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Ofrecemos Comedass is a business in the Greater Chillum area.

PHOTO COURTESY MDHCD

Maryland Announces Two New Sustainable Communities

By PRESS OFFICER MDHCD

NEW CARROLLTON, MD—A burgeoning community inside the Capital Beltway and a Cecil County town that served as a supply depot for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War are the

latest communities to receive designations under the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Sustainable Communities Program. Program designations are approved by Maryland's Smart Growth Subcabinet, and there are now 105 approved Sustainable

Communities statewide with at least one designated Sustainable Community in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Sustainable Communities receive access to a comprehensive package of resources and technical expertise that supports holistic, "big picture"

strategies for revitalization. The Sustainable Communities designation provides local governments with a framework for planning and promoting growth and redevelopment in existing older communities that is en-

See COMMUNITIES Page A3

Council Member Deni Taveras Lauds Sustainable Community Designation in District 2

Greater Chillum Selected for Maryland's Sustainable Communities Program

By PRESS OFFICER PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras (D) – District 2, lauded the state of Maryland's Smart Growth Sub Cabinet's approval of a Sustainable Community Designation for Greater Chillum, located in District 2. Greater Chillum, which includes the neighborhoods of Chillum, Avondale, Carole Highlands, and Lewisdale, serves as a connecting corridor between Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Council Member Taveras worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), various government agencies, County residents, and her Council colleagues to introduce CR-22-2017, legislation calling for the designation of Greater Chillum as a Sustainable Community.

"Prince George's County is experiencing a lot of change and growth. We need a community plan in place that works to-

See DISTRICT 2 Page A5

County Library CEO Search Community Input Forums and Online Survey

By PRESS OFFICER PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Board of Library Trustees of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System has initiated a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) search for the Library. Towards that end, the Library will host three Community Input Forums to learn the community's expectations of the new CEO. These forums will be held 10 am to noon as follows:

- Saturday, August 26—Oxon Hill Branch
- Saturday, September 16—Laurel Branch
- Saturday, September 30—Largo-Kettering Branch

The community is also invited to share the attributes sought in a new CEO through an online survey. "The Board of Library Trustees hopes to hear from the community we serve

See CEO Page A6

Vital Records Warns Consumers of Phone Scam Targeting Misdialers

Double-Check the Number When Dialing and Always Report Fraud if You Have Been a Victim

By PRESS OFFICER MD Department of Health

BALTIMORE, MD—The Department's Division of Vital Records, which provides birth certificates and death certificates to Marylanders and tabulates helpful categories of public health data, is warning residents of a phone scam that preys on callers who think they have called the division to obtain vital records.

"We have learned that Marylanders who have misdialled the number for the Division of Vital Records have potentially fallen prey to a scammer who took their money," said Dr. Jinlene Chan, the acting deputy secretary for the Public Health Services administration, which houses Vital Records. "It is imperative

See PHONE SCAM Page A5

New Principals On Board For the 2017-18 School Year

By PRESS OFFICER PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is focused on developing its own administrators through the Office of Talent Development's leadership programs. Most

new principals previously served as assistant principals or principals in the school system. The school district's administrative procedure for the principal selection process includes opportunities for family

See PRINCIPALS Page A3

PG County Programs Provide Soft Landing for India-Based Company

PG County Assists 2nd SelectUSA Summit Company Launch American Operations Within Last 60 Days

By LORI C. VALENTINE PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On August 10, 2017, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) welcomed the sixth company into its India Business Center as MIG Media Neurons, Ltd. opens its first office in the United States. Joined by key officials from SelectUSA and other companies recently added to the India Business Center, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and EDC Executive Vice President Dr. Pradeep Ganguly celebrated this new addition to the business accelerator with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and words of encouragement to MIG Media Neurons.

"Connecting international companies to opportunities for success is our mode of operation," said Coleman. "The EDC has a very strong relationship with SelectUSA and we partner to be effective conduits for companies from overseas looking to create their footprint in the American market. We are proud



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Left to right: Raj Pant, CEO, Allied Deccan; Chris Higginbotham, Deputy Outreach Director, SelectUSA; Sohil Sachdeva, Director, sRs McCoy, Inc.; Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; Rushikesh Bhavsar, CEO, MIG Media Neurons, Ltd.; Mayank Kapur, Business Development Director, PGCEDC; Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC Martin Ezemma, International Business Director, PGCEDC; Maria Dorsett, International Business Development Specialist, PGCEDC

to be the consummate 'process partners' and provide the helping hand that MIG Media Neurons, Ltd needed to break into the American marketplace."

SelectUSA is a government program in the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce that is dedicated to promoting for-

eign direct investment in the United States. Each year, Mr.

See INDIA Page A5

INSIDE

Maryland Department of Health Releases 2017 First Quarter Fatal Overdose Data

Health, in partnership with other state agencies, continues to collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to try to reduce the number of overdoses and has been combating and responding to the increase in overdose deaths.

Community, Page A3

Affirmative Action: Dissecting Rhetoric From Reality

There are a lot of myths out there about affirmative action. The most prevalent one—the one that fires up the aggrieved Trump base—is that hordes of Black and Brown applicants are taking away opportunities rightfully earned by better-qualified white applicants.

Commentary, Page A4

Vast Majority of Marylanders Support Changes to Current Brewery Laws

This past spring, the Comptroller announced the formation of a Reform on Tap Task Force to do a comprehensive review of the state's antiquated laws governing the manufacturing, distribution and sale of Maryland craft beer.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Despicable Me 3

The main plot concerns a villain named Balthazar Bratt (Trey Parker), an '80s child actor who turned rotten when his show was canceled and now perpetrates '80s-flavored crimes accompanied by cheesy catchphrases. Bratt's goofy-sinister antics are funny, as is much of the film's slapstick humor.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What exactly is Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and how does it work to train activists?

—Kelly G., Washington, D.C.

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Carnival fun, stock car races, livestock judging and more at the Prince George's County Fair, Sept. 7-10

How about pig races? Or duck races? They'll be there. Head for the Prince George's County Fair at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Sept. 7-10. Something for everyone: carnival rides, goat & sheep showing, pony rides, stock car races, live entertainment, petting zoo with camels, exhibitor and vendor showcase, arts & crafts competition, small business showcase, carnival games, 4-H and open class livestock competition, and so much more.

Hours are: Thurs. & Fri., 5 pm-10pm; Sat., 11am-10pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. Admission: 5 & under, \$5; 6 & older, \$6; 55 & older, \$5. Ride, etc. tickets: single ticket, \$1.50; book of 30, \$25; book of 50, \$55. Also, all-day Wristband Specials.

Thursday is free for seniors. Sunday's free for military personnel and immediate family.

For information about the Beautiful Baby Contest (open only to Prince George's residents), go to www.countyfair.com.

Remember: there won't be another Prince George's County Fair for a year. Don't miss this one. For information, 301-404-5566, or www.countyfair.org.

People

"Seat Reserved for Eric Flanagan" is posted on the wall near the bar at Texas Ribs, in Clinton. Next to the sign is a Virginia license plate bearing FLAN 1. Our waitress told us Eric is a regular: He, with his two crutches, has been coming to Texas Ribs for at least 20 years.

Larry & Jody (Bowman) Nyers traveled from South Carolina to South Dakota to check off a bucket list item of riding his Harley in the annual Sturgis Bike Rally. They trailered the Harley and made it a 10-day adventure through 13 states, stopping at such attractions as President Lincoln's home place and resting place in Illinois and James Dean's birth town in Fairmount, Indiana, ultimately traveling 4,506 miles. It was a great experience and Jody even rode on the back of Larry's bike (something she doesn't like to do) on a motorcycle run to Devil's Tower, Wyoming.

Knights of Columbus St. Pius X Council, Forestville, has new officers: Chaplain Fr. Ted Hegner; Grand Knight George Hoehl; Deputy Grand Knight Mark Richardson; Chancellor Bob White; Warden Amir D. Reeves; Treasurer Robert "Jake" Jacobs; Financial Secretary Robert Weiler, Sr.; Fraternal Benefits Advisor Harry Cantor Agency; and Bingo Chairman Robert Jacobs.

Paul Sinclair is president of the Skyline Hills/Heritage Park's Board of Directors. Other officers are: Charles Mitchell, vice-president; Joyce Pruitt, treasurer; Toni Harris, secretary; and Larry Lynch, member-at-large.

Applause

My brother Tom Mudd is mighty proud of his vintage ball team, The Saginaw [Michigan] Old Golds, on becoming the 2017 World Tournament of Historic Base Ball Champions by defeating the Walker Tavern Wheels of Brooklyn, MI. Playoffs were held in Greenfield Village in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn.

Coming up

- Maryland State Fair: Aug. 24-Sept. 4, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium. Info: 410-252-0200, www.maryland-statefair.com.

