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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MICHELLE SLOAN

University Boulevard wasn't designed for the walking community that lives there now, officials say. There are long gaps between crosswalks in what has become a densely populated enclave of immigrants, including many new arrivals unfamiliar with U.S. traffic laws.

Pedestrian Casualties Mount in Maryland Town as Officials Defer Action

By REBECCA RAINEY, ELLIE SILVERMAN, HELEN LYONS, NAEMA AHMED, ELIANA BLOCK, ROSIE BROWN, MICHELLE SLOAN, CHANGEZ ALI and AMBER EBANKS
Capital News Service

LANGLEY PARK, MD—At least 138 pedestrians have been struck by vehicles in the past eight years on a lethal two-mile stretch of state highway that runs

through this low-income immigrant community in the Washington suburbs. Eight have died.

By luck, Vanessa Harris wasn't one of them. On a drizzly morning in April she balanced on a 4-foot-wide concrete median strip on University Boulevard, worrying she might "slip and fall and get hit" as three lanes of cars whizzed by her on either side.

She was coming from Dunkin' Donuts, where she'd

grabbed a cup of coffee while on a short break from her job at a variety store just across the highway.

A moment later, she saw an opening and dashed across, making it safely to the other side.

Nine months earlier, 20-year-old Santos Udiel Romero died while crossing the highway in nearly the same spot. Two cars narrowly missed him before a Prince George's County Police cruiser hit him.

On the same day, a vehicle hit a 37-year-old unidentified man crossing the street about 300 feet away. He suffered serious injuries.

A Capital News Service analysis of state accident data from 2009 through 2016 documented the casualties on University, a roadway that officials say wasn't designed for

See PEDESTRIAN Page A5

Department of Parks and Recreation Honors Military

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—They say to know where you're going, you have to know where you've been—and in this case, the United States may be in trouble. According to the most recent national reports, students are struggling to understand U.S. history.

The most recent study conducted by The National Assessment of Educational Progress found only 18% of more than 11,000 eighth graders were 'proficient' in U.S. history.

That study illustrates a troubling trend to Laurie Verge, Di-

rector of the Surratt House Museum. "Schools aren't covering enough U.S. history in much of their curriculum," she says. But Verge has a plan to bring history to life for students—by having them learn it from the very people who helped shape it. "Museums [help] to fill the void and ensure that Americans learn [more] of their heritage. In an area heavy with military personnel, programs such as the Blue Star can certainly assist in getting that history to a wider audience," she continues.

See MILITARY Page A3

PGC Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Regarding the May 22 Ruling on the Purple Line

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following the May 22 ruling on the Purple Line light rail project.

"Prince George's County is obviously very disappointed in today's ruling that will once again delay the Purple Line, one of the most important public transportation infrastructure projects in our region and the State. This decision has created yet another obstacle that will

impede this vitally important project, designed to improve the travel of residents between the two most populous counties in Maryland. The Purple Line is intended to give County residents another transportation option, while creating economic opportunity as well as protecting the environment. I am glad to see that the State is committed to pursuing all possible legal avenues to ensure that this project continues to move forward. We must remain vigilant until construction for the Purple Line commences and is completed."

MPT Announces Selection of Prince George's County Teacher as Maryland's 2017 PBS Digital Innovator

By PRESS OFFICER
MPT

OWINGS MILLS, MD—Maryland Public Television (MPT) has announced Tamala Stuckey, a technology resource teacher at Cool Spring Elementary School in Adelphi, Maryland, as one of 52 educators from across the country selected for the fifth annual PBS Digital Innovators program.

The program recognizes classroom change makers: educators in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories who skillfully approach education with a bold and fresh perspective through innovative integration of digital media and resources into classrooms instruction.

Stuckey, who earned a master's degree in Educational Technology, is being honored for creative uses of digital tools, ensuring that each lesson and activity is relevant and engaging to her students. An advocate of technology-centered learning both in and out of the class-

room, Stuckey tells MPT that she uses digital resources to help students "discover different aspects of the world." She explains that these tools broaden instruction and deepen learning, paving the way for creative and unique student collaborations.

During the next year Stuckey will serve as an education partner with MPT's Education Division, working to deepen the connections between the education community/schools and Maryland Public Television. "I am extremely excited about collaborating with MPT this year," said Stuckey.

"Tamala is a dedicated and passionate educator, committed to finding engaging and effective ways to use digital media and technology to reach and teach her students," said Betsy Peisach, MPT vice president, Education Division. "We are excited to work with Tamala to learn and share great ideas with teachers across Maryland."

See INNOVATOR Page A3

Maryland Free Fishing Days Are Set for June and July 2017

By ALICIA MCELHANEY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites residents to participate in the state's two remaining, free fishing days in 2017: June 10 and July 4.

These yearly free fishing days provide a unique opportunity to fish the state's waters without obtaining a fishing license, stamp or registration.

"Maryland has a wealth of public fishing waters, where anglers can catch anything from cold-water trout and striped bass to tasty white perch and more than 60 other species," Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. "Free fishing days are a great way for any Marylander to learn or rediscover the sport."

Anglers must adhere to size and catch limits. Convenient fishing spots can be located on the department's free mobile app and the Angler's Access map.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A grandfather enjoys quality time while fishing with his grandson.

There are nearly two dozen License-Free Fishing Areas located throughout the state,

where anglers can access prime fishing areas with a free angler registration. Any

angler who is under the age of 16 is not required to have a fishing license.

INSIDE

Hogan Signs Legislation to Combat Heroin and Opioid Crisis

"Our administration remains committed to treating this crisis like the emergency that it is, and I thank the legislature for working with us to provide additional tools to save the lives of Marylanders—before it's too late."

Community, Page A3

President Trump's War on Children

The cruel Trump budget invests more in our military—already the most costly in the world—but denies vulnerable children and youths the income, health care, food, housing and education supports they need to become strong future soldiers to defend our country.

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Larry Hogan Calls for Bipartisan Compromise on Paid Sick Leave

The governor also signed three executive orders expanding paid leave benefits at the state level and creating a task force to gain insight from Maryland workers and businesses to further assist with developing a common sense compromise.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: *Ghost in the Shell*

Our heroine is a super-soldier called the Major (Scarlett Johansson), the first case of replacing every part of the body except the brain. Her brain—and thus her soul, her self—was supposedly rescued from a dying refugee, though Major doesn't remember her pre-robot life, so wink wink.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I heard that the Pope urged President Trump to keep the U.S. in the Paris climate accord. Since when has the Catholic church been involved in environmental politics?

—Janine Morse, Rome, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Farmer's Market opens at the Mona Center, Wednesdays only

Locally-grown fruit and vegetables should tempt you into dropping by the Catholic Charities Susan D. Mona Center, 5859 Allentown Way in Temple Hills. It's open every Wednesday afternoon throughout the summer, from 2 to 7 p.m.

Parking is free. And they accept SNAP/EBT cards.

People

Gwendolyn Willis, Suitland High Class of '66, died last October in a car crash on the way home from the school's 50-year reunion. Classmates contributed enough to present a \$2,000 scholarship to a worthy Suitland High graduate this month in Gwen's name.

Cheryl "Sherry" Johnson, Suitland Class of '63, died recently of cancer. She has lived in Minnesota ever since attending college there. Her parents, Mel and Charlotte Johnson, and sister Sandy survive her.

Thank you to Julie Koch-Michael who let me know about the deaths of these two Suitland High grads.

Dave Chambers, Susan Frostbutter and Shirley Osborne were Election Judges for the Morningside election on May 1. Incumbents Todd Mullins and Bradley Wade were re-elected. John Anthony got one write-in.

Alma Walton and Lindsey Green, Jr. have been elected by parishioners to St. Philip's Pastoral Council. Also, Father Ted, pastor, selected April King to serve on the Council. She is Director of Religious Education for the parish.

County Exec Rushern Baker attended the Oxon Hill High School graduation on May 31 at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.

John H. Thompson, director of the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, has resigned, effective June 30. As the *Washington Post* says, he's "leaving the agency at a time when it faces a crisis over funding for the 2020 decennial count of the U.S. population."

Academia

These Morningsiders are among the 2017 graduates of Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School:

Alyssa Abbott, Zenas Greenlee, Autumn Hester, David Lynch, Troy Reynolds, Jaime Rose and Nicole Wade. Jaime Rose and Nicole Wade also graduated as Certified Medical Administrative Assistants.

I welcome you to email me at (muddmm@aol.com) with graduates in your family.

St. Philip's School, in Camp Springs, is accepting students for the upcoming school year. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and offers pre-school through grade 8. Call 301-423-4740 and request a tour. By the way, I have two great-grandchildren—Mary and Wesley McHale—at St. Philip's.

