaries would be generating all this oyster larvae,” coalition spokesman Chip MacLeod said to the committee on Feb. 24. “That larvae does no good unless it has a clean, hard bottom to strike. One of the things that doesn't work with the oyster sanctuary theory is that we don't have clean, hard bottom (around these sanctuaries).”

Opening parts of the sanctuaries to commercial use, MacLeod said, would remove aging oysters whose environmental usefulness had subsided, and free up space for oyster larvae to flourish.

The Department of Natural Resources, the agency that controls the sanctuaries, opposes the bill.

Opponents point to a 2010-2015 study conducted by the Oyster Advisory Commission, a Natural Resources department subsidiary, that concluded that there is “justification” to adjust current sanctuary boundaries.

“There are sanctuaries that are known to have poor habitat

and/or very low densities of oysters,” the advisory commission's study report said. “If the ultimate goal is to have more oysters in the water, then some areas that are currently sanctuaries could contribute to this goal and provide economic and cultural benefits to fishing communities.”

Conversely, a bill enacted in 2016, the Sustainable Oyster Population and Fishery Act, mandates that the Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, conduct a study to adopt a science-based fishery management plan by 2018. Supporters want to see this study concluded before allowing the department to entertain any ideas of opening sanctuaries to harvest.

Opponents contend that doing so undermines the efforts of the department and its advisory commission.

“(The Oyster Advisory Commission) is doing all of this good work, because the prior administration wouldn't adopt a management plan,” Delmarva Fisheries Association chairman and waterman Rob Newberry told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

## Tips and Tricks for Successful Entertaining

### Spring Into Warmer Months With a Picnic Spread Made From the Heart



(BrandPoint)—This time of year, the urge to go outside increases by the day. There's more sunlight, birds are chirping and, in some lucky parts of the nation, flowers might even be in bloom. What better way to welcome spring than with a picnic prepared from the heart, complete with homemade breads and baked goods made from scratch?

Whether you're celebrating a spring holiday or birthday, looking for a new idea for date night or just want an excuse to relax on a lazy Sunday afternoon, these tips will equip you for a picnic that's sure to please.

#### Location, location, location

The wonderful thing about picnics is that they can be enjoyed just about anywhere. Whether you want to take in your own backyard, visit a favorite park in your neighborhood or town or escape to a cherished remote spot that is secret to you, picnics allow you to make your meals extra special as you surround yourself in nature.

Spring showers get you down? Prepare for summer by transforming your living room into an indoor picnic space. Lay out a blanket, whip up a delicious spread, pick up some flowers, grab your favorite board games and make a day of it. You'll forget the gray weather in no time.

#### A cause to celebrate

Warmer temperatures are cause for celebration alone, but the spring season is also filled with festive holidays like Easter and Mother's Day. This Easter, while the kids run through the yard on the hunt for Easter eggs, adults can lounge on picnic blankets and enjoy tasty traditional Easter treats, like homemade hot cross buns.

When it comes time to show Mom she's special (and every day of the year, of course), change up the usual Mother's Day breakfast in bed or brunch plans with an indoor or outdoor brunch picnic, complete with all of her favorite foods. Enjoying fresh flowers and homemade cinnamon rolls or coffee cake while surrounded by her favorite people will make it a day to remember. Plus, who really wants crumbs in their comforter?

Picnics are also a great way to celebrate a spring birthday in the park. Or, for a new twist on your next date night, plan a romantic picnic dinner spread somewhere special, or right out your own back door.

#### The food: The reason we picnic

Whether a brunch, lunch or dinner picnic, food is always the star of the show; it's the reason to own a picnic basket and the lovely accoutrements. For your next picnic, no matter the occasion, make it a priority to bake something from the heart.

Fleischmann's Yeast can be used for a variety of everyday and seasonal recipes, and can help you plan the perfect picnic. Visit BreadWorld.com for recipe inspiration and tips for beginners and seasoned bakers alike, including pointers like how to save time by making your dough the night before. As your oven works its magic, the smell of made-from-scratch baked goods is sure to get everyone excited to start the picnic party.

From Hot Cross Buns or an Easter Egg Nest for Easter to Beginner's Frosted Cinnamon Rolls or Strawberries and Cream Coffee Cake for a Mother's Day picnic, a homemade treat makes every holiday complete. And if you're looking for a staple for any occasion, French Bread is guaranteed to impress your picnic guests. Plus, you'll be joining the ranks of those across the country raving about the health and taste benefits of homemade artisanal bread. So roll up your sleeves and start baking with yeast—it's easier than you might think and the results will add an extra “wow” factor to your thoughtful picnic spread.

Follow the recipe below to build a delicious foundation for your perfect picnic sandwich.