- Calvert County Fair, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, Calvert County Fairgrounds, 130 Calvert Fair Drive, Prince Frederick. Info: 419-535-0026, <http://calvert-countyfair.com>.

Changing landscape

Beginning this month the State Highway Administration began resurfacing Branch Avenue (MD 5) between Moores Road and Surratts Road. In addition to new lane markings, crews will be creating bike lanes, upgrading drainage systems, replacing damaged guardrails, and repairing damaged curbs and gutters. Work will continue through next summer.

Several physicians have moved from the medical building at 10403 Hospital Drive in Clinton. One of them is my doctor: Ali Rahimian, MD, who is now at the Southern Maryland Medical Building, 5801 Allentown Road in Camp Springs. Phone, 301-877-7660.

The long-closed Texaco station on Suitland Road in Morningside is undergoing re-construction. Any idea?

The Verizon Center, in Washington, has become Capital One Arena, its third name in 20 years.

May they rest in peace

Mildred C. Peaire, 95, of Waldorf, an original member of the Morningside Seniors, died July 27. She was born in Damascus, MD, daughter of Louis and Carrie Sasser Henley. In 1940 she married Victor W. Peaire and they made their home in Hillside. Mildred was a longtime member of the Morningside Seniors and a homemaker who enjoyed embroidery crafts, poker and bingo, and was a devoted Redskins and Nationals fan. Her husband of 59 years, Victor, and their daughter Lynn L. Brinkley preceded her in death. Survivors include daughter Barbara A. Crosby, four granddaughters and six great-granddaughters. Services were at Lee Funeral Home with burial at Cheltenham.

Former Mayor of Glenarden Herbert Jackson, Sr., died Aug. 6. He was the father of Herbert "Butch" Jackson Jr. and the late Sharon Jackson. He is also survived by two grandchildren and his brother Arilous Jackson. Services were at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville with burial at Cheltenham.

Mark Dwayne Houston, 56, of Camp Springs, a 1978 Crossland High graduate, died June 5. He grew up in Camp Springs, and met his future wife, Tarey Solanj Davis, in college. They married in 1986. Mark worked as a government contractor, most recently as an Information Technology Operations Specialist at the U. S. Senate, Sergeant of Arms.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Edith Hull, Aug. 26; Shirley Holmes, Chris Busky, William Fowler, and twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Aug. 27; my daughter-in-law Michelle McHale, Lavine Callicott and her husband Bill Callicott, Aug. 29; Wanda Payne Simms, Bria Barbour-Ray, Dennis Wood, Jai McCune, Caitlin Rose Woods and Tom Anderson, Aug. 30; Mary Berkley and Travis Mullins, Aug. 31.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

STUDENTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students in Prince George's County Public Schools a very safe and prosperous school year.

A YOUNG MAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

Osayi Omeregbe who lives in Brandywine, Maryland is the son of Lawrence and Rose-line Omeregbe. He attends Clinton United Methodist Church and has served as Worship Leader occasionally during Sunday morning worship services. Osayi wrote the following information about his achievements and goals for me to put in the newspaper.

"When I first started high school, I didn't think that I would do well at first because I never saw the purpose as to what I was learning. I would go through the motions. When I entered my junior year, I started to realize how wrong I was. I realized that there are so many things that this knowledge can

be applied to in the real world. Approaching my senior year, which led me from the kid who first started off not knowing what I wanted to do. I had no idea where I would like to be in the future.

"I finally realized that I want to find ways to save lives, and help those who need healing that led me to becoming more serious. Along the way I learned that education wasn't a sprint; that it was a marathon that you fall many times over before you sometimes see the results that are desired. Mrs. Johnson, my former Substitute Teacher asked me to name a couple of my accomplishments.

"Although receiving the honor roll and high honor roll is indeed an accomplishment; it is not what I am proudest of. I am proud of the fact that I stuck to learning and persevered when things started getting tough. I know that while one milestone of the marathon is completed; I will have a lot more trials and tribulations to come as I move forward. I will be attending Frostburg State University in the

fall to become a pharmacist in order to help fulfill my goal by helping those in need."

PRINCE GEORGE'S AND FRIENDS DAY FESTIVAL

August 27th is Prince George's County Family and Friends Day. This 7th Annual Countywide Festival and Showcase of our local business community will feature local R&B sensation Raheem Devaughn and will be guest hosted by talented R&B singer Paula Campbell.

The event will be held at the Showplace Arena (outdoors) in Upper Marlboro, Maryland from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM (note the earlier time). The event includes free food, games and fun for the whole family. Please RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/family-friends-day2017>. If you are a business, nonprofit, or agency located in Prince George's County and would like a free exhibitor table for the event, please contact Brendon Laster at blaster@co.pg.md.us.

Neighborhoods

Doctors Community Hospital Recognized For Its High Performance and Quality Care

LANHAM, MD—Doctors Community Hospital has been recognized by two renowned organizations. In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017-2018 ratings, it ranked the hospital as a high performing facility for heart failure. Additionally, the hospital earned a four-year primary stroke center designation from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS).

U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures and conditions. Among those conditions was heart failure. Its methodology for rating the hospital as high performing in heart failure included the review of risk-adjusted survival, discharges home, volumes, blood clot prevention, noninvasive breathing aids and other care-related indicators.

Doctors Community Hospital launched a Congestive Heart Failure Clinic in 2014 to address this major health issue. Given the challenges that some people have managing this complex disease, there was an increased likelihood of related health crises requiring frequent and costly emergency department care. "Our Congestive Heart Failure Clinic helps patients gain the skills, resources and education they need. We provide pharmacy, nutrition, physical therapy, cardiology, social work, home health and hospice care professionals who work together to optimize the short- and long-term outcomes of patients," noted Dr. Sunil Madan, chief medical and population health officer at Doctors Community Hospital. "We are honored that this commitment to providing holistic care is helping people improve their health and quality of life."

Moreover, the hospital recently earned a four-year designation as a primary stroke center by MIEMSS. To earn this designation, the hospital underwent an extensive evaluation that included demonstrating how its team complied with national quality and clinical excellence standards for stroke care. The effective and consistent use of such guidelines can save lives while reducing the rate of long-term complications such as paralysis.

Dr. Patricia Christensen, vice president of nursing and patient care services at Doctors Community Hospital, stated, "Stroke is a disease that has touched the lives of many people throughout our community. Since time loss is brain loss, it is important that people have convenient access to high-quality and evidence-based care. Now, area residents can get that level of stroke care right here at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland." She noted that this achievement was earned by the collective efforts of a multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists, emergency physicians and nurses.

"Providing high-quality, comprehensive and compassionate medical care is at the heart of everything that we do. I am proud of each of our dedicated employees for continuing to make our hospital a reliable and award-winning

healthcare provider," stated Phil Down, president, Doctors Community Hospital.

Doctors Community Hospital is a premier medical and surgical hospital located in Lanham, Maryland. With a mission of being dedicated to passionately caring for the health of patients and the community, the hospital has provided high-quality and comprehensive health care to residents of Prince George's County and the region since 1975.

The Daily Record Names Scott Gibson to The 2017 VIP List

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Melwood is pleased to announce *The Daily Record* has named Scott Gibson, Vice President of Human Resources, to their annual VIP list for 2017—Very Important Professionals Successful by 40 award.

The Daily Record created the VIP List in 2011 to recognize professionals 40 years of age and younger who have been successful in Maryland. Winners are chosen based on their professional accomplishments, community service, and commitment to inspiring change.

"It is humbling to be included amongst the community and business leaders being honored by *The Daily Record's* VIP List," said Gibson. "It has been my privilege to work alongside my colleagues at Melwood. It has been rewarding to watch people with differing abilities transform their own lives, as a result of Melwood's programs. I look forward to accomplishing even more with the team at Melwood, and to finding new ways to serve our community through my philanthropic pursuits."

Gibson has played a strategic role at Melwood since 2013. His leadership in problem solving, communications, and management led to a recent appointment by Governor Larry Hogan to the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. Gibson's past experience in the nonprofit and government sectors include, Director of Human Resources of Harford County, Md., Deputy Director of the Maryland Racing Commission, and Vice Chairman and Trustee of Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding. Among others, Gibson also served on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Public Employers Labor Relations Association and National Public Employers Labor Relations Association, where he also served on the Legislative/Legal Advocacy Committee.

"Scott fully deserves this honor. His continued commitment and compassion to Melwood's mission and to the community serves as an example to all, that one individual can truly inspire change," stated Cari DeSantis, president and CEO of Melwood. "We are honored to have him as a team member and excited to see his efforts recognized with this award."

The winners will be honored Sept. 13 at a reception starting at 5:30 p.m. at Gertrude's at the Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive in Baltimore. The winners will be profiled in a special section that will be in-

serted into the September 14 issue of *The Daily Record* and available online at www.TheDailyRecord.com.