La Reine, 25 years ago

Twenty-five years ago, May 15, 1992, La Reine High School held its last graduation at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Caryn Carney, a 1969 La Reine graduate, was commencement speaker.

Sister M. Kateri, principal since 1973, handed out 101 diplomas. Nicole Burns of Clinton was valedictorian; Alazne Arrien of Fort Washington, salutatorian.

La Reine opened in 1960, next door to Suitland High School. Over the years it provided an excellent education, sending more than 90% of its graduates on to college. My four daughters, Kathleen, Therese, Elaine and Sheila, all went there.

News from

The Surratt Courier

Love, Sex and Consequences, about young couples finding love in the midst of war, will be presented on June 10 by Christy Coleman, American Civil War Museum CEO, at the Surratt House Museum, in Clinton. It's free! Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Info: 301-868-1121. Recommended for ages 10 & up.

Fall registration begins on June 15 for the Booth Escape Route Tours to be held September 2, 9 and 23. Call 301-868-1121. Get your name on the list.

The Surratt House is open for guided tours Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.

Star Wars music at the library

Come and enjoy *Star Wars*-themed music performed by Bryant's Music School students who will sing and play instruments to showcase their musical talent, at the Oxon Hill Library, Sunday June 11 at 2:30 p.m.

May they rest in peace

John Prescott Denison, 61, who began his career with one lawnmower and worked it into the 23rd largest landscaping company in the U.S. (according to *Lawn & Landscape* magazine), died May 25 at his home in Fort Washington. Visit Denison Landscaping & Nursery, 8911 Oxon Hill Road, and see for yourself. Survivors include his wife Donna, four children, five grandchildren, brothers Dwight and Duane. He was predeceased by his parents Dwight and Evelyn, brother Frank, sisters Sue Mona and Patricia Gallowan. Viewing was at St. Barnabas with funeral at Riverdale Baptist.

Elizabeth Jane Harvey, 93, mother of former Morningsider Diane Ruby and longtime member of Holy Family Parish in Hillcrest Heights, died May 5. She was the wife for 64 years of Edward B. Harvey; mother of Mary Ellen Norris, Budge, Mike, Bill and Patrick Harvey, Donna Carbon, Beth Bell and the late Diane Ruby and Dennis Harvey; grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother of 21.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Robin Murphy and Rev. Frank Wags, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Fannie Dimes, Meghan Trexler Decker and Jennifer Jenkins McClelland, June 11; Keenus Clark and Shirley Proffit, June 12; Aimee Crawford, Joel McCune and Cameron Nichols, June 13; Rep. Steny Hoyer, June 14; Kara Dameron, Dot Pfeil and June Zaccagnino, June 15.

Happy anniversary to Kathy and Bob Elborne on their 46th, June 12; and to Jill and Ken Kimmel, their 19th on June 15.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BAKER AT UMES COMMENCEMENT

Rushern L. Baker III, Prince George's County Executive, addressed an audience of 435 undergraduate and degree candidates and their invited guests at the William P. Hytche Athletic Center May 26 for the university's 130th Spring Commencement.

A sizable number of those seated are Baker's constituents, approximately 22 percent of the university's enrollment hailing from the executive's county. Baker's administration, in its seventh year, is known for "positive change in creating jobs, growing the economy and improving public safety and education". He is a Howard University graduate of law.

JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Thomas Contee, William Dula, Kelvin Jackson, Cary Montgomery, Markell Peterson, Emory

Pinkney, DeSales Dade, DeSales, Dade Jr., Cynthia Dotson, Valissa Duckett, Sheree Forbes, Renee Holland, Nellie Johnson, Carrie Woodland, Deleaches Young, who are members of New Hope Fellowship Parish celebrating their birthdays in June.

WORLD VIEW CLUB HOUSE

World View Club House provides after school sports and academics. Transportation is provided, homework assistance and care when school is closed. For more information, contact us at 301-372-0053 or www.worldviechristiancenter.com.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Patricia Turner Mitchell, received a special Achievement Award at the Sesquicentennial Alumni Awards and Class Reunion Luncheon at Morgan State University May 19, 2017. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Morgan, Master of Sci-

ence in education from Southern Illinois University, and doctorate in educational administration from Catholic University of America. She now serves as the chair of the Department of Leadership Studies in the School of Education at the University of San Francisco. Dr. Mitchell received the 2015 University of San Francisco Ignatius Service Award, which honors a faculty member whose service to students, the University and the community at large constitutes an exceptional contribution. She has also been the recipient of many other awards.

Dr. Mitchell was nominated by the American Biographical Institute for the prestigious title Woman of the Year, and was selected for inclusion in the 2006–2013 edition of the *Empires Who's Who of Business Executives*. She has been selected as *Who's Who in the West* since 1984 through present; *Who's Who Among American Women* for 1986–present, and

Neighborhoods

Hogan Signs Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan signed *The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017* (House Bill 287/Senate Bill 361) yesterday, which will extend the successful Community Eligibility Provision to allow more high-need schools in Maryland to provide free school breakfast and lunch to all students.

"We applaud Governor Hogan for signing this important piece of legislation that will help more children access the nutrition they need for their health and learning," said Michael J. Wilson, director, Maryland Hunger Solutions. "Community eligibility ensures all students are treated equally and no child experiences 'lunch shaming' if their parents are unable to pay for school meals."

Community eligibility increases participation in school breakfast and lunch, reduces stigma associated with receiving free school meals, and increases the federal revenues coming into our state. In addition, community eligibility increases efficiency and simplifies administrative processes by removing the need for families to submit free and reduced price-meal applications. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reimburses schools using community eligibility based on the number of students that are homeless, migrant, in foster care, Head Start, or living in households that participate in the Food Supplement Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. These extra meals don't cost Maryland taxpayers a dime of state money.

"The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017 solidifies Maryland's commitment to ending student hunger in our schools," said Maryland State Delegate Sheila Hixson, the bill's sponsor. "The passage of this bill was a bipartisan effort because the welfare and education of our students is always a top priority in Maryland."

In the 2016–2017 school year, 229 Maryland schools participated in community eligibility, and as a result, more than 98,000 students attended a hunger-free school.

Since June 2015, community eligibility has been used with great success in all schools in Baltimore City. The district has seen significant positive outcomes, including an additional \$9.6 million in federal reimbursements and an increase in the number of full-time school nutrition staff members. Since adopting community eligibility, Baltimore City Schools are serving 10,000 additional school lunches every day. Somerset County Public Schools also currently participate in community eligibility district-wide.

"I am pleased that the Hunger-Free Schools Act has been signed into law," said Maryland State Senator Richard Madaleno, the bill's sponsor. "This bill will continue to allow every student in

places like Baltimore City and Somerset County to receive free, nutritious meals every day. It's time for other jurisdictions to start participating so every school in Maryland is a Hunger-Free School."

Visit the website for a list of eligible schools and more information about community eligibility (pdf). The deadline for schools and school districts to adopt community eligibility for the coming school year is June 30, 2017.

WSSC Approves Nearly \$150 Million in Contracts To Repair Roads and Improve Infrastructure

LAUREL, MD—WSSC commissioners approved three contracts totaling \$149.5 million to repair and replace aging infrastructure and meet future water supply demands for Montgomery and Prince George's County residents. The largest contract, valued at \$135 million, involves paving, roadway and sidewalk restoration throughout both counties, which is necessary following water and sewer main work. The three contracts were unanimously approved by WSSC Commissioners during today's public meeting.

"It is vital to WSSC's mission that we repair and replace our aging pipes and install new infrastructure to meet the growing needs of our customers," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "Equally important to local residents is our ability to quickly restore neighborhood streets and sidewalks following our work. The approval of these three contracts accomplishes these goals."

Approved contracts include:

Street Repair Services—\$135 million
• Contract provides paving and restoration services following a water or sewer main replacement or repair. Work includes restoring streets, concrete roadways, driveways, curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The area-wide contract is divided among three paving and restoration contractors.

Large Water Main

Construction—\$8.5 million
• This contract is part of WSSC's Capital Improvement Program Clinton Zone Improvements project, which includes new tanks and water mains to meet current and future water demand in southern Prince George's County. The contract is for the third phase of a four-phase project and consists of installing 2.7 miles of large water main along Branch Avenue (MD 5) from Surratts Road to Moores Road. Construction will begin this summer and will last approximately two years, weather permitting.

Water Planning (Architecture/Engineering Services)—\$6 million

• This contract supports WSSC's Planning Group, which ensures adequate capacity of water treatment, distribution and storage systems for current and future cus-

tomers. The contract provides for project management, inspection, permitting assistance, contract administration and other engineering consulting services.

Each year, WSSC replaces 61 miles of water mains and 20 miles of sewer mains, which equates to between 150 and 200 active construction projects throughout both counties. WSSC recently became the first utility in the country to use zinc-coated, ductile iron water pipes wrapped in a protective coating to help them last at least 100 years.