#### French Bread

##### Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups warm water (100 to 110 degrees F)
- 2 envelopes Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast
- 1 tablespoon Mazola Corn Oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 5 to 5 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- cornmeal
- 1 egg white beaten with 1 tablespoon water

# Calendar of Events

April 27 — May 3, 2017

## Master Class With Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Liturgical Dance for Teens and Adults

Date and Time: Thursday, April 27, 2017, 7:45–9:15 pm  
 Description: Dancers ages 15 and up won't want to miss the opportunity to learn Praise dance movements and choreography from the world-class dancers of DBDT. This class sold out early last year, so don't want to reserve your spot.  
 Cost: \$20/per person; \$10/observer  
 Ages: 15 & up  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## Campfire

Date and Time: Friday, April 28, 2017, 7:30–9 pm  
 Description: Enjoy nature tales and roasted marshmallows. Bring hot dogs if you like. Patrons will be notified of weather-related cancellations.  
 Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$6  
 Ages: Ages 2 & up  
 Location: 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Live Animal Show

Date and Time: Saturday, April 29, 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

## Annual Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea, and the Arts

Date and Time: Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10 am–4 pm  
 Description: Celebrate spring at this fun festival for the entire family! Visit the resident artists' studios, watch art demonstrations, paint the Montpelier bird, and create spring-themed crafts. Stroll the Arts Center's galleries and view the *Substrates* exhibition as well as art by Ellen Cornett and Barbara Talbott. At 1 pm, enjoy a classical recital by renowned pianist Stefan Scaggiari.  
 Cost: Free  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Shearing and Fiber Day

Date and Time: Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10 am–1 pm  
 Description: Join the workers at the Old Maryland Farm for the annual shearing of the sheep and llama. See firsthand how wool and hair are collected from farms and learn how it will end up in your clothing. Enjoy the wool spinning demonstration and fiber display. Hay rides available for \$2 per rider.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: Old Maryland Farm  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544

## Stefan Scaggiari Performs April in Paris

Date and Time: Sunday, April 29, 2017, 1 pm  
 Description: Travel to Paris this April with pianist/singer Stef Scaggiari as he presents the music of Debussy, Chopin, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, plus songs of Cole Porter, Leslie Bricusse, Duke Ellington, Sting, and Stevie Wonder.  
 "Stef's musical contributions are major, sometimes miraculous."  
 —National Public Radio.

Following the recital, enjoy 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

## Tavern Night

Date and Time: Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8 pm  
 Description: Make merry with the lively sounds of the Ship's Company Chanteymen as Riversdale's basement transforms into a 19th-century tavern. Enjoy a toast with beverages provided by Franklin's Brewery and a tavern-style menu inspired by 19th-century recipes. Includes souvenir glass.  
 Cost: Resident \$25; Non-Resident \$33  
 Ages: Ages 21 & up  
 Location: Riversdale House Museum  
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544  
 Email: riversdale@pgparks.com

## Outdoor Flea Market

Date and Time: Sunday, April 30, 2017, 9 am–1 pm  
 Description: Clean out your closet and make a buck! Vendors space is 12x12.  
 Register online in the Parks and Recreation e-store.  
 Cost: Resident: \$20; Non-Resident: \$24  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Watkins Regional Park  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772  
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## Family Fun Walk

Date and Time: Sunday, April 30, 2017, 10 am–12 noon  
 Description: Has the cold got you down? Come shake off the "winter blues" by joining us for a Fun Walk on the Adelphi Trail!  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All Ages  
 Location: Langley Park Community Center  
 1500 Merrimac Dr., Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... The Green Screen: Hollywood A-Listers Who Are Fighting for the Planet

Dear EarthTalk:

*Who are some of the greener movie stars out there today and what are they doing to fight for the planet?*

—Stacey DiGiorno, Chevy Chase, MD

While a handful of Hollywood A-listers—Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Ed Begley Jr., to name a few—have been actively campaigning for the environment for decades, a new wave of green celebrities is using star power to help convince millions of fans around the world to live greener lifestyles and speak up for environmental protections and climate mitigation.

Leonardo DiCaprio continues to distinguish himself as one of the greenest stars out there. He started the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation in 1998 with the mission of protecting the world's last wild places, and has since then channeled millions of dollars in grants toward various direct action initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns all over the world. His 2007 documentary, *The 11th Hour*, features interviews with a variety of leaders and luminaries in documenting the grave environmental problems facing the planet's life systems, while his 2016 film, *Before The Flood*, focuses on the environmental impacts of global warming on different locales around the world. Last December, DiCaprio met with

then-President-Elect Trump to discuss the importance of the U.S. remaining committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and honoring its commitments as part of 2015's Paris climate agreement.

Another big star that's gone green is Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Terminator earned his environmental cred during his six years as California's governor when he shepherded legislation through a hostile state legislature establishing the most stringent emissions reduction mandates in the nation, and issued executive orders to up the energy efficiency requirements for existing and new state government buildings. He also helped pave the way for the introduction of automobiles powered by emissions-free fuel cells by building the beginnings of a hydrogen refueling network across California. Schwarzenegger has been outspoken about the need for state and local governments to take the lead in the battle against global warming—a message that never resonated more clearly than now with climate-denier Donald Trump in the White House.