Division II Announces 2017 Football Showcase Schedule: Bowie State at Winston, Salem State, September 9

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—NCAA Division II announced the 18 regular-season football games that will be streamed live on ESPN3 as part of an ongoing three-year agreement to highlight Division II athletics events.

The first 18 games of the football showcase are predetermined matchups. Four additional flex games—high-lighting crucial matchups—will be finalized later in the football season and played in November.

"The collaboration with ESPN provides a continued opportunity to showcase Division II's balanced student-athlete experience," said Terri Steeb Gronau, vice president of Division II. "The student-athletes who will be featured in these games have made incredible achievements on and off the field, and we're excited to share their abilities with a broad national audience on ESPN3."

The scheduled games will feature 13 of the 15 football-sponsoring conferences in Division II and are selected from a pool of conference nominations. Two conferences have signed separate broadcast agreements and will not be included this season.

Ten teams in the 2017 package appeared in the Division II playoffs, and nine finished the 2016 season ranked in the top 25 of the American Football Coaches Association Division II poll. All 18 games currently scheduled are conference matchups.

"The quality of Division II football continues to rise," said Steve Mullins, incoming chair of the Division II Football Committee and director of athletics at Arkansas Tech. "We are proud to provide our fans and communities the opportunity to watch some of the most exciting teams across the nation."

ESPN3 is ESPN's live multiscreeen sports network, a destination that delivers thousands of exclusive sports events annually. It is accessible on computers, smartphones, tablets and connected devices through the ESPN app. The network is currently available nationwide at no additional cost to fans who receive their high-speed internet connection or video subscription from an affiliated service provider. It is also available at no cost to U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel via computers, smartphones and tablets connected to on-campus educational and on-base military broadband and Wi-Fi networks.

The Division II football showcase kicks off with two games on Saturday, Sept. 2 on ESPN3.

Full schedule: DATE MATCHUP Saturday, Sept. 2 Notre Dame (Ohio) at Shepherd; Saturday, Sept. 2 East Central at Oklahoma Baptist; Saturday, Sept. 9 Bowie State at Winston-Salem State; Sat-

See BOWIE STATE Page A8

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Do You Feel That You Matter?

Professional counselors call it “mattering,” and while it’s a term most of us may seldom use, it’s something that’s important to all of us—being needed by others.

We all want to feel that we matter to others. That feeling of being needed, of being significant to others, of “mattering,” puts meaning in our lives. We need others to pay attention to us, take interest in us, consider us important and care about what we think and do.

How much we matter to others comes in a variety of levels. At the most basic is “attention,” which is simply feeling we have the interest or notice of another person.

Another step up is “importance,” believing we are important to someone else and may even be the object of his or her concern.

At the level of “dependence,” we feel we are bonded to others by our dependence on them, and their dependence on us. “Ego extension” is when we believe that someone are interested in our successes and disappointments, and are truly concerned with our fate.

All of these levels of mattering are our perceptions about how much we matter to others, but they may not always be accurate. It’s easy to believe that someone really cares about you, like that boss who loves your work, and to have that belief shattered when he fires you or transfers you.

Similarly, there may be people in your life to whom you matter a great deal, yet you may not realize how important you are to them.

Mattering to others is important in helping build our self-confidence and overall happiness. It helps us understand how we fit into the bigger picture that lends meaning to our lives. If you feel at times that you don’t matter to others, take some time to really think about those relationships and try and see if you’re evaluating them accurately.

If you find that you are experiencing strong feelings of not mattering to others, it’s a good time to consider meeting with a professional counselor. Counseling is a means of helping correct and strengthen perceptions about mattering, a means of giving you a more accurate understanding of your relationship with others.

It’s also worth remembering the value of reinforcing, to those who matter to you, how much they really do matter. We all need to know that we matter to others.

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

Principals from A1

The new principals for the 2017–2018 school year are as follows; acting principal appointments are pending Board of Education approval on Aug. 24:

| School | Principal |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Arrowhead Elementary | Shannon Feinblatt |
| Beacon Heights Elementary | Lila Walker |
| Benjamin Tasker Middle School | Kendra Hill |
| Berwyn Heights Elementary | Amanda Alerich |
| C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional | Sabrina Jones-Smith |
| Cesar Chavez Dual Language Spanish Immersion | Anna Addis, Acting |
| Chillum Elementary | Ryan Daniel |
| CMIT - Morningside | Gonul Ozturk, Acting |
| CMIT - South | Olamara Asafa, Acting |
| College Park Academy Public Charter—Middle School | Steven Baker |
| College Park Academy Public Charter—High School | Gordon Libby |
| Concord Elementary | Dana Doggett, Acting |
| Cooper Lane Elementary | Kishawn Smith |
| Cora L. Rice Elementary | Mickelli Dunn |
| Drew Freeman Middle School | Dallas Lee |
| Dr. Henry A. Wise High | Byonka Gregory, Acting |
| Excel Public Charter | Chien Hwa Nee |
| Francis T. Evans Elementary | Sonya Gaston, Acting |
| Friendly High | Robin Pope-Brown, Acting |
| Glenn Dale Elementary | Heather Porterfield, Acting |
| Green Valley Academy | Nathan Newman |
| Imagine Lincoln Public Charter | Benjamin Roberts |
| Imagine Public Charter—Morningside | Jessica Johnson |
| J. Frank Dent Elementary | Yolanda Coleman, Acting |
| James McHenry Elementary | Harold McCray |
| John H. Bayne Elementary | Erica Bennett |
| John Hanson Montessori | Zory Kenon III |
| Margaret Brent Regional | Selena Pratt-Swilling |
| Martin Luther King Middle School | Rotunda Floyd-Cooper |
| Overlook Spanish Immersion | Betsy White, Acting |
| Riverdale Elementary | Natiqua Riley, Acting |
| Rosa Parks Elementary | Rhonda Summey, Acting |
| Stephen Decatur Middle School | Charity MaGruder |
| Suitland High | Danny Miller, Acting |
| Walker Mill Middle School | Erin Cribbs |

Maryland Department of Health Releases 2017 First Quarter Fatal Overdose Data

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Department of Health

BALTIMORE, MD—The Maryland Department of Health has released data for fatal overdoses in the first quarter of 2017. During this period, which encompasses January to March of 2017, there were 550 overdose-related deaths in the state, including 372 fentanyl-related deaths. The full report is posted on the Department of Health website at <https://bha.health.maryland.gov>.

“Fentanyl and synthetic drugs continue to claim the lives of Marylanders, many of whom are unknowingly consuming them,” said Health Secretary Dennis Schrader. “We implore Marylanders who are grappling with substance use disorder and are taking illicit substances to seek treatment immediately.”

Marylanders can find treatment resources at MdDestinationRecovery.org, BeforeIt’sTooLateMD.org, and the state crisis hotline, 1-800-422-0009.

The new quarterly data show how fentanyl, an additive that is often combined with other opioids, continues to drive the scourge of overdose deaths. Fentanyl and a related additive, carfentanil, are 50 and 100 times more potent than heroin, respectively. In 2016, Health issued a warning about such fentanyl consumption, later adding carfentanil to the list. Health continues to reinforce that warning.

“The number of Marylanders impacted by this crisis continues

to drive our resolve to manage this epidemic as a statewide emergency,” said Clay Stamp, executive director of the state’s Opioid Operational Command Center. “In order for us to be successful, we must be united in this fight and steadfast in our commitment to partner with others in efforts to prevent, protect, and treat those in need.”

Fighting the heroin and opioid epidemic in Maryland has been a top priority of Governor Larry Hogan’s administration. Health, in partnership with other state agencies, continues to collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to try to reduce the number of overdoses and has been combating and responding to the increase in overdose deaths.

On July 1, 2017, three new initiatives to further combat the opioid epidemic went into effect:

- Maryland Medicaid policies reforming the opioid-prescribing process went into effect**, in partnership with all eight of Maryland Medicaid’s HealthChoice providers. The new policy requires prior authorization for all high-dose and long-acting opioids issued to Maryland Medicaid recipients. The policy changes were put in effect to reduce opioid misuse, dependence, overdose and death in both Medicaid fee-for-service and HealthChoice managed care programs.
- Maryland’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** allows providers and pharmacists access to their pa-

tients’ history of such prescribed controlled dangerous substances (CDS) as prescribed opioids. As of July 1, 2017, prescribers of CDS and pharmacists are required to register with the PDMP. In addition, prescribers are required, with some exceptions, to query and review their patient’s PDMP data prior to initially prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine and at least every 90 days thereafter as long as the course of treatment continues to include prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine. Pharmacists must query and review patient PDMP data prior to dispensing any CDS drug if they have a reasonable belief that a patient is seeking the drug for any purpose other than the treatment of an existing medical condition.