Customers can reach out to project managers or their customer advocate with project-specific questions. For water or sewer emergencies, call 301-206-4002.

Follow WSSC on Twitter and/or Facebook for updates on major construction and customer-specific information.

Creative Sign Company Expands With \$115,000 EDI Fund Loan

LARGO, MD—Creative Sign Service, Inc. (www.creativesignage.com) has over 50 years experience providing signage systems and artwork programs for the healthcare industry and large scale federal and commercial clients. The family-owned company has been headquartered in Prince George's County for most of its history. Currently the company's largest clients are the Department of Veterans Affairs and DoD Healthcare Facilities spanning 50 states.

FSC First approved, closed and funded a \$115,000 conditional loan from the County's Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund to support the relocation and expansion from College Park to a 19,133 square foot leased facility at 11460 Edmonston Road in Beltsville, MD.

Shelly M. Gross-Wade, President & CEO of FSC First, stated this company is to be commended for its sustainable growth trends. The \$115,000 EDI Fund conditional loan supports a locally-owned company that is in a State-designated sustainable community and State-designated Priority Funding Area. The company forecasts nine new jobs will be added to their existing workforce of 37 full-time employees.

Creative Sign Services, Inc. reports that 34% of their current employees are Prince George's County residents and commits to meet a 30% local hiring objective of its new employee positions. It also commits to an Local Small Minority Business Enterprise (LSMBE) utilization requirement of 35% for the project costs associated with leasehold improvements at the project site. The total project costs exceeds \$900,000.

FSC First is a flexible, risk-tolerant alternative funding source that provides innovative and creative financing solutions and loan administration services that benefit small and emerging businesses.

Who's Who in American Education for 1992–present.

Dr. Mitchell has published in the areas of organizational management and leadership, women's issues, curriculum development, reading, and language arts. She is the author of

many published books. Her most acclaimed book, *Ten Stupid Things Women Do to Mess Up Their Careers*, has become a bestseller. Another book, *African Males in Higher Education Leadership: Challenges and Opportunities* was released

in March. She is a life member of MSUAA and a charter member of Morgan's Alpha Delta Alumni Chapter. She is married to Larry Mitchell and the daughter of Ruth Turner and the late Garnell Turner of Brandywine, Maryland.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Safely Cut the Cost of Elective Medical Expenses

Whether it's a matter of comfort, appearance or safety, there are many medical procedures that you may want or need, but your health insurance won't cover.

Laser eye surgery may fall into the want category for most people and it can be a hefty investment with each eye costing several thousand dollars. For those wanting to start a family, infertility treatments, which can cost over \$10,000, may be closer to a need. Yet most states don't require health insurance to cover treatments.

Considering the lasting impact that these and other procedures can have on your life, you may not want to seek out the least expensive option. However, that doesn't mean you should forgo attempts to save altogether. From tax-advantaged accounts to comparison shopping doctors, there are many approaches to safely cutting costs.

See if you could get a tax break. Although tax breaks don't lower a medical procedure's price, tax deductions can decrease your taxable income and by using a tax-advantaged account you may be able to pay for some medical procedures with income-tax-free money.

• **Take a medical expense tax deduction.** If you itemize your tax deductions, you can get a deduction for your qualified medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income. Laser eye surgery and some fertility enhancement treatments may qualify. However, cosmetic surgery doesn't unless it's related to a congenital abnormality, disfiguring disease or an injury resulting from trauma or an accident.

• **Use an employer-sponsored flexible spending account (FSA).** Some employers offer FSAs as an employee benefit. You can make tax-deductible contributions to the account each year and withdraw the money tax-free to pay for qualified medical expenses, including health insurance deductibles and copayments. However, this approach could require planning as you may forfeit remaining FSA money at the end of each year.

• **Enroll in health insurance with a health savings account (HSA).** An HSA account is similar to an FSA in that you can contribute pre-tax money and withdraw funds to pay for eligible medical expenses tax-free. HSAs don't have the use-it-or-lose-it requirement, but to qualify for an HSA account, you need to enroll in a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and can't be eligible for Medicare.

Ask your health insurance company about discounts. Even when a health insurance provider doesn't cover a procedure, members may still be able to save money by going through their insurance.

For example, health insurance generally won't cover the cost of laser eye surgery, but your provider may offer a 5 to 15 percent discount if you get the surgery at partner eye care centers.

Health insurance requirements can also vary from one state to another, and you should double-check your benefits before assuming something isn't covered. Infertility treatment is one of these gray areas, as some states require health insurance plans to provide coverage while others do not.

Compare costs from different providers. Varying medical costs sometimes make headlines when patients find out that a \$3,000 medical procedure at a hospital could cost several hundred at a nearby clinic. If it's not an emergency, there are websites that you can use to comparison shop nearby medical centers and get estimated prices.

Some people also look for savings in other countries. Medical tourism is a growing industry, and millions of people travel outside their home countries seeking lower costs, higher-quality services, treatments that aren't available at home, a relaxing environment to recover in or a combination of several of these factors. While the U.S. is a destination for some medical tourists, Canada, Southeast Asia, Latin America and parts of Europe are also popular.

Bottom line: Although you may not be able to convince your health insurance company to cover what it considers an elective procedure; you can turn to other methods to save money. As with other large expenses, you can take a dual big-and-little-picture approach by looking for tax breaks that lower your effective cost and savings opportunities that can reduce a procedure's price.



Hogan Signs Legislation to Combat Heroin and Opioid Crisis

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan, along with Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller and Speaker of the House Mike Busch, today signed 210 bills into law during the eighth bill signing ceremony in the State House following the conclusion of the 2017 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The bills signed include legislation to strengthen the state's response to Maryland's heroin and opioid crisis, as well as important state procurement reform initiatives, protections for victims of domestic violence, and an expansion of the administration's innovative P-TECH schools program.

The governor signed the administration's 2017 Heroin and Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement Initiative legislation, including *The Prescriber Limits Act of 2017* (HB 1432), which requires health care providers to prescribe the lowest effective dose of an opioid, and the *Distribution of Opioids Resulting in Death Act* (SB 539), which allows prosecutors

to seek an additional 10 years for drug dealers who knowingly sell fentanyl and its analogs, including carfentanyl, which recently caused at least four overdose deaths in the state.

"These critical initiatives will help us continue to lead the charge against Maryland's heroin and opioid crisis in our state," said Governor Hogan. "Our administration remains committed to treating this crisis like the emergency that it is, and I thank the legislature for working with us to provide additional tools to save the lives of Marylanders—before it's too late."

Governor Hogan also signed the *Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017* (HB 1329/SB 967), a bipartisan omnibus bill that contains provisions to improve patient education, increase treatment services, and includes the administration's Overdose Prevention Act, which enables all citizens to access life-saving naloxone. The *Start Talking Maryland Act* (HB 1082/SB 1060), also signed today, will increase school and community-based education and awareness efforts

to continue to bring attention to the crisis and to equip our state's youth with knowledge about the deadly consequences of opioids.

The governor and presiding officers also signed administration bills to modernize and streamline the state's procurement system with standardized best practices, policies, and procedures that are more uniform, transparent, and equitable (HB426/SB311, HB390/SB310), as well as three privately sponsored procurement reform bills supported by the administration (HB1021, HB1107, HB1446).

"Creating a more centralized procurement system that ensures the efficient use of resources and produces a more consistent implementation of procurement law, regulation, policy, practice, and procedure is an important part of making state government more transparent and changing Maryland for the better," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "I would like to thank the legislature for collaborating with our administration on this important issue."

Also signed today was *Amber's Law* (HB 1163), named in

memory of Amber Schinault, a law which will enable victims of domestic violence to request a judge to implement a GPS-tracking device in addition to a restraining order to actively monitor offenders.

Finally, the governor signed the administration's *Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Act of 2017* (SB 319), which establishes the funding formulas for the P-TECH program and makes technical and clarifying changes to the existing program set forth in statute. The P-TECH education model, co-developed by IBM, is an innovative, nationally-recognized approach that blends high school, college, and work experience into one educational program. In six years or less, students graduate with a high school diploma and a two-year associate degree in a STEM career field. Two P-TECH schools, Carver-Vocational Technical High School and Dunbar High School, opened in Baltimore City in the 2016-17 school year. Additional P-TECH schools are set to open in the 2017-18 school year.

Military from A1

The Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County's Blue Star Museums program offers free tours to active and retired members of the armed forces through Labor Day. Six Department of Parks and Recreation historic sites—the College Park Aviation Museum, Darnall's Chance House Museum, Montpelier Mansion, Marietta House Museum, Riversdale House Museum, and the Surratt House Museum—offer the program. Current service members and retirees must present a military I.D. to participate in the program.