Mark Ruffalo may have played The Hulk in Marvel Comics' Avengers movies for good reason: He's pretty green—and resource extractors don't like him when he's angry. The A-list actor is outspoken against the environmental and health ills of fracking, a tech-



CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE, FLICKRCC

Avengers star Mark Ruffalo is one of a handful of Hollywood A-listers committed to the fight against climate change.

nique that recovers gas and oil from shale rock by drilling down into the Earth to direct a high-pressure water mixture at the rock to release the gas inside. He founded the non-profit Water Defense in 2009, and later went on to join engineering professor Mark Jacobson, banker and solar executive Marco Krapels and filmmaker/activist Josh Fox to launch The Solutions Project, which aims to help move the U.S. to 100 percent renewable energy. He has also been active alongside the Standing Rock Sioux in fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

Some other movie stars for the environment include Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Daryl Hannah, Pierce Brosnan, Charlize Theron, Matt Dillon, Matt Damon, Julia

Roberts, Will Ferrell, Tom Hanks and George Clooney. At least you can feel better about going to the movies now that you know the stars on the screen are using some of the money they are making at your expense to help the planet.

CONTACTS: Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, [www.leonardodicaprio.org](http://www.leonardodicaprio.org); Water Defense, [www.waterdefense.org](http://www.waterdefense.org); Solutions Project, [www.thesolutionsproject.org](http://www.thesolutionsproject.org).

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**Send questions to:**  
[earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Borrowers from A5

rowers clarity and support. Denials should state the specific reasons that an employer or form has been denied, clearly list the options and process for a borrower to appeal the decision, and specifically inform the borrower that they may work with their employer to provide documentation to support a conclusion that their employment qualifies.

Finally, the Department should act swiftly to fully digitize the PSLF employment certification and application process, including allowing

borrowers and employers to digitally sign their forms. The Government Paperwork Elimination Act, signed nearly two decades ago, called for federal agencies to increase their use of electronic forms, electronic filing, and electronic signatures to conduct official business with the public. Although it is positive that borrowers can digitally upload many forms and documents on the web with their servicers, PSLF forms have limited functionality.

Currently, all borrowers must print the employment certification form, manually sign

it, and also have it manually signed by their employer. Furthermore, online submission of a scanned form is only an option for borrowers who have existing accounts with the Department's designated contractor. Borrowers with other student loan servicers should not be required to mail or fax their forms. In an era where fax usage and availability has declined significantly, borrowers should not be asked to fax information to loan servicers when modern technology is readily available to solve these problems.

These steps would provide PSLF applicants with additional certainty and transparency as they work to meet their obligations. Given that borrowers may first become eligible for full forgiveness of their remaining balances through PSLF on September 2, 2017 of this year—less than six months away—we request your response to the policies and reforms to the Department's implementation of the PSLF program as expeditiously as possible and no later than April 27, 2017. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

# Lawmakers Override Hogan's Protect Our Schools Act Veto

By CARA NEWCOMER  
 Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland lawmakers voted Thursday to override Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of a bill that would specify which measures could be considered when determining a school's quality, prohibiting student testing from being one of them.

The bill restricts the state's ability to intervene in failing schools, which opponents worry is intended to limit the creation of charter schools and voucher systems.

The House of Delegates passed the override of the governor's veto 90–50, and the Senate passed it the same day, 32–15.

Hogan, a Republican, vetoed House Bill 978, known as the Protect Our Schools Act of 2017, Wednesday, saying the bill weakens school accountability, according to a release from the governor's office. In the press release, Hogan urged legislators to put aside politics and sustain the veto.

The Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education

have sided with the governor in opposition to this bill, according to the release.

Thursday morning, advocates for the bill gathered at a rally to call for an override. Those present included representative from the Maryland State Education Association, the Maryland Parent Teacher Association and some lawmakers.

The bill would help accommodate the needs of the students and allow parents to be involved in the process, Delegate Mary Washington, D-Baltimore, told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "We need

to do more to end disparities (in education) ... we cannot do that giving control to the state," Washington said.

Bill Sponsor Delegate Eric Luedtke, D-Montgomery, acknowledged the common goal that both sides of the argument shared. "I'm glad we can agree every kid deserves a good education," Luedtke said on the floor.

Although the State Board of Education opposes the bill, people who are involved in the everyday lives of children, like

See HOGAN, Page A20



## HELP PROTECT HONEYBEES

Honeybees have been on Earth for about 25 million years and play a vital role in our everyday life. Through pollination, bees help produce many crops like almonds, berries, fruits and vegetables. But, this popular pollinator is struggling.

In 2014, beekeepers reported losing about 40% of honey bee colonies. Consider following some of these tips to help the bees stay abuzz.

**Buy local.** Support beekeepers in Prince George's County and the State of Maryland by purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables, and honey.

**Reduce pesticide use.** When plants are in bloom, bees are foraging. Be careful when using pesticides because they can also be poison to bees. Reduced use can help prevent poisoning.

**Plant a garden with bee-friendly plants.** In a window box, backyard or community green space, encourage bees to visit your garden by planting daisies, sunflowers, hollyhocks and foxgloves.

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.