- Maryland Medicaid began reimbursement for federally funded residential substance use treatment.** Maryland was the third state in the nation to be granted a waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide these services with federal Medicaid dollars. The expansion, solidified in the program’s federally approved waiver, enables providers to receive previously denied federal Medicaid reimbursement, an obstacle that contributed to the opioid crisis here. Maryland Medicaid—backed by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan—applied for a waiver

(or an exception) from that federal restriction, to be able to win treatment options for more Marylanders. The IMD Waiver expands Medicaid reimbursement to include adult residential substance use disorder treatment. Health is phasing in such additional services as residential substance-use disorder services for pregnant women with children, drug-exposed newborns, individuals involved with the child welfare system and 8-507 court ordered treatment services in January 2018; it will incorporate halfway houses in January 2019.

In addition to these new initiatives, Health continues to conduct a multi-pronged approach:

In July 2017, Health, the Opioid Operation Command Center, and the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention announced more than \$22 million to fight the heroin and opioid epidemic. Eighty percent will go to Maryland’s 24 local jurisdictions and service providers to fund prevention, enforcement, and treatment efforts throughout the state. Health was awarded a \$20 million grant under the 21st Century Cures Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to be used for the prevention and treatment of opioid abuse over a two-year period.

See OVERDOSE Page A6

Communities from A1

Environmentally, economically and socially responsible.

Cecil County—Town of Charlestown

Established in 1742, the Town of Charlestown was a supply depot for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and features a historical district with approximately 150 buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, including a rare ice house and a house once visited by George Washington. Boasting a waterfront location on the North East River, Charlestown aims to protect its precious natural attractions by reducing the amount of unfiltered stormwater flowing into the river, planting rain gardens, and expanding the use of rain barrels and bio-roofs. The town

also seeks to capitalize on its colonial charm by installing brick sidewalks, adding commercial businesses to its historic district, and hosting community events that celebrate its history.

Prince George’s County—Greater Chillum

Located inside the Capital Beltway, Greater Chillum is a densely populated and diverse community that serves as a connecting corridor between Maryland and Washington, D.C. The community is currently transitioning from an auto-centric suburb to a more urbanized area, with a significant percentage of residents reliant upon public transportation. Greater Chillum seeks to improve walkability for pedestrians and encourage more bicycle use by incorporating protected bike lanes and new



PHOTO COURTESY MDHCD

Historic properties in the town of Charlestown in Cecil County

crosswalks in the area. The community also hopes to become more environmentally friendly by reducing impervious surfaces and to create local economic opportunities by establishing a small business in-

cubator to support entrepreneurs and start-ups.

To learn more about the Sustainable Communities program and the application process, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/dn/.

Council Member
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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Questions GSA Directly on Faulty Cancellation of FBI Consolidation Procurement

GSA, FBI Promise to Return to Congress Within 120 Days With a New Plan for the FBI; Cardin Prompts GSA to Admit It Can Pick a Site Now

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 2, 2017)— U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee that has jurisdiction for public buildings, today aggressively questioned officials from the General Services Administration (GSA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their sudden and costly cancellation of the years-long procurement process that would have provided the FBI with a much-needed, fully consolidated and modern headquarters.

"I thank Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper for holding this hearing in response to my request after GSA announced that they were terminating the prospectus for the consolidation of the FBI.

"This has been a frustrating process—the delay, the mixed messages on financing, and ignoring the actions of this committee and of Congress. As a result, there has been a significant waste of taxpayer money and we have compromised the FBI's ability to carry out its critical mission. That is plainly unacceptable.

"We need a transparent way forward to deliver a consolidated facility for the FBI quickly. GSA has made it clear that they have the authority to select a site today. Congress can help GSA with this process moving forward. We

could have been helpful before GSA chose to terminate the procurement process that was in place. We cannot waste any more taxpayer funds. We've already committed \$913 million to this project—not including the Hoover Building—so that is more than a \$1 billion already available. GSA has committed to returning to the EPW Committee within 120 days with a plan for how to get this process back on track. I strongly encourage them to use much of the work already invested into this project to expedite decisions at every available opportunity."

The Hoover Building, occupied by the FBI headquarters staff since 1974, is—according to the FBI—obsolete, inefficient and expensive and does not meet the agency's security or operational needs. The FBI has outgrown it and needs a new headquarters building which can consolidate staff currently spread out in 14 different leased spaces in and near Washington, D.C., at a cost of more than \$44 million per year in lease payments.

Since 2005, the FBI, GSA and OMB have been discussing and studying a strategy for consolidating the FBI headquarters. Both agencies conducted building surveys, housing strategies, site analyses, project reports and feasibility stud-

See **FBI Page A3**

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Affirmative Action: Dissecting Rhetoric From Reality

"You do not wipe away the scars of centuries by saying: Now you are free to go where you want, and do as you desire, and choose the leaders you please. You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say, 'You are free to compete with all the others,' and still justly believe that you have been completely fair. Thus it is not enough just to open the gates of opportunity. All our citizens must have the ability to walk through those gates."

—President Lyndon B. Johnson, Commencement Address at Howard University, To Fulfill These Rights June 4, 1965

In a perfect America founded and operating on colorblind meritocracy, admission to selective institutions of higher learning, boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies and access to federal contracts would be determined solely by ability, skill and talent, never having to take into consideration race or gender—and certainly never having to take into consideration a moral, national imperative to redress wrongs rooted in a long history of slavery, sexism, structural racism and prejudice. But as we all know, that is not the America we call home.

We live in an America that has (at some points more fervently than others), perpetually strived for the elusive ideals of freedom, liberty and justice—for all. But as we collectively labor through the mud of inequality and the residue of injustice that disproportionately effects communities of color and women, it is at best cynical and at worst callous that the very federal agency charged with addressing the impact of discrimination on historically disadvantaged groups is now, under the direction of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, preparing to attack those laws, policies and guidelines set in place to end and correct the effects of a discrimination and "improve the employment

or educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women."

According to a leaked memo, the Department of Justice is planning to redirect resources from its civil rights division to investigate and sue universities that use "intentional race-based discrimination" in their admissions process because of its purported negative effects on Asian American applicants. But let's be clear, this is an attack on equality and education for marginalized groups.

This brazen, transparent, counterproductive assault on affirmative action, coupled with other proposed initiatives, would seal the door of opportunity shut for millions of Americans. The Trump administration has proposed slashing the Department of Education's funding by over \$9 billion; withholding much needed federal money from high-poverty public schools; and reducing funding for federal work-study and Pell Grants, making it harder for lower income and Black and Hispanic students to afford higher education.

In a nation where education is the most effective tool most of us have to climb the American ladder of success, and is practically synonymous with opportunity and achievement, the executive branch of our government appears driven to keep those who can least afford it away from a quality education at all phases of schooling.

There are a lot of myths out there about affirmative action. The most prevalent one—the one that fires up the aggrieved Trump base—is that hordes of Black and Brown applicants are taking away opportunities rightfully earned by better-qualified white applicants. The truth is, according to the latest data, the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action have been white women. And though the administration insists it is motivated by a sense of fairness, no attention is being paid to the growing advantage socioeconomic and legacy status play in college admissions.

Like race or gender, many selective universities consider an applicant's legacy status as a factor in the admissions process, which puts students from marginalized, low-income and underrepresented communities at a distinct disadvantage. A 2011

See **URBAN LEAGUE Page A5**

Fort Frederick State Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FORT FREDERICK STATE PARK

Located in the Cumberland Valley, the 585 acre park features a unique stone fort that served as Maryland's frontier defense during the French and Indian War. The Fort's stone wall and two barracks have been restored to their 1758 appearance. Historic exhibits are in the Fort, barracks, CCC Museum and Visitor Center. The park annually holds programs such as artillery firings, junior ranger, colonial children's day and the 18th Century Market Fair. The park borders the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal passes through the park. The park also features a boat launch, campsites, camp store, fishing, flat water canoeing, a hiking trail, interpretive and educational programs, picnicking, a playground, and a shelter. Hours of operation are: April—October, 8 a.m. to sunset, and November—March, 10 a.m. to sunset. For more information call 301-842-2155.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



A Success Story to Inspire Us All!

Have you ever had the chance to make a small difference in helping change someone's life for the better? Nothing brings greater joy. Since 1990 the Children's Defense Fund (CDF)'s Beat the Odds® program has honored over 600 outstanding high school students who have overcome huge hardships in their lives, demonstrated academic excellence, and given back to their communities. Their grit and resilience are overwhelming and remind me that none of us have a right to give up on any child or youth. CDF holds awards events for these amazing students where they receive college scholarships and leadership development opportunities, sending a clear signal that someone cares and understands what it takes to stay in school and do well while coping with a lot of adversity. I recently received this beautiful letter from one of our extraordinary Beat the Odds alumna that lifted my spirits in these difficult national times:

Dear Mrs. Edelman,

I just wanted to thank you for all that you do through CDF and for the Beat the Odds scholarship that undoubtedly changed the course of my life. Battling through my difficult childhood, poverty, sexual abuse and the self-esteem issues and eating disorder that resulted from it was so difficult. I questioned whether I was meant to do anything but what I saw in my immediate family that was riddled with drug addiction and brokenness. Then I received the BTO scholarship in 2003 and was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Houston because of it. It was my new boat for this wide sea ... I for once felt I could make it.