Bob Wilson, a Korean War veteran, shares Verge's vision. He says connecting veterans with curious minds can be a positive experience for everyone involved. "I have a baseball cap that is worn a lot. On the front, there is a 2nd Infantry Division emblem and the wording 'Korean War Veteran,' along with the American and Korean flags," he says. "About two months ago, I was wearing it while shopping, and I had a family come up to me and ask about my service. In the course of our conversation, I was informed that because of our involvement in that war, so many of the Korean people are truly

grateful. Other veterans would agree that such comments make life a little nicer."

Wilson also says an understanding of U.S. history can change how the United States is perceived internationally. "Programs like the Blue Star Museums make history available to military personnel, both active and retired. An hour spent on tour at museums such as Surratt House, which deals with our Civil War, and College Park Aviation Museum can show our history's high points and low points, and our military can help to spread that history as they serve across the world."

And while some students may struggle to see the benefit of studying U.S. history, Wilson says it's simple—learning from the past is the way forward to a better future. "Americans are proud people with a very interesting heritage. It has had rough spots, and we have stumbled frequently. But we get up, dust ourselves off, and continue on our way—hopefully learning from our mistakes."

So if you want to deepen your family's appreciation and understanding of U.S. history, even when school is out—take advantage of the Department of Parks and Recreation's historic sites, especially between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Innovator from A1

In addition to her undying dedication in the classroom, Stuckey also coordinates the robotics afterschool program at her school and conducts "technology-infused" parent workshops to strengthen the home-to-school connection.

PBS Digital Innovators participate in ongoing professional development, have access to exclusive resources from PBS LearningMedia, and are invited

to special events, including the 2017 PBS Digital Innovators Summit in San Antonio, Texas.

More than 100,000 digital resources, including lesson plans, worksheets and video content are available through PBS LearningMedia for pre-K-12 classrooms. Teachers can access this content at www.pbslearningmedia.org.

About MPT

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills,

MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT's six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT's commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Van Hollen to President Trump on Proposed Medicaid Cuts: America's Veterans Deserve Better

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On May 25, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) joined with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and 15 other Democratic Senators to raise grave concerns with President Trump about his plans to gut Medicaid funding and slash investments in behavioral health research, and the impact on America's veterans.

More than 30,000 veterans in Maryland and nearly 2 million veterans across the country rely on Medicaid for their health coverage. The American Health Care Act would slash Medicaid by \$834 billion and eliminate the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, the mechanism through which 340,000 veterans receive health coverage. The budget proposed Tuesday by President Trump would impose additional Medicaid cuts of more than \$610 billion, putting the health of veterans, their families, and millions of other Americans at risk.

"Your proposed cuts to Medicaid and your efforts to take away people's health coverage are inconsistent with the promises you made to America's veterans. They deserve better," wrote the Senators. "We urge you to consider the impacts that gutting Medicaid would have on the lives and health of those who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation."

"The Medicaid cuts being proposed by Republicans and Donald Trump are not only unconscionable but also represent a monumental lie to all of America—particularly Trump voters—who were told that Medicaid cuts would not happen if he was elected,"

said Will Fischer, Director of Government Relations for VoteVets. "These cuts would impact nearly 2 million veterans who are on Medicaid, representing one out of every 10 veterans. It tells you everything you need to know about who Donald Trump and Republicans value to see them try and rip health care away from millions of veterans, just so they can give sweetheart deals to their millionaire and billionaire buddies."

Veterans experience higher rates of substance use disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, but President Trump's budget strips nearly \$400 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the federal agency that helps communities fight the opioid epidemic. These decreases are compounded by 20 percent funding cuts to the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which support research for treating substance use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injuries.

Senators Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) also joined the letter urging President Trump to consider the repercussions for veterans who depend on Medicaid.



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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



President Trump's War on Children

Our nation's budget should reflect our nation's professed values, but President Trump's 2018 Federal Budget, "A New Foundation for America's Greatness," radically does the opposite. This immoral budget declares war on America's children, our most vulnerable group, and the foundation of our nation's current and future economic, military and leadership security. It cruelly dismantles and shreds America's safety net laboriously woven over the past half century to help and give hope to the 14.5 million children struggling today in a sea of poverty, hunger, sickness, miseducation, homelessness and disabilities. It slashes trillions of dollars from health care, nutrition and other critical programs that give poor babies and children a decent foundation in life to assure trillions of dollars in tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and powerful corporations who do not deserve massive doses of government support.

The cruel Trump budget invests more in our military—already the most costly in the world—but denies vulnerable children and youths the income, health care, food, housing and education supports they need to become strong future soldiers to defend our country. Seventy-one percent of our 17–24 year olds are now ineligible for military service because of health and education deficits. It seeks to build a wall to keep immigrants out by slashing supports for those inside who can be counted on to help staff our businesses and factories and other services. This budget creates more inequality and less opportunity for those struggling to make ends meet and is a grave injustice.

President Trump invests in fighting those he sees as outside enemies through weapons and walls and turns his back on the internal enemies that threaten the basic domestic needs of our people—health care, housing, education and jobs that pay living wages. The Congress and the people of the United States must reject President Trump's 2018 Budget and the mean spirited values it reflects. It declares war on children and working people struggling to support their families by ignoring even their most basic needs and gives trillions to

those who do not need massive government support—especially at a time of record wealth and income inequality.

The President's 2018 Budget:

- Slashes \$610 billion over ten years from Medicaid which nearly 37 million children rely on for a healthy start in life and which pays for nearly half of all births and ensures coverage for 40 percent of our children with special health care needs. The budget also assumes passage of the more than \$800 billion additional cuts in Medicaid included in the American Health Care Act for a total Medicaid massacre of more than \$1.4 trillion over ten years.
- Rips \$5.7 billion from CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), which covers nearly 9 million children in working families ineligible for Medicaid. The proposed cap on CHIP funding for families at 250 percent of the poverty level threatens coverage for millions of children in the 24 states and the District of Columbia that have chosen to extend coverage to children in families with slightly higher incomes.
- Snatches food out of the mouths and stomachs of hungry children by slicing \$193 billion over ten years from the Supple-

mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which some still call food stamps. SNAP feeds nearly 46 million people including nearly 20 million children. This cut is an unprecedented 25 percent reduction in a core safety net program that in 2014 lifted 4.7 million people, including 2.1 million children, out of poverty. For the 4.9 million households, 1.3 million with children, with no cash income who rely only on SNAP to keep the wolves of hunger from their doors, these cuts would be a catastrophic assault.

• Chops \$22 billion over ten years from TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program) including \$6 billion that eliminates the TANF Contingency Fund which helps support some of our neediest families. Slashes programs to assist families with housing and homelessness by \$7.4 billion, a 15 percent cut for 2018 including \$2.3 billion from Housing Choice Vouchers, which would leave more than 250,000 low income households without them; \$1.8 billion—nearly 29 percent—from public housing already in desperate need of repair and expansion; and \$133 mil-

See WATCH, Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Weapon of Mass Deception: Shut Down Trump's Sham Voting Fraud Commission

"After more than 250 years of debate, five constitutional amendments, decades of protest, and a handful of monumental Supreme Court decisions, the basic right of American citizens to vote in our elections is still not a settled matter. While minority voters no longer face literacy tests or have to guess how many marbles are in a jar when they register to vote, there are new strategies for disenfranchising Black and brown communities."

—Rep. Terri Sewell,

Voting Rights: Old Battles Become New Again, State of Black America, May 2, 2017

Throughout his campaign, President Trump trumpeted the baseless claim that our nation's elections are riddled with voter fraud. He has repeatedly blamed his gaping three million plus-popular vote deficit on a phantom horde of illegal voters. He complained, without evidence and unfairly maligned wide swaths of communities. Finally, two days after unceremoniously firing FBI Director James Comey—a move that has swallowed the 116-day old Trump administration into the jaws of fresh political scandal complete with growing calls for impeachment—Trump doubled down on unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud and signed an executive order creating the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity.

The bipartisan-in-name-only commission led by Vice President Pence and Kris Kobach, a well-known advocate on voting restrictions and immigration, to study our nation's election protocols.

Hot on the heels of the Supreme Court's 2013 decision to strike down the preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—no longer requiring the Department of Justice to review and approve any changes in election laws for states with long histories of racial and voting discrimination—North Carolina was the first state to sign sweeping, drastic voter ID measures into law. The provisions, which included measures to eliminate same-day voter registration, cut down on early voting and presenting select government-issued photo identification at the polls, was described by its critics as the strictest in the nation and characterized by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals—that ultimately struck down the appalling array of

voting restrictions—as targeting African Americans "with an almost surgical precision," and imposing "cures for problems that did not exist."