Then the brutal murder of my sister happened in 2007, leaving me with 2 children to care for, a broken and depressed heart and holes in my new boat. It was thoughts of you and that chance you gave me through BTO that made me not give up. I am so eternally grateful to CDF and BTO and I couldn't quit and let you all down. You believed I was worth it, I was strong enough and I could do it ... So I did! I now have a B.S. in Chem-

istry, a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), a M.S. in health professions education and now a PhD in oral biology. I have finally completed my educational journey that started back in 2003 after receiving the BTO award, a journey that would not have happened without CDF. I practice dentistry at Community Dental Clinics of DFW and have devoted my life's work to providing care to underserved communities and populations. I am an assistant professor and I conduct research investigating the gender differences in orofacial pain disorders at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. I also mentor under-represented minority students and at risk students.

This past year, I received the Robert Wood Johnson Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development program grant that will funnel me into a tenure-track at the dental school so that I can continue a career of service and mentorship. So while I may not have the lucrative earnings of a private practice career in dentistry, my day to day work is spiritually and emotionally rewarding. I really wanted you to know that I am paying it forward and closer to one day sponsoring my own BTO scholar and will forever be involved with CDF

and BTO in whatever capacity I am needed. I cannot express my thanks and appreciation in words for the work that you do! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for believing in me.

Sincerely,

Crystal Johnson Stinson
BTO Alum 2003

I am so proud of Dr. Crystal Johnson Stinson and her grace and strength in continuing to overcome all of life's tragedies and challenges with a determination to succeed and give back to others along the way. I am also so grateful to her for letting me share her letter and her example of the profound difference that simply telling a young person you believe in her can make.

Dr. Stinson said when she won a Beat the Odds award she felt as if she'd been given a new boat to help her across the wide sea. She was describing CDF's trademarked logo, which was drawn by a young child many years ago and shows a tiny boat on a vast sea next to a handwritten version of the old fisherman's prayer: "Dear Lord, be

See **WATCH, Page A8**

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Your Money Matters

Keeping Your Beneficiaries Up-to-Date

By Gary S. Williams, CFP®, CRPC®, AIF®
and Nicholas A. Ibello, CFP®, AIF®

Life moves fast, and as the days go by in a blur, updating, or even designating, your beneficiaries can fall to the bottom of your proverbial “to-do” list. With events such as divorce, marriage, or even the birth of a child/grandchild, many things can occur in life that can prompt the need to update beneficiaries.

In general, a beneficiary designation is a way to efficiently pass assets to loved ones. It allows you to transfer certain assets, such as the proceeds of your life insurance policy, a 401(k), or IRA to whomever you want, without going through the probate process.

Listed below are some of the most common questions and facts regarding beneficiary designation and why they are so crucial to your financial life:

Who can be my beneficiary? The answer here can vary depending on your current financial situation. If you are single, you can choose anyone you wish. If you are married, your spouse is traditionally chosen as the primary beneficiary. In fact, in some states, you are required to select your spouse as your primary beneficiary on retirement plans or receive consent to name someone different. You also have the option to choose a charitable organization of your choice or name a trust.

Don't Wait. It's easy to postpone or procrastinate updating or changing your beneficiaries on old life insurance policies or your 401k from your current or previous employer. If you are reading this blog, use this opportunity to remind yourself there is no better time than right now! If you decide to wait and tragedy strikes, your assets may not transfer to whom you wish.

Beneficiary designations supersede your will. As an example, if your Will lists your current spouse to inherit your IRA, but the primary beneficiary listed on the account is your ex-spouse, then these assets would actually go to your ex-spouse!

Don't forget Per Stirpes. Most people see that little box on beneficiary forms labeled “per stirpes” and ignore it because they don't know what it means! With per stirpes, in the event your beneficiary does not survive you, but leaves surviving descendants, any share otherwise payable to that beneficiary shall instead be paid to that beneficiary's surviving descendants.

Avoids Probate. Probate is the judicial proceeding by which the courts oversee the distribution of your estate and interpretation of your Will. Probate can be a lengthy and costly process for the parties involved, and can take sometimes up to a year or more for the process to finalize. Also, probate records are open to the public, so essentially, anyone could see how you left your estate, which some people would like kept private.

Keeping your beneficiaries up-to-date to reflect the changes in your life helps ensure your legacy goals are met. As with any important financial decision in your life, please discuss your unique situation with your financial advisor to determine which options are right for you and your family.

Gary Williams, CFP® and Nicholas Ibello, CFP® are Wealth Managers with Williams Asset Management. Williams Asset Management is located at 8850 Columbia 100 Parkway, Suite 204, Columbia, MD 21045. They offer securities and advisory services as Investment Adviser Representatives of Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products and services offered by Williams Asset Management. For additional information about the services of Williams Asset Management, please call (410) 740-0220 or email at Info@WilliamsAsset.com. ©Williams Asset Management. For more information about Williams Asset Management, please visit www.WilliamsAssetManagement.com.

Urban League from A4

Chronicle of Higher Education study found that a legacy connection gave an applicant a 23.3 percentage point advantage over a non-legacy applicant. And applicants whose parent attended the school gained an average advantage close to 50 percentage points.

That our universities and workplaces review candidates through a race- and/or gender-conscious lens is an acknowledgement of the outsized role racism and sexism currently plays and has historically played in our nation's history. The Supreme Court has ruled—time and again—that schools, in particular, have the right and “compelling interest” to use race in a limited way to achieve a diverse student body.

The goal is not to disadvantage any group, but to recognize and attempt to remedy centuries of injustice.

The National Urban League unequivocally condemns any effort by the Department of Justice to undermine the still necessary role of affirmative action in college admissions, taking us back to a time when African Americans, women and other marginalized groups did not have equal and fair access to higher education or employment.

I look forward to the day when a man or woman will neither be preferred nor penalized based on gender, color or socioeconomic class. Perhaps affirmative action, as a lasting solution, is complex and imperfect, but so is the nation we call home.

The Prince George's Post
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Vast Majority of Marylanders Support Changes to Current Brewery Laws

Comptroller's Survey Results Overwhelmingly Favor Reform Effort

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, MD—An overwhelming majority of Marylanders support fundamental changes to the state's alcohol laws that govern the production, distribution and sale of beer, according to the results of an online survey released today by Comptroller Peter Franchot.

“Maryland's current beer laws are dysfunctional and outdated and work to the detriment of consumers and small business,” said Comptroller Franchot in response to the unscientific survey. “Without comprehensive reform, Maryland's reputation within the national craft brewing industry will continue to suffer. We must have laws that make sense for all the stakeholders and promote economic growth for all three tiers and create the best market for Maryland consumers.”

This past spring, the Comptroller announced the formation of a Reform on Tap Task Force to do a comprehensive review of the state's antiquated laws gov-

erning the manufacturing, distribution and sale of Maryland craft beer. Forty task force members, representing every region of the state from large and small breweries, distributors, restaurants, bars and retailers, consumers and local and state officials have been meeting regularly to discuss issues affecting the industry. As a result of the meetings, an online poll was taken live from August 7 to 11. During that time, 2,472 respondents completed the survey. Below are the questions and the results:

Question 1: What is your opinion on the limits on craft beer production in Maryland law?

72 percent of respondents said there should be no limits on beer production; while an additional 20 percent said they are too low. The remaining 8 percent said they are either too high as they are or that they are “fine” at current levels.

Question 2: What is your opinion of the sales limits in Maryland law?

George's County on its continued success attracting global companies and creating jobs in Maryland. We are very proud to see how the SelectUSA Investment Summit is helping economic development teams meet high quality global partners.”

MIG Media Neurons, Ltd. is a global business promotion services company led by its CEO, Rushikesh Bhavasar, from Ahmedabad, India, and is one of the companies that came to the attention of the EDC at the recent SelectUSA Summit in June. This full service media company promotes brands and products of several companies globally allowing them to trade bilaterally with different nations, import raw materials and export their products. MIG Media Neurons, along with

79 percent of respondents said there should be no sales limits; while 14 percent said these limits are too low. The remaining 7 percent said either they are too high as is or they are “fine” at current levels.

Question 3: What is your opinion of this “buy-back” provision in [HB 1283]?

89 percent of respondents expressed disapproval of the buy-back provision in House Bill 1283; while 4 percent said they approved and 6 percent said they had no opinion.

Question 4: Should the business relationship between the brewer and the distributor be governed by Maryland state franchise law, or should it be subject to a private contract that is negotiated and signed by both parties?