This week, the Supreme Court allowed the circuit court's ruling to stand, denying Republican efforts to revive the law. And while those who advocate for the removal of superficial, politically and racially motivated barriers to the polls have won a critical battle; the war is far from over. Chief Justice John Roberts cautioned in a two-page statement that the court's decision to reject the case was based on procedure and should not be interpreted as a decision on the merits of North Carolina's voter ID law, or as an endorsement of the lower court's ruling.

Before I go any further, I want to quickly remind you that study, after study, after study has found the same thing: voter fraud, particularly the type that claims to be solved by strict voter ID laws, is rare. Kobach, who is Kansas' secretary of state, is also the only secretary of state in the nation with prosecutorial power. In his unrelenting quest to unmask massive voter fraud in Kansas, he has prosecuted less than 10 cases of voter fraud since taking office in 2011. In a court filing opposing Green Party candidate Jill Stein's request for a vote recount, Trump's own attorneys asked the court to deny Stein's request based on the fact that, "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake."

If any fraud is being perpetrated, it is being perpetrated on the American people and our democracy. The flimsy "evidence" and falsehoods that undergird this so-called voter fraud commission are egregious, but even more egregious is the transparent, political-motivated effort to put the thumb on the scale of political gain by keeping communities of color and traditionally Democratic leaning voters away from the polls.

When we toy with a pillar of our democracy as if it were a political football, we cast doubt on the integrity of our electoral process—and our elected leaders. Trump's so-called voter fraud commission is a sham, a serious attack on voting rights, a cover to squander taxpayer dollars and a solution in search of a problem countless studies and experts have repeatedly concluded does not exist.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Keeping Enthusiasm For Your Child's Sports Under Control

Most children have a pretty level-headed approach to organized sports. When they win, they're happy and excited. When they lose, they get sad for a bit. And most of the time, they're just having fun and enjoying the competition.

Unfortunately, many parents don't handle their children's sports activities as well. We've probably all seen reports of (or witnessed directly) abuse of referees and coaches, of fights between parents, and other unseemly parental behaviors.

While parents want their children to do well and be treated fairly, some parents have made their children's sports so important that their emotions override their judgment and common sense.

It's not hard to understand the source of such emotions. The child may not be performing up to the parent's expectations, making the parent feel frustrated. Such feelings can be complicated by the parent's projecting his or her own athletic dreams and fantasies onto the child. In such cases a violent confrontation with a coach, referee or other parent may seem a means of venting that frustration.

When that happens it's often a sign that sports are playing too important a role in family life.

Parents should sometimes step back and examine whether a family's life revolves around the children's sports. It's not uncommon.

Start by asking some basic questions about sports and your children. Are your kids being "pushed" not just to play sports, but to train harder and to excel? Is that happening at the expense of school work and other activities? Do you, as a parent, experience mood swings related to your child's successes or failures in sports? Do you reward a child who has done well, but tease or criticize that same child when his or her performance doesn't meet your standards? Is it possible you're trying to live your life through your child's?

When the answer is yes to some or all of these questions, it's a good chance that sports is indeed playing too important a role in your family's life. And if sports brings out actions, or even thoughts, of reacting violently when things have gone poorly, it's a clear sign that help is needed.

In such cases, try talking to a professional counselor who specializes in family counseling. He or she can help you gain a better perspective on your expectations, and can help you establish a healthy emotional balance between sports and your parenting.

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

Governor Larry Hogan Calls for Bipartisan Compromise on Paid Sick Leave

Vetoes Flawed Bill, Signs Executive Orders Creating Task Force, Expanding Paid Leave for State Employees, and Prioritizing Employers Offering Paid Leave in State Procurement Process

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan reaffirmed his commitment to providing common sense paid sick leave for Maryland workers, while vetoing House Bill 1 (HB1)—a deeply flawed, job-killing paid leave bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly—and making an impassioned appeal to legislative leaders to work with the administration on a compromise by January, when the bill was set to take effect. The governor also signed three executive orders expanding paid leave benefits at the state level and creating a task force to gain insight from Maryland workers and businesses to further assist with developing a common sense compromise.

The governor began by outlining the administration's common sense paid sick leave proposal, unveiled in December 2016, which would provide benefits that hardworking Marylanders deserve without hurting the state's economy and costing jobs. It requires companies with more than 50 employees to provide paid sick leave and encourages small businesses, as defined by the widely accepted federal standards, to offer paid sick leave by providing tax incentives to offset the costs of these additional benefits. In direct contrast to HB1, the governor's proposal has the potential to cover 100 percent of Maryland's workforce.

In a process rife with political opportunism, the legislature never considered the administration's common sense, balanced plan. Instead, they moved forward with a poorly written and deeply flawed bill that is more harmful than legislation previously rejected by the Democrat-controlled legislature four years in a row. If allowed to go into effect, this legislation would severely jeopardize the economic progress Maryland has made under Governor Hogan, including creating nearly 100,000 new jobs, reducing the unemployment rate, and providing \$700 million in tax, fee, and toll relief for Marylanders. This bill puts Maryland's gains in jeopardy, and studies show it would cost thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in lost economic activity.

"We cannot afford to turn back to the failed job-killing policies of the past. Our administration fully supports paid sick leave benefits for Marylanders, but we cannot and will not support this job-killing bill passed by the legislature, which would hurt the very workers that they are pretending to want to help," said Governor Hogan. "The refusal of legislative leaders to meet us halfway, to negotiate with us, or to try to reach a compromise represents the very kind of politics that people are completely fed up with."

The overly-burdensome, job-killing provisions in HB1 are as numerous as they are problematic for Maryland's small busi-

nesses. It creates a one-size-fits-all approach that does not allow for flexibility or take into account the needs and structure of a 21st-century workforce. It requires the state to mandate specific procedures that businesses must follow or else be found in violation of the law, which carries with it heavy civil penalties. The bill gives courts extremely broad discretion to award damages in a civil action—including forcing businesses to pay three times the value of unpaid sick and safe leave.

Perhaps most egregiously, the notification provision in the bill creates an extremely intrusive situation where workers could be required to provide a reason—and obligated to offer proof—in order to use sick leave, including divulging sensitive personal and medical information to an employer.

The governor, noting that HB1 does not take effect until January, renewed his call for a common sense compromise with the legislature, stating that today marks the beginning—not the end—of negotiations and vowed to submit a compromise bill as emergency legislation on the first day of the 2018 legislative session.

"We still have time to work together to get this right. We can and we must come together by January to make this happen. I am again calling on our legislators to put the partisan politics aside and work with us to pass a better bill," said Governor Hogan. "Let's reach a compromise to en-

sure that our small business job creators aren't forced to lay off workers or shut their doors in order to comply with overly-strict, burdensome, and costly regulations. Let's make sure that hard-working Marylanders don't end up paying the price for a politicized legislative process. We owe it to the citizens of Maryland to work together and get this right by January."

To take immediate action to advance the cause of common sense paid sick leave in Maryland, the governor executed three executive orders: Executive Order 01.01.2017.08 creates a task force, headed by Maryland Labor Secretary Kelly Schulz and including the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Human Resources, to conduct a comprehensive field study to further and formally determine how a better paid sick leave plan can be implemented, with a report to be submitted in December. Executive Order 01.01.2017.09 provides paid leave benefits to all contractual employees in the executive branch, which totals over 8,000 workers. The governor called on leaders in the legislative and judicial branches to join the administration in leading by example and providing these benefits to their contractual employees. Finally, Executive Order 01.01.2017.10 authorizes all state procurement authorities to begin giving preference to contractors who offer paid sick leave to their employees.

Pedestrian from A1

walking community now living along it in an unincorporated area of Prince George's County.

The number of pedestrians hit by vehicles rose from 12 in 2009 to a high of 27 in 2012 and has lingered in the mid- to upper-teens for each of the past three years.

In addition to the eight fatalities, about half of the pedestrians struck by vehicles sustained serious or disabling injuries.

Yet the Maryland State Highway Administration has done little to improve safe passage for pedestrians on all but a small portion of University in Langley Park.

Crosswalks remain few and far between and provide little protection from turning cars. Narrow sidewalks put walkers perilously close to speeding cars. Fourteen people were on sidewalks when hit. Fifteen were on bicycles.

"It's dangerous," said Harris, who explained that she rarely risks crossing the street out of fear she will be hit by a car. "They need the pedestrian signals."

In response to CNS's findings, State Sen. Victor Ramirez, D-Prince George's, who represents Langley Park, said that it may be time to "have a conversation" with the State Highway Administration about ways to better protect pedestrians.

But when asked about the high number of casualties, Charlie Gischlar, a spokesman for the State Highway Administration, which is responsible for maintaining University, said pedestrians are often to blame.

"A lot of these were unfortunately attributed to pedestrian error, okay?" Gischlar said. "We are going to do everything we can from an engineering standpoint, but there also has to be an onus on behavior as well. We're willing to work with peo-

ple but there also has to come a point with responsibility."

The agency had a markedly different response when students were hit in a series of accidents just a couple miles away, near the University of Maryland in 2014. The State Highway Administration committed to swift and comprehensive safety improvements within months.

"No one really cares," said Jorge Sactic-Espana, a community leader and member of the Langley Park Small Business Association. He runs a bakery in La Union Mall that fronts University Boulevard. "It's as simple as that. If somebody yells in Bethesda or Chevy Chase, they do it right away, you know? But here, who cares, you know?"

DANGEROUS CROSSING

As Oliver Vargas looks out the window by his desk in the leasing office for the Bedford and Victoria Station apartment complex, he sees scores of people dodging traffic across University each day.

The bus stop drops people off outside the office near 14th Avenue and across from a shopping mall and restaurant. There is no traffic signal. The closest crosswalks are more than 500 feet in one direction and 1,000 in the other.

At least 12 people have been hit near 14th since 2009.

"There's no light, no cross sign, it's really bad," Vargas said. "It's hard to judge the speed of a car and it takes one or two seconds for you to misjudge and get hit."

The State Highway Administration estimates 32,000 vehicles on average travel through Langley Park each day on University—a segment of MD-193, which snakes through the Maryland suburbs outside Washington.

To the west of Langley Park, the highway traverses a mostly

residential area with a sprinkling of businesses. To the east it narrows from six lanes to four bordered by park land, the University of Maryland and its golf course.

But the two miles that cut through Langley Park are flanked by a chaos of strip malls, apartment complexes, single-family homes, grocery stores, gas stations, laundromats and fast-food restaurants.

Christopher Murtha, deputy chief of patrol for Prince George's County Police, described the community "as a very dense population of folks who tend to use the sidewalks and tend to transit by foot ... It's really an anomaly for our county."

The highway wasn't engineered for so many pedestrians, he said, so reducing accidents is a challenge for the state and county agencies that share responsibility for pedestrian safety.

Originally settled by returning WWII veterans, Langley Park today is a working class community of about 19,000. Three quarters of its residents are Hispanic, 65 percent are foreign-born, many from Central America. The median household income is \$56,875, compared to the state median of \$74,551.

It's a landing place for newly arrived immigrants from countries with different rules of the road that may not include crosswalks, said Danitza Simpson, director of the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center, an education organization. She suggested lowering speed limits, installing fences in medians and posting more warning signs in different languages. "That would help."

A planned inter-county light rail system, the Purple Line, which would pass through Langley Park on University, helped spur pedestrian safety improvements at one busy intersection, New Hampshire and University.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY REBECCA RAINEY

The high pedestrian accident toll has led to few safety improvements on dangerous stretches of University Boulevard like this one in Langley Park. Yet when students were killed close to the University of Maryland campus nearby, the state lowered the speed limit, added a pedestrian signal, installed a median fence and increased use of speed cameras.

The Maryland Transit Authority opened a new bus transfer station there in December to make connections easier and safer. Median fences have been in place at the intersection for years to steer pedestrians toward crosswalks protected by signals.

Yet accidents are endemic outside the fences.

"What it comes down to is we need people to cross at marked crosswalks and we do have a lot of marked crosswalks in that corridor there," said Gischlar of the State Highway Administration, adding that "a lot of people are crossing at night in dangerous locations."

But the CNS analysis found that of 138 pedestrians struck by vehicles since 2009, about half were hit during daylight hours, according to the records.

A third occurred in the middle of long stretches without crosswalks. There are nine signal-protected crossings in Lang-

ley Park, but four are clustered around the new transit center at the New Hampshire intersection, leaving long gaps elsewhere.

For example, there's nearly half a mile between Riggs Road and the next nearest crosswalk to the east at 23rd Avenue. More than a dozen pedestrians have been struck in between.

Jose Daniel Cubias-Rivera, 40, was among them. A car hit him as he crossed on a summer evening in 2010. The motorist sped away, leaving Cubias-Rivera lying in the roadway, according to Prince George's County Police. He would later die at the hospital from his injuries.

From 23rd, it's another quarter mile to a crosswalk at West Park Drive. In between, a densely populated residential subdivision sits across from two large supermarkets. Rather than trek bags of groceries to a distant signal, people often weave through traffic at the unprotected midpoint. Ve-

hicles have struck at least seven pedestrians in that vicinity.

The analysis also found accident clusters at intersections with crosswalks.

Twenty people have been struck in or near the faded crosswalks at 23rd, where cars pull in and out of a popular thrift store, a McDonald's restaurant and two gas stations. At least seven were hit in the crosswalk while obeying the pedestrian signal, state records say.

Two dozen pedestrians have been hit in or near the 15th Avenue crosswalk, including a 36-year-old woman last May who was seriously injured when a car turned in to her as she crossed legally with the walk light.

Dinorah Franco, owner of D'Franco Family Hair Salon on University near Riggs, said the crosswalks there are so "very

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Ghost in the Shell

Ghost in the Shell
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13,
moderate action violence
1 hr., 47 min

Futuristic cyber-thriller *Ghost in the Shell* is loaded with advanced technology, but it's in the service of a disappointingly basic plot with few surprises. Add to that the bafflingly tone-deaf treatment of racial and cultural issues and you've really got a "Why'd they bother with this?" situation on your hands.

In a heavily CGI'd future Japan with a diverse population ("diverse" meaning both Japanese and European), people routinely enhance their physical or mental abilities with cybernetic add-ons. Plug a dongle into the back of your neck and boom, you're fluent in Russian. Or robot eyes with X-ray vision. Just about everyone is part-cyber now, the downside being that they're susceptible to hacking, like a computer, the upside being that, at long last, white men can jump.

Our heroine is a super-soldier called the Major (Scarlett Johansson), the first case of replacing every part of the body except the brain. Her brain—and thus her soul, her self—was supposedly rescued from a dying refugee, though Major doesn't remember her pre-robot life, so wink wink. Cared for by compassionate Hanka Robotics scientist Dr. Ouelet (Juliette Binoche), who assures her she's still human, and supervised by a growling government functionary (Kitano Takeshi), Major leads the cyber-crimes team that investigates when a terrorist named Kuze (Michael Pitt) starts hacking civilians and killing important Hanka scientists.

The film, directed by Rupert Sanders (*Snow White and the*



ROTTENTOMATOES

In the near future, Major (Scarlett Johansson) is the first of her kind: A human saved from a terrible crash, who is cyber-enhanced to be a perfect soldier devoted to stopping the world's most dangerous criminals. When terrorism reaches a new level that includes the ability to hack into people's minds and control them, Major is uniquely qualified to stop it. As she prepares to face a new enemy, Major discovers that she has been lied to: her life was not saved, it was stolen. She will stop at nothing to recover her past, find out who did this to her and stop them before they do it to others. Based on the internationally acclaimed Japanese Manga, *The Ghost in the Shell*.

Huntsman), becomes a spiffy-looking but dull police procedural as Major and her lunkhead partner, Batou (Pilou Asbaek), pursue leads and track Kuze. Since it's The Future, this routine police work has some twists—cops can communicate telepathically while sneaking around, and Major can sometimes turn invisible (this is not explained, nor do I accept invisibility as a standard robot feature)—but make no mistake, it is routine. Questions about humanity and the soul and the essence of life are vaguely suggested but never really dealt with; the same goes for the ethical dilemmas presented by mixing technology with biology.

I'm told that Masamune Shiro's comic-book series and the

subsequent animated TV show based on it explored these issues more thoughtfully. The film, credited to Jamie Moss (*Street Kings*) and William Wheeler (*Queen of Katwe*) after years of rewrites, is content to throw a lot of tech jargon and cool gadgets at the screen and call it a day. As the investigation continues, Major starts asking questions about her own past and Hanka Robotics' history of cyborg experimentation, leading to revelations and discoveries that will shock her but not you. Still, as with most police procedurals, there's a certain pleasure in seeing the ritual play out.

I'm more fascinated by how the film addresses the cultural difficulty of mostly white Westerners adapting a very Japanese,

very Eastern-influenced story after casting a very non-Japanese actress in the lead role. The way the film addresses it is to ignore it, but it can't help coming up. Major's boss only speaks Japanese, but she replies to him in English, even though robots can speak any language they want to. Does she just ... not want to? Why wouldn't a cyborg built in Japan have Japanese as its default language anyway? And why does a Japanese robotics firm put the brains of Japanese people into caucasian-looking robots, and then also give the robots black hair and eyebrows, as if trying to pass them off as Japanese? When it comes to these matters, you're better off following the filmmakers' example and just not thinking about it.

Pedestrian from A5

dangerous" that she often drives her car to the other side of the street instead of walking.

"There's cars coming south, east and west and also turning," said Franco, 61, a Dominican immigrant. "The cars, they have a right turn, left turn. It would be nice if we had a pass (pedestrian bridge) that we could go across."

In addition to the 138 pedestrians struck on University, the CNS analysis identified an additional two dozen pedestrians who were hit on Riggs or New Hampshire within 105 feet of the intersections with University between 2009 and 2016. None were killed.

Murtha of the Prince George's County Police said the department periodically cracks down on jaywalkers and speeding motorists in Langley Park with campaigns that have yielded nearly 4,000 traffic citations in 2015 and 2016. But enforcement alone isn't enough, he said.

"We can't police forever and educate every generation," he said. "Eventually an engineered solution is the best long-term solution."

Repeated accidents at the same locations point to a problem with the road design, not the pedestrians, said Alex Dodds, communications director at Smart Growth America, a nonprofit urban planning organization.

"That's not a funny coincidence," she said. "That's a sign that the street is fundamentally not working for people who are walking."



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY REBECCA RAINEY

About half the pedestrian fatalities on University Boulevard in Langley Park since 2009 occurred near the busy intersection of University and Riggs Road.

The organization published a study in January that found pedestrians in low-income urban communities face greater risks than those in wealthier ones, and that Hispanics and blacks were overrepresented in pedestrian fatalities.

"Fighting for better resources takes time, money, and political engagement—and all of those are usually scarce in low-income and immigrant communities," Dodds said.

Elizabeth Villalobos, who is originally from El Salvador, has lived in Langley Park for about 30 years now and remembers calling an ambulance for two different pedestrian accidents in the last 12 years.

"I've seen a lot of them, a lot of accidents. ... It makes me feel horrible but what am I going to do? It's sad to see it," Villalobos said through a Spanish interpreter. "What I do is, I just take out my phone and call the ambulance to help."

"SOMEONE NEEDS TO STEP IN"

A couple of miles from Langley Park's deadly stretch are four college bars, just off the University of Maryland's campus by the intersections of Route 1 and Knox and Hartwick Roads. On any given weekend, students wait in lines that swell onto the sidewalk, while others dart across the four-lane street to catch up with friends.

This high concentration of people bar hopping and consuming alcohol was the scene of three fatal pedestrian accidents from January through July 2014. The three deaths were part of a string of eleven accidents in the area during this time.

City and university officials expressed their grief and desire for change in the months following the first incident and set out to lobby for roadway improvements.

Their voices were heeded. They pressed State Highway Administration officials and won a slew of changes that

See PEDESTRIAN Page A7

Gardening Help

Grow a Bigger Garden In a Smaller Space

By Melinda Myers



PHOTO CREDIT: GARDENER'S SUPPLY COMPANY

Planter boxes with built-in trellises like this Apex trellis planter enable gardeners to maximize their garden space for growing vegetables and flowers.

Whether in the ground or on a balcony or deck, there's always room to grow your own garden-fresh produce and beautiful flowers. Space-saving gardening techniques and products can help you increase productivity in any available space.

Consider elevated gardens and planter carts that not only save space, but make gardens more accessible. Movable carts like the Demeter Mobile Planter Cart allow you to grow flowers and produce in narrow spaces, store garden accessories and move the garden into the sunlight or out of the way of guests as needed.

Save more space by going vertical. Look for containers and raised garden beds with built-in trellises and plant supports. Just plant your pole beans, peas, cucumbers or tomatoes and attach them to the supports as they grow. Support the large fruit of squash and melons with cloth or macramé slings. Just cradle the fruit in the sling and secure it to the trellis. You'll not only save space, but reduce disease problems and make harvesting a breeze.

Double your planting space by growing shade tolerant greens under cucumbers, growing on a cucumber or A-frame trellis. Set the trellis in place and plant the greens in early spring as soon as the soil is workable. Plant your cucumbers next to the trellis as soon as the soil warms. As your cucumbers grow they shade the greens below keeping them a bit cooler and extending the harvest season. Just make sure you can reach the greens beneath the supports for planting, weeding and harvesting.

Extend the growing season with a Year Round Kitchen Garden. Grow greens and herbs under lights attached to a raised bed on wheels. When the outdoor planting season arrives, remove the lights and roll your garden onto the patio or deck. Continue planting and harvesting outdoors until it is time to roll it back inside to start your indoor garden.

Or top your raised bed and containers with frost protective coverings. Many have built-in frames to support greenhouse covers, allowing you to plant earlier and harvest later in the season. And once the weather warms switch out the cover for an insect-protective fabric or mesh. These fabric coverings prevent insects like cabbage worms from damaging cabbage, broccoli and Brussels sprouts and keep root maggots off radishes.

Select planters that complement your landscape design and gardening style. Wood, metal and colorful raised beds and containers add beauty, durability and growing space. Galvanized planters, cedar raised beds, and those in eye-catching colors found at Gardener's Supply make your raised bed a beautiful focal point in the garden. Or fill your planters with tall grasses, cannas, elephant ears and other plants to create an attractive screen.

Look for multi-purpose furnishings and accessories to maximize your space and enjoyment. Fire pits that become a table or bench can double as a cooler, making relaxing and entertaining in small gardens a real possibility. Or how about planters with built-in hidden storage like the Green Box Elevated Planter Box. You'll enjoy the convenience of having your garden tools handy, yet out of sight.

Use these space saving ideas to help increase the beauty, productivity and enjoyment your garden can provide. With the right combination of growing techniques and garden accessories you, your family and guests will create beautiful memories throughout the gardening season.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *the Midwest Gardener's Handbook*. She hosts *The Great Courses* How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone DVD set and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio segments*. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Bonnie Plants* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

Calendar of Events

June 8 — June 14, 2017

Public Reception: Lori Ulmer-Hanson

Date and Time: Friday, June 9, 2017, 7–9 pm
Description: Lori Ulmer-Hanson works in a diverse array of media, including hand-sculpted raku clay, wood, stone, and metal sculpture, as well as acrylic paintings. Her work features the female form, capturing its beauty and elegance in unique and compelling representations.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Summer Beach Party

Date and Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 7–9:30 pm
Description: Come to this fun party to welcome in Summer 2017 and promises of warm weather!! Enjoy summertime music, beach games and giveaways to prepare you for an unforgettable summer solstice! Summer attire recommended.

Cost: Free with SmartLink ID
Ages: 13-17
Location: Palmer Park Community Center
7720 Barlowe Road, Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-773-2417, TTY 301-699-2544

Single Elimination Intergenerational Billiards Tournament

Date and Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 10 am–4 pm
Description: This single-elimination billiards tournament “pits” Seniors vs Xtreme Teens using APA rules for an 8-Ball tournament. Light refreshments will be served.

Cost: Resident \$7; Non-resident \$10
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

Beltway BBQ Showdown

Date and Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, noon–7 pm
Description: The 11th Annual Beltway BBQ Showdown contest highlights the art of barbecuing in Prince George's County and the Mid-Atlantic region. This BBQ Showdown is nationally sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and draws teams from the Mid-Atlantic area.

Every year up to 5000 people celebrate and enjoy the art, music, and history of BBQ in Prince George's County.

This Maryland BBQ festival offers live music, a classic car show, food and craft vendors and an awesome children's area full of fun things to do. Favorite events occur under the Tasting Tent such as; grilling demonstrations; the finger licking “Buck-A-Bone”—ribs cooked by the competition teams for \$1.00 each and the popular “People's Choice” BBQ sauce contest—3 samples for \$1.00.

Cost: Ages 13 & up: \$5/person; Ages 4–12: \$3/person
Ages 3 & under: FREE! *fees are subject to change
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Artist Reception: Maria Santiago

Date and Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 3–5 pm
Description: Join us at a reception for Argentinean-born artist Maria Santiago, an abstract geometric painter who specializes in using various media such as oil, canvas, burlap and collage to emphasize texture and color.

Cost: Free to the public
Ages: All ages
Location: Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Love, Sex and Consequences

Date and Time: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 4–5 pm
Description: The topic of young couples finding love in the midst of war has often been romanticized. The reality was that separation from loved ones often proved far more consequential. American Civil War Museum Co-CEO Christy Coleman explores it all, from the most heartfelt stories to the more salacious tales in this lecture. Arrive early; seating is limited.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Surratt House Museum
9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD
Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

Watch from A4

lion—5.6 percent—from homeless assistance grants.

- Whacks \$72 billion over ten years from the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI), which more than 8 million children and adults with the most severe disabilities depend on to keep going. Despite the President's promise not to cut Social Security, his budget cuts \$48 billion from Social Security Disability Insurance which assists, among others, grandparents and other relatives raising children because their parents cannot care for them.

- Cuts \$40 billion over ten years from the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by barring tax-paying undocumented immigrant workers, many with American citizen children, from benefiting

from the Child Tax Credit unless they have a Social Security number, and making it harder for them to benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit created to reward hard work and help parents support their children.