83 percent of respondents said the relationship should be governed by a “negotiated, signed contract”; while 10 said it should be governed by state franchise law and 7 saying they had no opinion on the matter.

Question 5: What is your opinion on Maryland's current self-distribution law?

72 percent of respondents said there should be no self-distribution limits, while 18 percent said the limits should be raised. Of those remaining, 7 percent said current law is reasonable, 1 percent said the limits should be lowered and 2 percent said self-distribution should be prohibited altogether in the state.

Question 6: What is your opinion on Maryland's current “take home” sales limit on one case per customer?

66 percent of respondents said there should be no take-home limit while 25 percent answered that the existing limit is too low and should be raised. Of those remaining, 8 percent said the existing limit is reasonable, 1 percent said take-home sales in the state should be prohibited altogether and less than 1 percent said the existing limit is too high and should be lowered.

India from A1

Coleman and his EDC Team participate in SelectUSA Summit with the expectation of attracting international companies to enter the U.S. market and begin their commercial activities in Prince George's County. Partnering with SelectUSA, the EDC has been successful in identifying entrepreneurs from India and inviting them to the India Business Center where they are able to set up shop and launch their U.S. operations.

“I congratulate MIG Media Neurons on its expansion to the United States and wish the company the best of luck on continued growth,” said Fred Volcansek, Executive Director of SelectUSA. “I also congratulate Prince

George's County on its continued success attracting global companies and creating jobs in Maryland. We are very proud to see how the SelectUSA Investment Summit is helping economic development teams meet high quality global partners.”

MIG Media Neurons, Ltd. is a global business promotion services company led by its CEO, Rushikesh Bhavasar, from Ahmedabad, India, and is one of the companies that came to the attention of the EDC at the recent SelectUSA Summit in June. This full service media company promotes brands and products of several companies globally allowing them to trade bilaterally with different nations, import raw materials and export their products. MIG Media Neurons, along with

sRs McCoy, Inc. from Rajasthan, India, were impressed with the soft landing services, business development services and support that the EDC provides to international companies, and decided to open their U.S. operations in Prince George's County.

“We have been looking to accelerate and establish our operations in the United States for quite a while, but have not found a place that suited our needs,” said Bhavasar. “We met the EDC Team at the SelectUSA Summit. We were very pleased with the business environment and support the EDC showed us. I made the decision to start my U.S. operations in Prince George's County right away and am encouraging the group of companies that I work with in India to

come to Prince George's County, too, so that they can launch their U.S. operations here. We can't wait to get started!”

The EDC's India Business Center is a part of its international business accelerator program that assists foreign companies in creating an immediate footprint in the United States. Both MIG Media Neurons, Ltd. and sRs McCoy, Inc. are planning to be in full operation in Prince George's County before the end of 2017.

To learn more about how to do business internationally with Prince George's County and to learn more about the EDC's business accelerator program, contact Dr. Pradeep Ganguly at pganguly@co.pg.md.us or 301-583-4650.

Phone Scam from A1

that Marylanders take care to dial the right numbers, when reaching out to Vital Records.”

For general information regarding certificates for birth, death, marriage, or divorce, call 410-764-3038. For other specific

information, please call 410-764-3036. Individuals who call the Division of Vital Records will not be asked to provide their social security information over the phone. If individuals are asked for that information, they should double-check the number they called.

Individuals who believe they have been the victim of a scam should report it to the police department serving their area. To learn more about protecting personal and financial information, visit the Identity Theft Unit of the Maryland Attorney General's Office at <https://goo.gl/qg6Qbg>.

If individuals believe they have provided credit card information to a fraudulent group, they should notify their card issuer immediately. By law, consumers are not responsible for any unauthorized charges from the time the loss or theft is reported.

District 2 from A1

wards revitalizing some of our transitioning Northern Gateway communities,” said Council Member Taveras. “It is important for all Prince George's communities to grow and thrive. The Sustainable Community Designation is a game changer for District 2 and Greater Chillum as the area becomes more ur-

banized with a growing population. Now we will have access to the tools and opportunities that promote economic vitality; enhance public transportation; and preserve natural, historical and cultural resources.”

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Sustainable Communities Program is designed to encourage intera-

gency and cross-governmental collaboration by providing designated Sustainable Communities with the opportunity to access an interagency revitalization toolbox of financing programs and tax credit incentives. Maryland has 105 approved Sustainable Communities with at least one in each of the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Prince George's County's Department of Housing and Community Development Director Eric Brown noted the significance of the designation.

“This is a great step forward toward improving the Greater Chillum area. We look forward to working with Council Member Taveras and other partners to make Greater Chillum a better and more viable community.”

FBI from A4

ies. The agencies examined the various options, such as federal construction of a new building, leasing, modernizing the Hoover Building or exchanging it for a new site and new building built by a private partner.

In 2011, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed a resolution authorizing the GSA to enter into a lease transaction, on federally owned land, for a consolidated FBI headquarters consistent with the survey completed by the FBI. The Senate resolution also required:

- GSA ensure the lease transaction resulted in ownership;
- To the maximum extent practicable, the new headquarters to be located within 2 miles from a Metro rail station and 2.5 miles from the Capital Beltway (I-495);
- The site not exceed 55 acres and provide for Level V Security;
- The building not exceed 2.1 million square feet with an office utilization of not more than 10 square feet per person and an overall utilization of 174 square feet per person

In 2013, GSA issued a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain responses from the development community, along with local and

state jurisdictions, on the potential of a consolidated FBI headquarters and announced its intention to swap the current FBI site for the new consolidated headquarters, with the site and developer to be chosen competitively.

In 2015, GSA announced that an even swap of the Hoover Building for a new FBI consolidated headquarters facility would not garner enough money to make the project work. In FY16 Congress appropriated \$390 million for the project and both the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees passed resolutions

authorizing the project.

President Obama's FY17 budget to Congress requested \$1.4 billion for the project to complete its funding; Congress appropriated \$523 million and committed to funding the rest of the project in the FY18 appropriations process. In the FY18 budget request to Congress President Trump requested no funding for this project.

On July 12, 2017 GSA officials formally notified Congress that they were cancelling the procurement; citing a lack of funding, rising costs, and the depreciating value of the Hoover building as reasons for the cancellation.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Despicable Me 3

Despicable Me 3
Grade: C
Rated PG, cartoon violence
1 hr., 30 min

With *Despicable Me 3*, I finally put my finger on what it is about these movies that keeps them from working. The premise, as you and your children know, is that a super-villain named Gru (voiced by Steve Carell) adopted three orphan girls, got domesticated, and left his life of crime to work for the Anti-Villain League. He's now married to a fellow AVL agent, Lucy (Kristen Wiig), and they all live as one big happy family.

In the new one, written by franchise creators Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio and directed by Kyle Balda and Pierre Coffin, Gru learns he has a long-lost twin brother named Dru (also voiced by Carell) who is wealthy, cheerful, and has lustrous blond hair. (That's pretty much all we ever learn about Dru's personality.) Dru is disappointed to find that Gru has gone straight, as he wants to continue the family legacy of villainy. This eventually provides the conflict between them.

But this whole premise, where Gru is a "villain" who supposedly loves evil but resists it now, and who even at his peak was only a thief who never hurt anyone, and where Dru wants to be evil despite being a good person with no unkind impulses — all of this is a difficult reality to maintain. I can only buy it for a few minutes at a time before the contradictions overwhelm me. Their actions consistently belie their professed beliefs! Of course, you couldn't make a kids' cartoon about someone



ROTTENTOMATOES

who's truly evil. And yet now they've tried, counting the *Minions* spinoff, four times. It's a shame, because there are some solid laughs scattered throughout this gentle family sitcom. The main plot concerns a villain named Balthazar Bratt (Trey Parker), an '80s child actor who turned rotten when his show was canceled and now perpetrates '80s-flavored crimes accompanied by cheesy catchphrases. Bratt's goofy-sinister antics are funny, as is much of the film's slapstick humor. There's a highly enjoyable scene where Gru and Dru, having spent the day getting to

know each other and bonding as brothers, snickeringly impersonate one another for Lucy and the girls.

Everything else is weakly amiable and perfunctorily pleasant, like an old episode of *Full House* (OK, it's not that dumb). Gru's family travels to the kooky foreign nation of Freedonia to meet Dru, and everybody gets a B-story. The littlest girl wants to find a unicorn; the middle girl helps her; the oldest girl misunderstands local customs and gets betrothed to a local boy; Lucy struggles with being a stepmother and learning to say

"no." There is much personal growth and hugging.

Meanwhile, here is what happens to the Minions in this movie. They leave Gru because he refuses to be evil, walk to Hollywood (I don't know why), wander onto a live TV show, get arrested for it, go to prison (I guess just because of the TV thing, though maybe their centuries of war crimes were factored in), and escape from prison. The end. See you at *Minions 2*!

I know everyone is more amused by this franchise than I am, and I'm OK with that. This chapter, at least, isn't irritating. So I guess that's a step forward.

may require multiple doses of naloxone to be administered to help victims overdosing on those substances. Medicaid implemented a payment policy for community-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)—a clinical intervention that combines the use of medications and substance use disorder counseling. Maryland Medicaid will provide a re-bundled methadone reimbursement rate to include a \$63 per-week-per-patient bundle for methadone maintenance, and the ability for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) to bill for outpatient counseling separately, as clinically necessary.

The Maryland Good Samaritan Law was established in 2009 and amended in 2013 and 2015. The Good Samaritan Law protects people assisting in an emergency overdose situation from arrest, as well as from prosecution in certain crimes. It also protects a person from violation of a condition of pretrial release, probation or parole if the evidence of the violation was obtained solely as a result of a person seeking, providing or assisting with medical help to save a life. In an effort to educate the public about the Good Samaritan Law, Health has established an ambassador program with representatives from the advocacy community to

reach out to each jurisdiction and to educate stakeholders about the law. Signage is being made available to all local health departments, local addiction authorities, law enforcement, courts, juvenile centers and other stakeholders. Health is also expanding access to Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). SBIRT is an evidence-based tool designed to identify individuals who are at risk of substance abuse and to provide appropriate intervention. It has been implemented for adult patients in 22 primary care locations throughout seven jurisdictions in Maryland (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Carroll County, Anne Arundel County and Harford County). Health is implementing SBIRT in the emergency departments of three Baltimore-region MedStar hospitals (Good Samaritan, Franklin Square and Union Memorial). The goal of this five-year project is to conduct 90,000 screenings; more than 81,000 patients have been screened.

Because people who die from overdoses often have histories of hospitalization for nonfatal overdoses, the department also has been working to intervene in Marylanders' lives after they sur-

vive an overdose. The Overdose Survivors Outreach Program is an initiative to improve health outcomes for overdose survivors or those at risk for overdose by collaborating with hospitals and local health departments to facilitate interventions by Peer Recovery Specialists in the emergency department. If a patient has overdosed, or is at risk for overdose, the peer will work with the patient to assist them in enrolling in treatment or support services. If she or he is not interested in treatment, the peer will obtain consent to refer them to an outreach peer at the local health department, who will contact them via phone or field call a day or two after presenting in the emergency department, and will periodically check in to assess their needs and willingness to enter treatment. As of December 2016, four hospitals in Baltimore City and two in Anne Arundel County are participating in the program, with plans to expand post-discharge outreach services for multiple other hospitals in the coming months.

Marylanders who need help finding substance related disorder treatment resources should visit the website at Md-DestinationRecovery.org or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009.

with your ideas, but you are always welcome to come to a Board meeting as well," remarked Dr. Alesea J. "Christy" Wright, President of the Board of Library Trustees.

A Little This, A Little That

Straight From the Garden to the Party

By Melinda Myers

Make every meal a special event by bringing the garden to the table. Serve your favorite dishes made from homegrown ingredients. Then allow guests to add their own herbal seasonings right from the garden or container.

Start by growing the ingredients for your favorite recipes and beverages. Consider those, like tomatoes, that taste best fresh from the garden. Or create a salad bar by filling window boxes and raised beds with greens, hot peppers, green onions and more. Just hand your guests a plate and let them create their own fresh salad.

Dress up the table or balcony with a few containers of herbs on your patio, deck or near the grill. Use small herb containers as edible centerpieces. Just include a pair of garden scissors and allow your family and guests to season the meal to their taste.

Add a bit of color to your meal with edible flowers. Try nasturtium and daylily blossoms stuffed with cream cheese, calendula petals sprinkled on your salad and mint leaves a top a slice of chocolate cake.

Include a few herbs and vegetables that can be blended, muddled or added to your favorite beverage. Use the hollow stems of lovage as a straw for your tomato juice or Bloody Mary. You'll enjoy the celery flavor this edible straw provides. Or pluck a few mint or rosemary leaves to flavor iced tea and lemonade.

Just be sure the vegetables and flowers you select are free of pesticides. Remove the bitter tasting pollen from edible flowers.

Start your party preparation in the garden. Once you compile your list of favorites prepare your garden and containers for a productive growing and entertaining season.

In the garden, add several inches of organic matter such as compost to the top eight to twelve inches of soil. You'll improve drainage in clay soil and increase the water holding ability in sandy soils. This is also a good time to incorporate an organic nitrogen fertilizer, like Milorganite (milorganite.com) into the soil. This slow release fertilizer provides needed nutrients for six to eight weeks. Then be sure to add a mid-season boost to keep your garden healthy and productive.

For container plantings, select a pot with drainage holes and fill it with a quality potting mix. This is also a good time to add an organic nitrogen fertilizer which will eliminate the need for weekly feedings. Just give containers a second application mid-season.

Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. As the mulch breaks down it improves the soil for future plantings.

Harvest regularly to keep your plants looking good and producing. Cut the outer leaves of leaf lettuce when four to six inches tall and it will keep growing new leaves. Pick peppers and tomatoes when fully ripe, so the plant continues flowering and forming new fruit.



And dress up the table with a bouquet of your favorite garden flowers. Pick a few extras to send home with your guests and they'll surely remember your special gathering filled with homegrown flavor and beauty.

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.

CEO from A1

about the qualities you would like us to seek in our next Library CEO. We are offering two easy ways to contact us

with your ideas, but you are always welcome to come to a Board meeting as well," remarked Dr. Alesea J. "Christy" Wright, President of the Board of Library Trustees.

Calendar of Events

August 24 — August 30, 2017

Wellness: Yoga in the Parks

Date and time: Thursday, August 24, 2017, 10:30 am–11:30 am
Description: Join us for FREE yoga classes in the beautiful outdoors! Learn basic moves to strengthen your body, increase flexibility and free your mind. Classes run through Labor Day.

No registration is required. Namaste!

Cost: FREE

Ages: 13 and older

Location: Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

Fabulous Fridays

Date and time: Friday, August 25, 2017, 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

Description: Come out for an evening of outdoor fun! Enjoy unlimited rides on the Watkins Regional Park's train and carousel, as well as unlimited rounds of golf for one price per person. Note: Advance tickets are not available.

Subject to change due to inclement weather.

Cost: Residents \$5; Non-residents \$7

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-218-6757; TTY: 301-699-2544

Back-to-School Pajama Skate Jam

Date and time: Friday, August 25, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm

Description: Throw on your comfy pajamas, and come join us for this back-to-school jam as we skate into a new school year!!

Cost: FREE

Ages: 10–17

Location: Rollingercrest/Chillum Community Center

6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY: 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens Xtreme Party

Date and time: Friday, August 25, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm

Description: Come join us every 4th Friday of the month for a live DJ, PS4 competitions, Glow in the Dark basketball, Trick Shot shootout, Giant games and so much more! Refreshments are provided.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 10–17

Location: Berwyn Heights School Community Center

6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY: 301-699-2544

Progressive Equestrian Therapeutic Services

(PETS) Show Off

Date and time: Saturday, August 26, 2017, 8:00 am

Description: Come out and support The Progressive Equestrian Therapeutic Services, Inc. (PETS) Show Off Horse Show.

The 100% volunteer staff provides free, skill-based riding and horsemanship lessons to Prince George's County residents dealing with various disabilities.

PETS, sponsored by M-NCPPC, operates out of the E-8 barn at The Prince George's County Equestrian Center.

Cost: Free to spectators

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

Fairwood Music Festival

Date and time: Sunday, August 27, 2017, 1:00 pm–6:00 pm

Description: A day of family fun featuring live performances, food vendors, and children's activities!!

Our performance lineup includes 4ThaGrub, Charis Jones, Secret Society, Fayceez U Know, and The Chuck Brown Band.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy a show in the open air.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Fairwood Community Park

12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD

Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

Prince George's County Family and Friends Day

Date and time: Sunday, August 27, 2017, 3:00 pm–6:00 pm

Description: You won't want to miss this county-wide festival with food, vendors, games, and music featuring famed recording artist, Raheem DeVaughn, a graduate of Prince George's County High Point High School in Beltsville, Maryland.

Cost: Free admission

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

Exhibit: Methods

Date: Exhibit runs through October 20, 2017

Hours: Monday–Friday 10:00 am–7:00 pm

and Saturdays 10 am–4:00 pm

Description: Alternative Methodologies explores formal, material, and conceptual approaches to investigating identity as personal narrative and shared experience. Featuring a selection of artists from New York, Texas, and the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia region, this challenges the boundaries of traditional media and found objects to revisit and re-examine historical memory.

Featuring: Rodrigo Carazas, Chanel Compton, Robert Hodge, Wayson Jones, and Sam Vernon

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Center

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Climate Reality Project Turns Everyday People Into Climate Activists

Dear EarthTalk:

What exactly is Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and how does it work to train activists?