- Slashes job training programs by \$1.1 billion, or 40 percent, over ten years for youths, adults and dislocated workers. It denigrates the concept of public service jobs by eliminating the Corporation for National and Community Service, and with it AmeriCorps, Vista and Senior Corps.

- Cuts federal education funding \$9.2 billion in 2018 alone at a time when a majority of children in all racial and economic groups cannot read or compute at grade level. It slashes \$143 billion over ten years from student loans by eliminating the loan program that encourages

EARTH TALK ... A Greener Catholic Church

Dear EarthTalk:

I heard that the Pope urged President Trump to keep the U.S. in the Paris climate accord. Since when has the Catholic church been involved in environmental politics?

—Janine Morse,
Rome, NY

Concern for the health and well-being of the planet has always been part of the biblical tradition. “Sacred Scripture calls believers to care for God's creation and all of God's children,” reports the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), an assembly of church leaders from across the country. “God calls us as His stewards to care for the garden He created.”

Examples abound through the centuries of influential Catholics taking conservation seriously, from St. Francis' 1225 canticle dedicated to praising the Lord through stewardship of “Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us” to Pope Paul VI's 1971 call for Catholics to take up the mantle of environmental protection as a key social imperative to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2001 “pastoral statement.” That implored Catholics around the world to do their part in reining in greenhouse gas emissions for “the future of God's creation and the one human family.”

More recently, Pope Francis has prioritized climate as a key social concern of the Catholic

church. His 2015 “encyclical”—an important papal letter that gets distributed to Catholic congregations around the world—called for urgent, drastic fossil fuel emissions cuts to stave off climate change.

“As a chemist by background and with a team of scientists and an observatory at the Vatican, the Pope is clear that climate change is the greatest threat life our Earth has ever seen—and that it is caused by humans,” reports Earth Ministry, a non-profit dedicated to engaging the faith community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. “And as a priest, he stands in protection and care for his flock, 1.2 billion Catholics world-wide, and for all God's children, especially the poorest.”

An important part of the battle against global warming for Francis is the relationship between global poverty and environmental destruction: When people don't have the resources to sustain themselves they are far less likely to be good stewards of the planet, and in turn may suffer the most from a quickly warming climate.

And unlike some of his predecessors, Pope Francis isn't afraid to mix it up with politicians. He bestowed a copy of the 2015 encyclical upon a visiting President Trump earlier this month—just before Trump's self-imposed deadline to decide whether or not to keep the United States in the Paris climate accord.



At their Vatican meeting in late May, Pope Francis gave U.S. President Donald Trump a copy of the 2015 papal encyclical calling for urgent, drastic fossil fuel emissions cuts to stave off climate change.

Catholicism is hardly the only major religion concerned about climate change. After all, global warming is non-denominational, affecting people all over the world regardless of their religious beliefs. Whether or not a given religion's national or global leadership is pushing for carbon mitigation, individual congregations can do their part based on the priorities of their memberships. One easy way to get your church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution on the right track is by signing on with the Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) movement that works with congregations to fight global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and re-

newable energy. IPL also helps lobby policymakers to advance clean energy initiatives at local, state and national levels.

CONTACTS: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org; 2015 Papal Encyclical “Laudato Si,” www.laudatosi.com; Earth Ministry, www.earthministry.org; Interfaith Power & Light, www.interfaithpowerandlight.org.

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Pedestrian from A6

were made to the road including a \$191,000 investment for fencing and a new pedestrian signal. Other changes included reducing pedestrian wait times at signals, lowering the speed limit to 25 mph in this area and increasing use of speed cameras. No pedestrians have died since then.

Officials representing Langley Park have shown no similar sense of urgency.

A spokeswoman for Deni Taveras, the Prince George's County Council member whose district includes Langley Park, said she did not have time to discuss the CNS findings on pedestrian accidents. In an earlier interview, she said pedestrian safety “has improved significantly” there and will continue to improve if and when the Purple Line is built.

A decade ago, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board produced a pedestrian safety assessment for University that recommended slowing traffic with raised crosswalks, narrowing car lanes, widening medians and prohibiting right turns on red.

But the focus was on the intersection with New Hampshire Avenue. The State Highway Administration hasn't made even relatively easy improvements to the rest of University.

CNS requested current and past pedestrian safety projects in Langley Park on University from the State Highway Administration, other than those around the transit center. The agency provided a list of four restriping projects since 2012.

Throughout much of Langley Park, median strips remain narrow to accommodate turn lanes into parking lots and side-streets. There are no raised crosswalks. The speed limit is 35 miles per hour, with no speed cameras to enforce it—only a sign warning motorists to watch for pedestrians.

State law limits speed cameras to construction work zones and school zones—or within a half mile of “the grounds of a building or property” used by a university or college.

There are no school zones on University, and most of the community lies just outside the University of Maryland's half-mile protection zone. But there is one stretch that appears to qualify for a speed camera—leading into the accident-prone Lewisdale neighborhood. It's about a third of a mile from the property line of the graduate student housing complex at the University of Maryland's western entrance.

When asked why there was no speed camera, Prince George's Police officials applied a different measurement. Rather than measuring from the property line, as allowed by the law, they measured from an internal street address on the grounds, placing

Lewisdale at .6 miles from the university—just out of range.

In November, Prince George's County officials sent a 13-page wish list of projects to the Maryland Department of Transportation for the next five years. The list includes planning for pedestrian safety improvements on University in Langley Park—with a note that says it's “critical to improve pedestrian safety” before the Purple Line's completion.

Lora Rakowski of the State Highway Administration wrote in an email that once the Purple Line project begins, University can expect to see “large-scale pedestrian and traffic-calming improvements.” The project includes plans for lane reduction from six lanes to four, new sidewalks, median fencing and new crosswalks at intersections with signals, Rakowski wrote.

That could be five years from now, if it stays on schedule.

The pedestrians of College Park got faster action with the help of the state flagship university's influential president, Wallace Loh. Along with city officials, Loh pushed for quick and comprehensive changes to ensure student safety.

“There's a lot of focus and attention on making sure it's a place that's safe for families to send their kids to go to school,” College Park Mayor Patrick Wojahn said about the University of Maryland and its surrounding area.

The College Park accidents also caught the attention of

Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker.

“Pedestrian fatalities on Route 1 and anywhere in Prince George's County are unacceptable,” Baker wrote in a 2014 press release announcing a slew of reforms to Route 1 after the deaths of three pedestrians near the same College Park crossroad. When asked about the difference in response to College Park and Langley Park, Baker said the College Park accidents were “highlighted” because they affected students. He put the onus on Langley Park's residents to walk more safely and stressed the need for educational outreach.

“Especially in this area where many of our residents speak English as a second language, we want to make sure they are aware of what they need to do and how to stay safe,” he said.

David Brown, who lives in an apartment off of University, is used to seeing accidents there and said it doesn't seem like officials care enough to make rapid safety improvements for residents of Langley Park.

“It will change at some point but someone has to actually do the footwork ... an official, yes,” said Brown, who was born in Jamaica. “Someone needs to step in and say this needs to be done and addressed now, not later until five or six more people get killed before you do anything.”

Julie Depenbrock, Lauraine Genota and Gabriela Martinez contributed to this article.

venile justice programs as well as environmental protection, foreign assistance, medical and scientific research and other federal government programs. The Trump budget would reduce spending for these important programs 2 percent a year for the next ten years.

- Zeroes out funding for the Legal Services Corporation to deny the poor their only option to defend themselves against injustice.

- Eliminates core programs that offer extra assistance to low income children, families and communities including the Social Service Block Grant (\$1.4 billion in 2018 alone, \$16.3 billion over 10 years); the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to ward off heat in the summer and cold in winter months (\$3.4 billion); the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment's HOME, Community Development Block Grant, Indian Community Development Block Grant, and Choice Neighborhood programs (\$4.1 billion), and the National Housing Trust Fund which provides funds to states and local communities to develop affordable rental housing; the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs that include CSBG (\$723.6 million), Community Economic Development program (\$29.8 million) and Rural Community Facilities (\$6.5 million).

- Axes the 21st Century Community Learning Program that offers programs to curb summer learning loss and keep children safe and engaged through after school programs for 1.6 million children; the Preschool Development Grants which went to 18 states to improve and expand ac-

cess to high-quality preschool for children in high-needs communities; and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program for parents enrolled in college to assist in child care costs.

At the same time, President Trump's 2018 Budget includes an estimated \$5 trillion tax package for the wealthiest individuals and corporations who neither need nor deserve massive government support and dramatically increases spending on defense and border security. The Trump budget:

- Increases base defense spending \$54 billion in 2018 alone (and \$489 billion over ten years). That's \$147,945,205 a day, \$6,164,384 an hour and \$102,739 a minute. The U.S. mil-