—Kelly G.,
Washington, D.C.

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) is a non-profit launched in 2011 by Nobel laureate and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore to address climate change following up on the release of his influential book and documentary film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. CRP serves as the nerve center of Gore's advocacy and education efforts to spread the word about the need to ratchet down our greenhouse gas emissions to stave off the cataclysmic effects of global warming.

CRP's primary focus right now is in training volunteer advocates—so-called "Climate Reality Leaders"—to go out into their communities and educate policymakers and members of the public about the need to take action to mitigate climate change while countering so-called "climate denial" efforts funded by oil companies and perpetuated by right wing think tanks. So far, some 10,000 individuals from 135 countries have participated in CRP training events.

The primary tool these Climate Reality Leaders use to spread the word is a regularly updated slide show created by Gore in 2011 that lays out the

facts behind climate change. It details example after example of human-induced global warming wreaking havoc by lashing low-lying areas with massive storms, killing thousands with blistering heat waves and turning human populations already marginalized by war and famine into migratory climate refugees searching for safer places to live.

Meanwhile, CRP's free "Reality Drop" news aggregator tool collects online news stories about climate change that activists can share on social media channels to dispel myths about global warming to help set the record straight for millions of friends, fans and followers.

Most recently, CRP has supported the creation and distribution of the follow-up to *An Inconvenient Truth*, a new documentary entitled *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. The film, released worldwide in July 2017, follows Gore around the world, documenting how global warming is already ravaging the planet. CRP is working to get the film in front of millions of viewers, as it did with the original film, in hopes it will inspire a new generation of citizen activists.

And come December, CRP will host its seventh annual "24 Hours of Reality," a free, live-streamed multimedia event that showcases what's being done to fight climate change in each of the world's top 24 greenhouse



CREDIT: WORLD BANK PHOTO COLLECTION, FLICKRCC

Al Gore created the Climate Reality Project to be the nerve center of his advocacy and education efforts to spread the word about the need to ratchet down our greenhouse gas emissions to stave off the cataclysmic effects of global warming.

gas emitting countries. It aims to show viewers what they can do even if their country's leaders aren't as invested in positive change as they could be.

"When you talk, your friends and family listen," reports CRP. "That's why it's so important that every climate activist use their voice to spread the truth about the climate crisis." Even those who haven't attended a CRP event can download the free "I Am Still In" action kit which teaches people how to build support for clean energy and other climate solutions at the community level.

"There are many ways to use your voice, and whether you write a letter to the editor of your local paper or call your

representative or talk to your neighbors, you can make a difference in sharing the truth and shaping public opinion right when your planet needs you," concludes CRP.

CONTACTS: Climate Reality Project, www.climaterealityproject.org; Reality Drop, www.realitydrop.org; 24 Hours of Reality, www.24hoursofreality.org.

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Send questions to:

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Opposition Grows to Seismic Testing for Offshore Oil Reserves

More State and Local Officials Join Scientists in Voicing Concerns About Impacts on Marine Life

By WILLIAM H. FUNK
Bay Journal News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Scientists are worried that an executive order issued by President Trump earlier this year that seeks to open large portions of the mid-Atlantic and other coastal areas to oil and gas exploration would harm the endangered North Atlantic right whale and other species that occasionally visit the Chesapeake Bay.

Trump's order, issued April 28, would reverse a 2016 policy from the Obama administration that outlawed drilling in federal waters off portions of the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific coasts and the Gulf of Mexico. The order also instructed federal agencies to streamline the permitting process to speed approval of seismic testing to locate oil and gas reserves in those areas.

But the action is increasingly unpopular with many elected officials along the East Coast. In July, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced his opposition to further offshore exploration. And the attorneys general from nine East Coast jurisdictions—including those from Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and Delaware—submitted comments opposing additional surveys.

"The proposed seismic tests are themselves disruptive and harmful," Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh said in a statement. "Worse, they are the precursors to offshore drilling that would put the Chesapeake Bay at risk to drilling-related contamination. That contamination would have catastrophic impacts on fragile ecosystems and important economies. This is a foolish gamble with our precious natural resources."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia is the lone Southeastern governor supporting marine oil exploration, saying he "never had a problem" with seismic testing. While 127 municipalities have passed resolutions against the tests, only five are in Virginia.

But coastal Virginians' unease with seismic tests appears to be growing. In July, the city council of Norfolk passed a

unanimous resolution opposing both offshore drilling and seismic testing, citing threats to marine life, local fisheries and wetlands that offer vital protection from rising seas. The previous month, the city council of Virginia Beach also voted to oppose offshore drilling.

The seismic testing has raised particular concern because of its potential impact on marine life. The tests are conducted by firing seismic air guns from ships "every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, at a noise level that would rupture a human eardrum," according to the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group that was among 10 organizations that filed suit May 3 over the executive order. Among the plaintiffs' contentions is that seismic blasts "could deafen and even kill whales, dolphins and other animals."

The University of Rhode Island, in partnership with NOAA, has created a website called Discovery of the Sound in the Sea, through which visitors can click to hear what seismic air guns actually sound like when heard several thousand kilometers away underwater.

Cetaceans—whales and their relatives—use specialized echolocation for almost all of their activities, including hunting, migration, courtship and communication, but they are extremely sensitive to underwater sound vibrations, scientists say. Right whales, whose population is thought to number only around 500, could be at particular risk, they say.

Last spring, 28 top marine mammal scientists specializing in right whales signed a statement declaring unequivocally that for this species, already facing a "desperate level of endangerment," widespread seismic surveys may well represent a tipping point toward extinction.

To locate new sources of undersea oil, companies employ compressed-air guns that blast powerful acoustic waves through the water and into the seafloor. Each seismic test can affect an area of more than 2,500 square nautical miles, raising background noise levels to 260 deci-

bels, approximately equaling the epicenter of a grenade blast. This can go on continuously for weeks or even months, according to a 2013 report released by the international body carrying out the United Nations sponsored Convention on Biodiversity.

Scientists say potential harm is not limited to large marine mammals. The testing could also harm zooplankton—microscopic invertebrates that constitute the core of the marine food chain for everything from shrimp to baleen whales. In a June 2017 study published in the journal *Nature*, a team of marine ecologists found that their air gun tests decreased zooplankton abundance and caused a two- to threefold increase in dead adult and larval zooplankton. The study concluded that there was significant potential for negative impacts on the ocean ecosystem's functions and productivity.

In May, 133 environmental and civic organizations sent a joint letter to U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, asking him not to proceed with the Trump administration's plan to expand offshore oil drilling and related seismic testing, citing "unacceptable risks" to ocean wildlife and ecosystems as well as human populations on the coast.

But Zinke followed up on the president's executive order with an order of his own on May 11, setting the seismic testing in motion. "Seismic surveying helps a variety of federal and state partners better understand our nation's offshore areas, including locating offshore hazards, siting of wind turbines, as well as offshore energy development," Zinke said in a statement. "Allowing this scientific pursuit enables us to safely identify and evaluate resources that belong to the American people."

The National Marine Fisheries Service has also proposed authorizing more than 90,000 miles of active seismic blasting which, based on the results of the Nature report, would constitute "approximately 135,000 square miles," according to the Natural Resource Defense Council.

Reflection seismology, as the geophysical exploratory process

is called, uses concussive compressed air to send a sudden shock of sound beneath the ocean surface. Oil deposits can be detected by a geological interpretation of sounds, or reflections, that bounce back. Reflections are gathered and collated by floating hydrophones, also called towed arrays or streamers.

"When a mammal is exposed to an audible sound of high intensity and long duration," said Maria Morell, a specialist in marine mammal acoustics in the University of British Columbia's zoology. "The sensory cells of the inner ear can suffer mechanical and metabolic fatigue." This can lead to temporary or permanent hearing loss, she said.

The seismic testing, she said, just adds to the cacophony that Atlantic's marine mammals endure every day, including everything from ship engine noise and military activities to acoustic deterrent and harassment devices.

Ingrid Biedron, a marine biologist with the conservation group Oceana, said that Trump's call for offshore drilling may be difficult to enact under federal law. "Current proposals conflict with the *Marine Mammal Protection Act*," she said. "They also conflict with the *Endangered Species Act* because several endangered whale species use the area proposed for seismic air gun blasting." Citing a federal study, she said that as many as 138,000 whales and dolphins could be harmed and up to 13 million disturbed if the seismic testing is allowed.

The recent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Noise Roadmap recognizes that "sound is a fundamental component of the physical and biological habitat that many aquatic animals and ecosystems have evolved to rely on over millions of years."

William H. (Bill) Funk is a freelance environmental journalist whose work for the Bay Journal centers on wildlife, forestry, rivers, farming and other land use issues in the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley.