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BSU Cyber Squad Huddling Together Before Giving Presentation.

PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

BSU Students Compete on National Stage at Black Enterprise Hackathon

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

BOWIE, MD—A team of four Bowie State University computer science students, competing against teams from 14 other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), developed a mobile app that uses artificial intelligence to im-

prove the car-buying experience as part of the 3rd annual Black Enterprise magazine's 36-hour BE Smart Hackathon, near Silicon Valley, California.

The hackathon, sponsored by Toyota, challenged the 60 HBCU students to work in their teams to develop an interactive app and present them to judges in the technology in-

dustry, who assessed the project's estimated impact, innovation, and technical achievement, as well as the students' teamwork and presentation skills. The top three teams presented their apps to individuals attending Black Enterprise's annual BETechConnect Summit, and the winning team won \$40,000. All 15 HBCU teams

were selected by Black Enterprise to participate in this year's competition. North Carolina A&T State University took home the grand prize for the second year in a row.

The Bowie State students built an app that uses artificial

See HACKERS Page A3

Five PG County Municipalities Receive Sustainable Maryland Certified Award from the University of Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Sustainable Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that Berwyn Heights, Cheverly, Greenbelt, Riverdale Park, and University Park were amongst the 13 Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference last Friday in Rockville, Maryland. All five municipalities to originally become Sustainable Maryland Certified in 2014, and all successfully became re-certified again this year.

"The growing number of municipalities that share a vision for state-wide sustainability is a testament to Maryland's commitment to a resilient future," said Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center. "Now more than ever, it is critical for local leaders and advocates to take charge of moving their communities towards becoming healthier and more sustainable. It is exciting to see our Sustainable Maryland Certified program continue to empower elected officials and citizens with every new community we welcome."

Berwyn Heights

A detailed summary of Berwyn Heights' sustainability

Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Berwyn Heights' accomplishments include:

- Created a Community Garden, now in its fourth year, with 30 garden plots available to residents.
- Marked its 20th year as a Tree City USA community.
- Promoted bicycling by establishing bicycle trails connecting the Town to neighboring communities and to the region's public transportation and tourist hubs, and installing bike repair stations and bicycle racks at Town facilities.

"The Town of Berwyn Heights is honored to receive the Sustainable Maryland Certified Award, and be recognized for our commitment in making sustainable choices," said Mayor Cheryl Jewitt. "I would like to thank the Town's Green Team for their efforts in achieving the certification and for their leadership on environmental issues within the Town. The Town would also like to thank the University of Maryland for working with municipalities across the State to make our communities more sustainable today and in the future."

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GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic Installs Largest Residential Rooftop Solar PV System in PG County

The Solar Power Allows for Significant Living Upgrades at the Affordable Housing Complex Serving 140 Low-Income Tenants

By PRESS OFFICER
GRID Alternatives

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD—An affordable housing complex in Capitol Heights, Maryland is receiving a complete makeover thanks to a 250kW solar photovoltaic system that will be installed on the complex's roof and carport. GRID Alternatives Mid-

Atlantic, a nonprofit organization that makes solar power and job training accessible to underserved communities, VNV Development and Enterprise Community Partners are celebrating the installation of the solar PV system on Sun Crest Heights Apartments

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The Clean Water Partnership Announces Major Program Milestone in PG County

106 water quality projects in construction or completed

By PRESS OFFICER
Corvias

LARGO, MD—The Clean Water Partnership (CWP), a 30-year collaboration between Prince George's County (PGC) and Corvias, announced a major program milestone of the guaranteed delivery of all water quality projects for Phase I. All 106 guaranteed water quality projects

throughout the County are either in construction or completed.

The CWP is a first of its kind, nationally recognized community based public-private partnership (CBP3). Through this partnership, CWP has exceeded its economic development goal of 40 percent,

See WATER Page A7

360-degree River Maps: Tool for Travelers, Environmentalists

By ALEX MANN
Capital News Service

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—After firing up the onboard computer, the burly and bearded, Minnesota native, Ryan Abrahamsen yanked the pull starter cable on his 6-horsepower Tohatsu motor.

He twisted the tiller-throttle into gear, lurching the custom-built 16-foot long, 8-foot wide cataraft boat up the Patuxent River and away from the pier at Jackson's Landing in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

As the boat pattered along, passing marshes and piers—dilapidated and pristine—Ryan Abrahamsen, founder of 360-degree mapping company Terrain 360, pointed out a faint clicking overhead.

"If you listen really close, you can hear it."

Abrahamsen pointed up at the six Canon cameras circularly mounted to a 13-foot stainless steel tower extending from the center of the boat. He designed a computer to track GPS and, as the boat travels, simultaneously shoot six cameras every 40 feet.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ALEX MANN

Terrain 360 founder Ryan Abrahamsen rips the pull cord to start the motor, Tuesday Sept. 26, 2017, in Upper Marlboro, MD Abrahamsen is mapping the Patuxent River, in partnership with the Chesapeake Conservancy, to create virtual river tours

River mapping went on as planned Sept. 26 for Abrahamsen.

"If we map all day," he said, the system records approximately 4,800 panoramic images. He then uses the snapshots to create virtual tours.

In collaboration with the Chesapeake Conservancy, Terrain 360 is making virtual riverview tours for the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail—to date, the Patuxent waterway is the 11th

waterway to have the mapping completed.

The Google Street View-esque tours can be useful

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INSIDE

PG County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Announces Recipients of Newly Created Domestic Violence Community Assistance Grant Fund

House of Ruth Maryland's designated funds will support continuing services to individuals and families directly affected by violence in intimate partner relationships.

Community, Page A3

Healing the Gaping Open Wound: An Urgent Call for More Aid and Fair Treatment for Puerto Rico

Eighty-four percent of Puerto Rico remains without power and some areas may stay that way for at least six months. More than a million people still lack access to clean drinking water. Food, medicine, cash, and fuel are in short supply.

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Delegation Draws Two More Korean Businesses

The Baltimore-Washington, D.C.-Northern Virginia region has the country's third-largest Korean-American population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, including Hogan, who is the first Korean-born first lady in the U.S.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review:

The Hitman's Bodyguard

The world's top protection agent is called upon to guard the life of his mortal enemy, one of the world's most notorious hitmen. The relentless bodyguard and manipulative assassin have been on the opposite end of the bullet for years and are thrown together for a wildly outrageous 24 hours.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

You hear a lot about greener cars these days, but what about airplanes?

—John Caldwell,

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Darnall's Chance hosts Gingerbread House Contest & Show

Get out the gingerbread, the peppermint sticks, candy and imagination and whip up an original entry for the 18th Annual Gingerbread House Contest. The entry can be a house or a palace or a church or a boat or whatever your mind can conjure up. But it must be original (no kits) and everything must be edible. Call the Museum regarding rules.

Adult division prizes are \$100, \$75 and \$50. Child & family division prizes are \$75, \$50 and \$25. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in all divisions. Viewer's Choice Awards of \$200 will be awarded to one adult entry, one child entry and one family entry.

Participants must register for the competition by Sat., Nov. 10. Entry forms may be obtained by calling the Museum. The fee is \$5. All entries must be delivered to the museum in completed form on Sunday, Nov. 19, between noon and 4 p.m.

You can view (and vote for) the Gingerbread Houses Friday through Sunday, Nov. 24–26, Dec. 1–2, and Dec. 8–10. Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Admission fee is \$1. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. Info: 301-95-8010.

People

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace, 89th Airlift Wing public affairs chief, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the fourth highest military decoration signifying heroism, on Aug. 15 at Joint Base Andrews. He earned the award when he was a photographer in combat in 2011.

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann's son Alex left in September for 27 months with the Peace Corps.

Louise Oertly is the new president of The Surratt Society. Other officers are: Bill Gaver, vice president; Marietta Arenberg, secretary, and Tom Buckingham, treasurer.

Coming up

• Oct. 28: A 5K run/walk for "Shatter the Silence on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault," at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro. Registration begins at 7 a.m.; race begins at 9. Free event.

• Oct. 28: Morningside's 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat Halloween with costume contest, temporary tattoo station, bake sale, and a showing of the movie Hocus Pocus. You can decorate your car and pass out candy. Town Hall, 6–9 p.m.

• Oct. 31: Morningside Costume Contest, 8 p.m. at the Town Hall. Register from 7:30 to 8 p.m. in order to compete.

• Nov. 3–5: Holiday Open House VIP Event at Pam's Hallmark Shoppe in Clinton Crossings. Includes 30% off select Hallmark holiday favorites. Information: 301-868-0331.

• Nov. 8: Bible Study: the Acts of the Apostles. The series will be held Wednesdays in the rectory at 7 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 5416 Henderson Way in Camp Springs. Info: 301-423-4244. All are invited.

• Nov. 11: "The Death of Abraham Lincoln: Reactions for a Divided Nation," at the Surratt House Museum, at 4 p.m. Join historian David Taylor as he recounts the vivid picture of how a troubled country dealt with this turning point in history. The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton. Info: 301-868-1121. The event is free but seating is limited.

Changing landscape

The 40-foot-tall Peace Cross, which has marked the intersection of Maryland Route 450 and U.S. Route 1 in Bladensburg for 90 years, is in danger of being removed. It was built in 1925 and honors 49 Prince George's County men who died in World War I. It is probably my favorite monument in the County, and I hope it can survive the current controversy.

The Landing at Woodyard is a new shopping center, already under construction in

Clinton. It will run along Alexandria Ferry Road to Woodyard Road, bounded also by Mike Shapiro Drive. Tenants are lining up and, if the website is correct, there are already a grocery, furniture store and cafe signed up.

Wingstop, "The Wing Experts," is holding its Grand Opening at 3443 Donnell Dr. in Forestville.

Thanks to growing attendance, the National Zoo in Washington is considering a six-story parking garage to accommodate more than 1,280 vehicles.

Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards' Grand Opening Day Celebration was held Oct. 7 with ribbon-cutting on the porch of the historic tobacco barn's newly-renovated tasting room. Noteworthy toasts included Russell Watson, patriarch of the family. The tasting room is open Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 15800 Croom Road, Brandywine. Info: 301-643-5619.

Morningside Memories: 1987

Crossland's Class of 1967 had a 20-year reunion at the Ramada Inn in Oxon Hill on Aug. 22. A surprising 320 turned out, among them these Morningside/Skyline people: Donna (Bookhultz) Bivens, Glen and Carol (Reynolds) Elrod, Barbara (McKeown) Phipps, Donald Oldenburg, Eileen (Frost-butter) Moseley, Ronald and Renee Toole, Walter Donaldson, Wayne Neale, Ramona (Davis) Cappetta, Bruce Canham, Larry Kyser, Kathy (Poe) Veltman, Kathy (Leary) Bartek and Dennis Bookhultz.

May he rest in peace

William H. Marsh, Sr., 86, former Ambassador, died Sept. 26 in Mitchellville. His wife Ruth predeceased him. He is survived by his sons William Jr. and Andrew, and four grandchildren. Services were at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro.

See MORNINGSIDE Page A8

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Clinton United Methodist Church will be recognizing all veterans and military personnel Sunday, November 5, 2017 at their 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Service. Please come and invite your family members and friends to attend. You do not have to be a member of Clinton United Methodist Church to be recognized. For more information, please call Barbara Washington at 301-888-1047.

SEAFOOD DINNER

New Hope Fellowship Christ Church will sponsor a Fish Fry November 4, 2017 11:00 AM-until. The church address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Sponsored by Christ Church Men. Pastor Constance Smith. Chairpersons: Billy Stewart and Ronald Banks. Call (301) 888-1316 on November 4 to place your order.

Dinners are bone fish \$12.00, Fillet Fish \$12.00, crab cake \$16.00, combination \$18.00, crab cake sandwich \$8.00, Fish sandwich \$6.00. All dinners come with green vegetable, potato salad, sweet potatoes, bread and cake.

CHILD WORLD EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Child World Early Learning Center is "Where your child's development, education, safety, genuine love for them, and real fun matters". Academic and stimulating programs. Toddlers & Pre-School. Before & After Care for Pre-K to 6th grade. Hours are 6:30 AM–6:30 PM. Ages 8 months–12 years old.

The Learning Center is located at 9688 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. For more information, call 301-599-7596 or 301-212-0695. Visit at www.CHILD-WORLDDLLC.COM.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The 5th Annual Winter Festival of Lights TROT FOR A TURKEY will be on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM. This will be a great and unique opportunity to help families in need by running or walking through the beautiful Winter Festival of Lights.

This year, register to run or walk through the 3.1-mile course and see the dazzling displays up close. Your registration fee will provide a family in need with a holiday turkey. The registration fee of \$30/person includes a long-sleeve

commemorative t-shirt and provides one turkey for a local family. Registration is available online through November 16, 2017. Register at www.pg-parks.com>E-Store. If you have questions call the Park Ranger Office at 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING DAY

Join us for a day of fun activities starting with our Legacy Parade 9:00 AM–11:00 AM Ruby Tuesday to Bowie Town Center Bowie, Maryland. Admission is free. Bulldog Fest including 1865 Challenge Meet-Greet with President Breaux at 11:00 AM across from Holmes Quad Bowie State University. Music, food and activities for the family. Admission is free. Join the Challenge and Donate \$18.65. Homecoming Game starts at 1:00 PM, Bowie State University vs. Lincoln (PA) at Bulldog Stadium Bowie State University. general admission: \$20, general parking: \$15, premier parking: \$20, oversized vehicle: \$20, tailgating: \$100, RV tailgating: \$150. Check our website for other activities at www.bowiestate.edu/homecoming.

Neighborhoods

WSSC Commissioners Approve Nearly \$12 Million to Improve Water Service and Reliability in Prince George's County

LAUREL, MD—WSSC commissioners have approved three construction contracts totaling nearly \$12 million to enhance reliability and service to customers in Prince George's County. These contracts highlight WSSC's clean water mission by replacing aging water mains in Glenn Dale and Largo, and installing a new elevated water storage tank in Brandywine to support planned growth and economic development in this area of southern Prince George's County.

"These three projects will help us better meet the needs of current and future WSSC customers," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "Not only will these projects help to replace old water mains, work will support businesses and jobs in this region."

The approved contracts include: **Hillmeade Road Transmission Water Main—\$2.5 Million**

• WSSC will install 1.4 miles of new 24-inch water main underneath Hillmeade Road in Glenn Dale. The project is scheduled to start in winter 2017 and should be complete by summer 2019, weather permitting.

Greenwood Manor Park Water Main Replacement—\$2.5 Million

• WSSC will replace 2.9 miles of 60- to 70-year-old water mains in Largo. The project is expected to begin in late fall 2017 and should be complete by summer 2019, weather permitting.

Brandywine Elevated Water Storage Facility—\$6.6 Million

• WSSC will build a new two million-gallon elevated water storage facility in Brandywine. The project will help meet current and future water demand in southern Prince George's County. Construction of the facility is expected to begin in early 2018 and should be complete by summer 2019, weather permitting.

Each project will involve heavy equipment, digging, dust, noise, and possible brief water service interruptions to customers. WSSC will work to minimize disruptions and inconvenience, and will engage in extensive public outreach to keep customers informed throughout these projects.

Over the next six years (FY 2018–FY 2023), WSSC will invest nearly \$2 billion to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure. Approximately 40 percent of WSSC's water and sewer mains are more than 50 years old.

Follow WSSC on Twitter @WSSCWaterNews and/or Facebook at WSSCWater for updates on major construction and customer-specific information. For water or sewer emergencies, customers should call 301-206-4002.

Third Quarter 2017 Stays on Track for Active Residential Market in Prince George's County

LARGO, MD—For the third quarter in a row, average and median prices in Prince George's County have increased, according to the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PG-CAR). Average prices have

risen by 7.4 percent and median prices have grown by 6.3 percent as compared to the same time in 2016. Home sales also improved with a surge of 6.2 percent in the third quarter of 2017.

"The overall picture for Prince George's County in the third quarter is very positive," said PGCAR President Cheryl Abrams Davis. "We are pleased that the pace of sales has picked up from both the previous quarter as well as the third quarter in 2016," she added. Abrams Davis went on to note, "While we are concerned about months of inventory, the good news is that there has been an increase in active inventory of 4.5 percent as compared to 2016."

BGE Provides Tips to Help Customers 'Fall' into Savings During National Energy Awareness Month

BALTIMORE, MD—October is National Energy Awareness Month and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) reminds customers that taking steps to save energy and money now will pay off this winter.

In fact, during two recent recycling drop-off events hosted by BGE, customers recycled close to 500 inefficient room air conditioning units and dehumidifiers, earning a \$25 reward for each unit recycled and helping to save nearly 150,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. As a reminder, customers who schedule pick-ups of old, working refrigerators or freezers to be recycled are also eligible to recycle one working room air conditioning unit or dehumidifier at the same time.

By following a few simple tips and making a few easy energy efficiency improvements, customers could save 20 percent or more on their winter heating bills.

Maintain Heating Systems. Most cold weather energy expenses are related to heating your home. Schedule service for your heating system to find out what maintenance is required to keep your system operating efficiently.

Lower Water Heating Costs. Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting of 120 degrees Fahrenheit and save.

Adjust the Temperature. When you are at home and awake, set your thermostat to as low a setting as is comfortable for you. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours and save approximately 10 percent a year on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to automatically adjust temperature settings. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

Take Advantage of the Sun's Heat. Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and then close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

My Account Online Tools. Your BGE online account contains tools and detailed energy usage information. By tracking your energy usage, reviewing usage trends, and discovering the results of energy-saving practices, you can manage your energy more efficiently. Log onto BGE.com/MyAccount to get started.

Looking for customized solutions to help you save energy and money? BGE offers rebates for these and other home efficiency improvements through the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program®.

The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program is a suite of programs that enable customers to control energy use, leading to more efficient use of electricity and lowering energy bills. The programs have provided \$464 million in rebates to BGE customers and have also helped nearly 1.9 million residential and business participants save more than 2.8 million MWh of electricity. Collectively, the programs help contain the cost of energy and improve reliability by reducing peak demand and slowing the growth in energy consumption. Energy-saving solutions are available to renters, homeowners, large and small business customers, nonprofits and institutional customers. More information can be found at BGESmartEnergy.com. These programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

PGCPS Receives Three-Year \$25M Grant to Improve Teacher Placement, Support and Retention at High-Needs Schools

'Great Teachers, Great Leaders, Great Schools' Project Will Support 40 Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will receive a three-year, \$25 million U.S. Department of Education grant to improve teacher hiring, placement, support and retention, focusing on 40 high-needs schools.

U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen announced the "Great Teachers, Great Leaders, Great Schools" grant Monday during a news conference at Greenbelt Middle School. Funds for the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program grant—one of the largest-ever awarded to Prince George's County schools—will also be used to develop better evaluation tools and data management systems.

"Great teachers and great leaders will create great schools," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "This grant award speaks to a longstanding need in our system that we have lacked the funds to address. I am excited about the work ahead and grateful to our government partners for their support in securing this grant."

The school system hopes to achieve specific outcomes at 40 high-needs schools—those with high levels of teacher turnover, less experienced teachers and students from families with low-income.

See NEIGHBORS Page A3

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Taking Action To Get What You Want From Life

Have you ever found yourself thinking that your life just has not worked out as you once planned? Many of us realize at some point that our past optimistic visions have had to surrender to reality.

Instead of feeling sorry about things that haven't happened or didn't work out, you might try some of these tips to get you closer to your dreams.

One starting point is put anger, blame or helplessness aside. Forget past hurts or abandonments. Unresolved anger and resentment uses up energy much better spent on building the life you desire.

Nest, find your own voice. Often past relationships leave us unsure of ourselves or reluctant to express our feelings. You want to move to honest living and loving. Don't worry that speaking up will make you appear selfish or overbearing. You don't want to be controlling, simply honest and understood.

It also helps to learn to say "No" sometimes. Set limits and know when you've done enough. Avoid excessive demands on your time, talent and goodwill. Doing so creates room to say "yes" to things you really want to do, and avoids the resentment that comes with agreeing to things you really don't want to do.

Try identifying your personal strengths and interests, and then to put time into nourishing them. Rather than trying to be someone you're not, try enhancing who you really are.

Then take action, even if in just small steps. Make a resolution to take one daily action that moves you closer to your desires: make that initial phone call, rewrite your resume, organize your closet, clean out those old files. Too often we fail to take a first step in a new direction. Don't wait until you feel like doing it, just begin.

This is also a good time to create an overall balance in your life. If any one area of your life is consuming all or most of your time, look at small ways to make a shift. It might be work, social contacts, family demands or something else that keeps you from enjoying who you are. A healthy life means finding a balance in a variety of areas: physical, social, emotional, work/productivity, intellectual and spiritual.

A life that is too busy can easily crowd out moments of reflection which can help reconnect you with your core self and your reason for being.

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

Hackers from A1

intelligence to help customers interact with a hologram of a salesperson, who would answer their questions. The Bowie State team members were: junior computer science major Nathan Nti, senior computer science major Chevon Nwosu, senior computer science major Chadd Philp, and junior computer science major Harrison Razanajatovo. They are all members of the Bowie State Cyber Squad, led by Professor Lethia Jackson.

In addition to competing in the hackathon, the 60 HBCU students also visited the headquarters of Google, Intel, and Salesforce, and heard from guest speakers from other top technology firms.

"It was great being around other people of color peers

who are doing great things and being successful," said Nwosu, the BSU team captain. "It opened my mind to that the fact that we can all achieve success, and I want to meet my potential."

About Bowie State University

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, cybersecurity, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit www.bowiestate.edu.

Neighbors from A1

Project goals across the focus areas include the following:

- diverse candidate pool of high-performing teachers for every student;
- "best-fit" placements for schools and new teachers, whether novice or veteran educators
- incentives for high-quality teachers to improve staff retention
- more reliable employee performance system
- data management system with easily accessible information for teachers, school leaders and human capital managers

Strategies will include increasing the system's "grow our own" teacher preparation

programs, expanding partnerships with higher education and developing incentives for bilingual teachers, new teachers who sign early and choose to go to high-needs schools and teacher-leaders who choose to mentor colleagues or who participate in the National Board Certified Teacher cohort model in high-needs schools.

The project framework ultimately supports the school system's overarching goal—the Promise of PGCPS—to provide outstanding academic achievement for all students.

"This work has the potential to transform how we identify and recruit talent, support and retain them," said Dr. Maxwell. "Great teaching is foundational. If we have great teachers, then they will turn into great leaders."

PG County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Announces Recipients of Newly Created Domestic Violence Community Assistance Grant Fund

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Office of Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III along with the Prince George's County Department of Family Services, is proud to announce the four inaugural recipients of the \$250,000 Domestic Violence Community Assistance Grant Fund: Affiliated Santé Group, Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY), the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Inc. and House of Ruth Maryland. The objective of the Domestic Violence Community Assistance Grant Fund, created from money added by County Executive Baker in the FY 2017 Budget toward domestic violence prevention, is to provide financial assistance for eligible non-profit organizations to deliver enhanced services to individuals and families affected by domestic violence, and to implement

programs to prevent violence in the home.

"We have seen a dramatic reduction in crime in Prince George's County over the last decade, but some of the most horrific violent crimes that have occurred in recent years stem from domestic violence," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "In last year's budget, and this year's budget as well, I committed an additional \$250,000 to our Department of Family Services to create the Domestic Violence Community Assistance Grant Fund to assist non-profit organizations who are working on the front line to protect women and men from Domestic Violence. I want to congratulate Affiliated Santé Group, Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY), the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Inc. and House of Ruth Maryland for their outstanding work on this critical issue and hope that this funding will go to helping more families get

the help they need to combat and reduce domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Community Assistance Fund award recipients will receive program grants of up to \$75,000. In addition, as a condition of the grant award, recipients have agreed to participate in capacity building and technical assistance activities designed and provided by the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

House of Ruth Maryland's designated funds will support continuing services to individuals and families directly affected by violence in intimate partner relationships. The funds awarded to Affiliated Santé Group are designated to expand Prince George's County crisis services for survivors of domestic violence.

The assistance fund will expand Community Advocates for Family and Youth's (CAFY) domestic violence assistance that utilizes wrap-around services to address safety net needs by re-stabilizing the family with pro-

tection from possible homelessness, legal issues, and providing emergency and basic needs.

The Domestic Violence Community Fund Assistance Grant will also provide the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Inc. with the necessary resources to launch an aggressive public awareness campaign targeting areas of the community that are heavily impacted by domestic violence and focus on connecting domestic violence survivors to various critical resources.

"We couldn't be more excited that the local non-profit grantees will receive over \$250,000 in funding to enhance their services and resources to families faced with the challenges of domestic abuse," said Elana Belon-Butler, Director of the Department of Family Services. "Our main goal is to help strengthen families by providing support to community-based organizations so that they are in a better position to help those affected by domestic violence achieve a greater level of independence."

River Maps from A1

for adventurers and nature-goers, but also with an eye toward conservation.

Virtual tours are an innovative way to connect with nature, Jody Couser, spokeswoman for the Conservancy, wrote in an email to the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

"Nurturing and cultivating that connection with the public is really important to inspire people to care about the health of the Chesapeake and find ways they can make a difference."

The James River was the first waterway mapped by Terrain 360 and James River Association conservation manager Justin Doyle said the virtual tours are a way to connect people to the river and the environmental goals associated with it.

"People want to protect what they love," Doyle said. "If people aren't familiar with it, they probably won't want to protect it."

The Richmond, Virginia-based Terrain 360's images could be pivotal in documenting environmental changes, like erosion.

Solar from A1

with a "conduit-cutting" ceremony. The electricity bill savings resulting from the system are enabling significant living upgrades to be made to the complex, benefiting the approximately 140 low-income tenants who reside there. When complete, the system will be the largest roof-mount residential solar system in Prince George's County.

The solar PV system will cover up to 99% of Sun Crest Height's electric load and result in up to 30-40% savings on the electricity costs for the complex. The savings are allowing VNV Development, the building owner, to fund upgrades to the complex while still maintaining affordable rent for the low-income tenants. Upgrades include a new roof, new kitchens, better insulation, and complete unit interior renovations with new water saving fixtures and Energy Star appliances. The building upgrades planned in conjunction with the solar installation are part of an ongoing process that the developer has undertaken to transform the apartment buildings from an unsafe, crime-ridden

complex, to a safe, sustainable, and affordable community for the tenants. The process was supported with an over \$4 million acquisition loan from Enterprise Community Loan Fund and Enterprise Community Partners, with support from Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Neighborhood Conservation Initiative.

"Our mission is to create safe, affordable, and sustainable homes and neighborhoods—Sun Crest Heights is a great model for all of those important goals," says Chris VanArsdale, President of VNV Development. "We partnered with the Prince George's police to eliminate crime, with Enterprise and City First to finance deep retrofits for affordable rental units, and with GRID to create a multifamily building powered almost completely by renewable energy."

The solar PV system, in addition to increasing the quality of life for the tenants, will prevent 6,520 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of planting 151,000 trees. Over 700 solar modules will be installed across the rooftops of the apartment and the

adjacent carport; this will be GRID Alternatives' first-ever solar carport array.

"Our GRID Alternatives team is extremely proud to have not only played a leadership role in creating a creative financing solution to bring the benefits of solar energy to Sun Crest Heights, but also pulled the largest residential solar permit to date in Prince George's County," says Nicole Steele, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic.

"We are also integrating our job training and community education model into the installation of the entire project, which we think is integral to serving disproportionately impacted communities."

Special guests at the "conduit-cutting" ceremony include Chris VanArsdale of VNV Development, Nicole Steele of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, and Monica Warren-Jones of Enterprise.

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic's first annual Solarthon, a solar installation block party where volunteers come out to help install the system, took place at Sun Crest on October 15, the day before the ceremony. This Solarthon was one of eight such events being held around

the country this year. Much like a walkathon, individual participants raised money for the event through their personal networks for the install, while institutions and corporations such as Duke Energy Initiative, SunPower, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., and New Energy Operations sponsored the install. Additional sponsors include GRID Alternatives' national partners Wells Fargo, Jinko Solar, Enphase Energy, and IronRidge.

water, boat ramps and access sites before (they) go," Couser said.

The James River Association hosts an endurance paddle race, The James River Rundown, every year. They provide the contestants maps, but encourage paddlers to check the 360 virtual tours so that they can pick their lines of passage down the river and its class three and four rapids, Doyle said.

Justin Mando, an assistant professor of English and science writing at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, could speak to the virtual tours' effectiveness for outdoorsmen and adventurers.

Mando said he fishes a lot, and recently moved to the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, area. He doesn't know the Susquehanna River intimately yet. The tour, he said, is "pretty good for scouting out locations to go fishing."

He uses Google Maps to mark spots he's fished, but he said, "it's tough to figure out access spots with Google Maps."

Mando added: "(the tour) made my own experience on the river better."

About GRID:

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, America's largest nonprofit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities. GRID Alternatives has installed 9,000 solar electric systems for low-income households to-date, with a combined installed capacity of 33MW saving \$329 million in lifetime electricity costs and preventing 848,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. 33,000 people have also received training through the program. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Senator Cardin: Trump Non-Certification of Iran JCPOA Is a 'Reckless, Political Decision' that 'Directly Threatens U.S. National Security'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, released the following statement Friday after President Trump's announcement that he will not certify Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), despite producing no factual or material evidence to warrant a non-certification:

"I strongly disagree with the President's reckless, political decision and his subsequent threat to Congress. At a moment when the United States and its allies face a nuclear crisis with North Korea, the President has manufactured a new crisis that will isolate us from our allies and partners, compromising our ability to employ a diplomatic surge on the Korean Peninsula. Despite his assertions to the contrary, the President's rhetoric and actions today directly threaten U.S. national security and damage our credibility and reputation on the world stage.

"The Administration should have been working with Congress since January to develop and implement a comprehensive Iran policy. A serious policy would keep the JCPOA in place, demand rigorous enforcement of the agreement, and take steps to push back on Iran's troubling, non-nuclear aggression. It should include a plan for building coalitions to respond to Iran's violations of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, its support for the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, and its activities that are destabilizing U.S. partners across the Middle East and threatening Israel.

"Unfortunately, the President has failed to implement the sanctions on Iran passed overwhelmingly by Congress in July and has chosen a path

that makes addressing all other elements of a comprehensive Iran policy more difficult by imposing self-inflicted international isolation on the United States.

"At a time when the world should be united in focusing on Iran's bad actions, instead the President has opened up the United States to international criticism and challenge.

"Not even one year into his Presidency, this is one of the most dangerous and consequential decisions the President has made imperiling U.S. national security.

"I also have concerns related to the termination of Iran's obligations under the JCPOA and the regime's non-nuclear aggression. But the lead for addressing these concerns is the President and the executive branch of our government. Instead, he is abdicating his leadership role to Congress, just like with Dreamers and just like with affirming and strengthening our health care system. It is a troubling pattern. We will not buy into the false premise that it is Congress' role to legislate solutions to problems of his own making.

"Moving forward, I am ready to work with my colleagues to ensure that U.S. national security is protected despite the President's dangerous announcement today. It is now up to Congress to show the world that there is bipartisan support for the United States to uphold its commitments, including the JCPOA. We must move forward with the recognition that we have a President who is not concerned about America's reputation, not committed to its relationships, and is willing to gamble with America's national security."

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Randall Woodfin: A Son of Birmingham Becomes its Mayor

"Local assemblies of citizens constitute the strength of free nations. Town-meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it. A nation may establish a system of free government, but without the spirit of municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty."

—Alexis de Tocqueville, Author, *Democracy in America*, 1835

The first line of Randall Woodfin's official autobiography on his mayoral campaign website is: "I am a proud son of Birmingham." In our nation's history, Birmingham, Alabama will forever be tied to some of the most troubling and tragic imagery of the civil rights movement—from the bombing of a church that killed four innocent little girls to African Americans braving fire hoses, police batons and attack dogs in their struggle to end racial discrimination and secure basic rights. While we have yet to wipe out discrimination and its attendant consequences, our nation—including Birmingham—has made some progress. The proud son of a city once tarnished as regressive and hostile to the plight of its African-American residents, will lead its 23 communities and 99 neighborhoods on a progressive platform as its next mayor.

For many, Randall's win was unlikely for obvious and not so obvious reasons.

Randall suffered a family tragedy during his campaign to unseat William Bell, the seven-year, two-term incumbent. He lost his nephew in a shooting death. And sadly, it was not his first brush with the gun violence plaguing Birmingham. Five years earlier he lost an older brother in a shooting death. Before running for mayor, Randall amassed an impressive resume as a public servant, but his first foray into politics proved unsuccessful, running for a seat on the Birmingham Board of Education in 2009 and losing. As he tells it, in losing, he ended up

winning. He won the attention of the community and local stakeholders, and won time to prepare and hone his message for another run in 2013 that would prove successful.

When this former city attorney and board of education president decided to run for mayor, he chose to do so on a progressive platform in a region of our nation not synonymous with progressive politics. Our Revolution, a progressive political organization that works to organize and elect progressive candidates, backed his run, helping to turn out the vote with volunteers, text messages and calls, including calls recorded by Bernie Sanders endorsing Randall's candidacy. As a Morehouse College alumnus, Randall relied on his close relationship and extensive ties to the Atlanta HBCU. Morehouse alumni held events and fundraisers on his campaign's behalf and canvassed Birmingham, knocking on doors and getting out Randall's message.

His ground game plan, coupled with a message, vision and platform for Birmingham that resonated with the residents of the city, led Randall to a commanding victory with 58 percent of the vote, making him, at the age of 36—coincidentally the same age I was when I was elected mayor of New Orleans—the youngest mayor elected in Birmingham since 1893.

Randall has proposed bold, progressive solutions for Birmingham, including debt-free community college for public high school students, boosting the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and running a city hall that is inclusive of all people—and he's not the only one. Randall is part of a growing wave of young leaders in the South, and elsewhere, like Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba Jr. in Jackson, Mississippi, who are determined to turn the tide on national trends and policies that hurt, not help, our communities and cities.

See **URBAN LEAGUE** Page A7



National Capital Radio and Television Museum
 Open to the Public
RADIO AND TELEVISION MUSEUM
 Located in a 1906 storekeeper's house in Bowie, MD, the National Capital Radio and Television Museum explores broadcast history from the earliest days of wireless telegraph to the development of television. A fascinating collection of broadcast memorabilia includes Depression-era cathedral radios, early televisions, "French Fry" transistors, crystal sets ... and even the sound effects equipment from Washington's legendary Walker and Scott radio program. Open Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free; donations are welcomed. Group tours for 10 or more persons are available. Please call 301-390-1020 to arrange a tour.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Healing the Gaping Open Wound: An Urgent Call for More Aid and Fair Treatment for Puerto Rico

A National Public Radio story this week described a visit to Escuela Gaspar Vila Mayans, a public elementary school in the Rio Piedras neighborhood of San Juan, Puerto Rico: "PRESENTE!!!" about 40 kids shout on cue—they're the ones who are able to be present. More than three quarters of the student body isn't here. Communications are spotty, so some may not be aware that this school has reopened. Principal Rita Barreto says many kids and their families are still dealing with the storm's devastation, after losing 'almost everything,' she says, 'the clothes, the furniture, the food.' For some students, even their homes. The school is open during mornings now, as of last Wednesday, and it's not clear when it will be back to full capacity. It has water, but no power. 'This is a safe place,' Barreto tells the students. 'We are going to have breakfast, we are going to have lunch, we are going to have fun activities just so that you can have fun.' The principal says some kids told her [their lunch of oatmeal and apple sauce] was their first full meal since the storm ..."

Three weeks after Hurricane Maria ravaged the entire island of Puerto Rico, the children who have returned to school for a few hours a day in a building with no power are some of the lucky ones. Most of Puerto Rico's 1,113 public schools have not reopened yet. Some are still being used as emergency shelters for families who lost their homes in the storm. Eighty-four percent of Puerto Rico remains without power and some areas may stay that way for at least six months. More than a million people still lack access to clean drinking water. Food, medicine, cash, and fuel are in short supply. Disease outbreaks have begun and medical emergencies are widespread but hospitals have not regained full power or capacity. The death toll continues to rise. In the very hardest hit rural areas some communities have not been able to make contact or receive any relief supplies or help at all.

Sick people, older people, and the very young are especially vulnerable right now. Current island conditions seem unfathomable but the sad reality is Puerto Rico's children were some of the most at risk in America long before the storm. Nearly 6 in 10 of Puerto Rico's children were poor in 2016—more than 390,000 children. This child poverty rate was almost double that of New Mexico and Mississippi, the two states with the highest child poverty rates. Between 2011–2015, Puerto Rican child poverty exceeded 60 percent in 44 of the 78 towns and cities. More than 4 in 10 of Puerto Rico's children under 6 lived in extreme child poverty at half the poverty line or lower, a rate more than four times our national average. In 2016, 38.9 percent of households in Puerto Rico received benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly food stamps—compared with 12.4 percent of all mainland U.S. households. About 1.7 million people were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP in Puerto Rico in

2015, nearly half of the total population, but 20,000 children lacked any health insurance. More than three-quarters of Puerto Rico's children who were eligible for Head Start were not enrolled in the program and nearly 100 percent of students in 4th and 8th grade performed below grade level in math!

Puerto Rico has struggled with a massive economic downturn since special exemptions that made it a tax haven for U.S. businesses, especially pharmaceutical companies, ended in 2006. The ongoing financial crisis led to an historic number of people migrating to the mainland in search of jobs and economic opportunity. The island's overall population declined by more than 300,000 people between 2010–2016, including many students, doctors, and skilled workers. As young professionals fled the island they left behind an older and poorer population more dependent on social welfare programs although Puerto Rico now has a smaller tax base to support those programs. So many doctors leaving for the mainland led to such a shortage of doctors that some people had to wait more than a year to receive medical care.

See **WATCH**, Page A5

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Railroad Retirement Benefits vs Social Security

Dear Rusty: My neighbor was a long time employee of the railroad and has told me that he doesn't receive Social Security like I do, but rather gets Railroad Retirement Benefits which are, according to him, better than Social Security. This irks me a little bit because I've worked my whole life paying those FICA taxes, so why should my neighbor have a better retirement benefit than me? And just what exactly is this Railroad thing he's covered by?

Signed: Annoyed

Dear Annoyed: Let there be peace among neighbors! While your neighbor's railroad retirement benefit may be better than your Social Security benefit, he also paid more into it over his lifetime than you contributed to Social Security.

First, a little history.

Back in the 1920's workers in the railroad industry were covered by various private pensions that were beset with problems, leaving those workers vulnerable to inadequate financial support during their old age. Following the Great Depression those pension problems reached crisis proportions and in 1934 Congress enacted the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), which was meant to help aging and needy railroad workers who would not be covered under the planned Social Security system. Various legal issues held the program up until 1937 when about 50,000 private railroad pensions were transferred into the Federal Railroad Retirement program. Initially meant as an old age retirement and disability program for rail workers, it evolved over the years to become more of a social insurance program providing survivor, spousal, dependent, sickness and unemployment benefits, similar in many ways to how Social Security evolved during the same time period. A financial interchange between Social Security and Railroad benefits was set up in 1951, eventually evolving to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974. The program has continued to undergo refinements as needed, and is administered by an independent Federal agency called the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). While independent, the RRB is closely aligned with Social Security, but the benefits of each program differ.

Railroad employees pay taxes into the system for two separate benefit categories known as Tier I and Tier II. Tier I contributions are similar to Social Security (6.20%), but Tier II contributions - essentially for a supplemental pension - are an additional 3.9%. In both cases, there is a maximum taxable wage cap. And similar to Social Security, another 1.45% is levied for Medicare. As with Social Security, rail industry employers pay an equal amount of payroll tax for Tier I, but they also pay a substantially higher tax percentage than employees for Tier II benefits.

Without getting into the myriad of details, suffice to say that just like Social Security, RRA has eligibility criteria for beneficiaries. Although Tier I railroad benefits are intended to somewhat mimic Social Security, there are a lot of nuances in the railroad retirement program, which can make benefits higher. The differences are far too numerous to describe here but as an example, early retirement benefits aren't reduced if the worker has at least 30 years of railroad service. Tier II benefits are designed to resemble a private defined benefit pension plan.

So how different are the benefits? Well, for 2016 the average Social Security retirement benefit was about \$1,350 per month, while the average retirement benefit for railroad employees was about \$2,675 per month. While the difference is substantial, remember that a defined benefit pension is part of rail employees' retirement benefits. Further, career rail employees—those who have contributed through payroll taxes for a long period of time—receive considerably more than the average.

So if your neighbor was a long time railroad employee, don't begrudge him his somewhat higher benefit. He earned it, just as you have earned Social Security plus any additional pension benefit you might enjoy from working in the private sector. Now, invite your neighbor over for coffee and discuss something non-controversial, like politics.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at info@amacfoundation.org.

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Maryland Delegation Draws Two More Korean Businesses

By CJ MITCHELL
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—A trade mission to South Korea by a Maryland government delegation, including the first lady, Yumi Hogan, brought two additional Korean-headquartered companies to the state in late September.

Maryland is currently home to 10 Korean-headquartered companies, according to the Maryland Department of Commerce's Office of International Investment and Trade in an August 2017 memo to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, with Maryland, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County delegations traveling to the country to court more.

The Baltimore-Washington, D.C.-Northern Virginia region has the country's third-largest Korean-American population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, including Hogan, who is the first Korean-born first lady in the U.S. Fasoo.com Inc., one of the companies brought to Maryland from her trade mission, provides data and application security.

While headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, its North American arm was based in Sunnyvale, California, from 2012 until 2014, when the company moved to East Brunswick, New Jersey. The company moved to Bethesda, Maryland, in late September, bringing seven employees.

"The quality of the Maryland workforce is why we're moving from New Jersey. The high concentration of skilled and experienced information security professionals in the corridor between Washington, D.C., and Fort Meade is one of the biggest factors in the decision to shift our North American operations," said Cho Kyu-gon, Fasoo's founder, chairman and CEO in a press release.

The second company in the announcement, Green Cross Cell, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Department of Commerce to establish its first U.S. subsidiary, in Maryland. The 78-employee company specializes in cancer immunotherapy, and this memorandum would establish the company's only operation outside of Asia.

The Department of Commerce did not specify a date or location for Green Cross Cell to open its subsidiary.

Watch from A4

These were all preexisting conditions before Hurricane Maria made landfall pouring salt on the open wounds from the island's financial turmoil and making everything much, much worse.

So how will we help Puerto Rican children and families recover and heal? To date some in our federal government have treated the island as if it were America's stepchild and should be grateful for the crumbs received from the table of federal disaster relief. On October 8 President Trump tweeted, "Nobody could have done what I've done for #PuertoRico with so little appreciation. So much work!" And on October 12 he tweeted, "... We cannot keep FEMA, the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. forever!" But reports from the ground make clear the work President Trump believes he's already done was delayed and is still nowhere close to being commensurate with the devastating level of suffering and need Puerto



PHOTO COURTESY CNS, PRNEWSFOTO/TISSUEGENE, INC.

pictured from left to right: TissueGene President and CEO Woosok Lee; First Lady Yumi Hogan; TEDCO Vice President for University Partnerships and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund Executive Director Dan Gincel, Ph.D.; and Maryland Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ben Wu.

Memorandums of understanding, however, are not legally binding.

In May 2015, Gov. Larry Hogan led a 12-day economic development and trade mission to Korea, China and Japan that resulted in part in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Maryland and Korea's state-run electric utility, Korea Electric Power Corp. In November 2016, two Korean energy firms and Montgomery College signed a letter of intent to build a smart grid on the college's Germantown campus, with a goal of reducing the cost of electricity there by 10 percent.

However, nearly a year after the November signing, no progress had been made on the campus, and the project had been scrapped.

"Unfortunately, based on in-depth and comprehensive analysis and many discussions and meetings with representatives from the Department of Commerce and Gov. Larry Hogan's Office—it was determined that Montgomery College's Germantown Campus was not a viable site for the smart grid demonstration project," said Marcus Rosano, Montgomery College's director of media and public relations.

First lady Hogan and Maryland Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ben Wu also presented a \$750,000 check to TissueGene Inc., a Rockville, Maryland-based company with roots in South Korea that specializes in gene therapy to treat osteoarthritis of the knee. The grant was issued from Maryland's Stem Cell Research Fund to aid the company in conducting clinical trials.

Rico's 3.5 million citizens are experiencing. Many believe the federal government would have responded with more urgency to a natural disaster that left a mainland state without any power or tore asunder the lives of 3.5 million people in Texas or Florida.

Conditions in Puerto Rico are dire. Puerto Ricans are not our stepchildren—they are our brothers and sisters. We are not doing them a favor by helping; it is our obligation to aid our fellow Americans during their time of great need and tragedy beyond their control. With roads impassable, workplaces damaged, and jobs connected to tourism gone, so many Puerto Ricans have no idea when they will be able to go back to work or receive another paycheck and what will happen to their children. Some families able to get out made the quick decision to start all over again on the mainland. In the first week after the hurricane, Florida public schools reported enrolling 400 new children who had fled the storm and its aftermath. But children and families resettling in the main-

Kolon Life Sciences Inc., a Korea-headquartered company with intellectual property rights from TissueGene, and owned by the CEO of TissueGene, Lee Woo-sok, recently received South Korean approval for marketing TissueGene's premiere knee injection, Invossa, within that country.

Fasoo and Green Cross Cell join 10 existing Korean-headquartered companies in Maryland. Six of these are involved in the life sciences industry, while the rest are spread across gaming, apparel, electronics and cyber-security, according to the Maryland Department of Commerce.

Seven of the 10 companies are located in Montgomery County, with two in Baltimore County and one in Prince George's County. Montgomery County is the home of several startup incubators, including the BioHealth Innovation lab in Rockville, where two of the companies are located.

Four days after the Maryland government delegation returned from Korea, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III, who announced in June he is running for governor, led a three-day economic development trade mission to South Korea, where he signed a "Friendship Agreement" with Cheonan City, a technology hub located south of Seoul.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett is planning to lead a nine-day trip to South Korea and China in October.

Prince George's County is home to Maryland's only countywide free trade zone, where foreign companies can operate inside of the U.S. with reduced import tariffs.

land or staying behind to rebuild in the middle of massive destruction will all need our urgent help.

You, your family, friends, and colleagues can help in the following ways:

Donate Money: Organizations such as UNICEF and United for Puerto Rico are accepting monetary donations for the island and at least 90 percent of donations goes to help Puerto Ricans affected by Hurricane Maria. Any amount helps.

Donate Supplies: The island desperately needs supplies including bottled water, canned foods, blankets, diapers, baby formula, baby wipes and hand sanitizer. Here is a full list of needed materials. If you would like to provide any of these supplies, please visit: <https://www.nvoad.org/howto-help/donate/>.

Call Your Members of Congress: Without help from the federal government Puerto Rico will run out of money by October 31 and without a voting member in Congress the island is particularly disadvantaged in seeking federal aid. Congress is currently considering a bill to

This zone may become more of a factor as President Donald Trump has caused rumblings about a potential withdrawal from the current free trade agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

The agreement, which aims to reduce each nation's tariffs by 95 percent in five years, has come under fire from Trump in recent months after newly elected South Korean President Moon Jae-in was not accepting of initial U.S. trade demands.

This comes as South Korea's northern neighbor has ratcheted up its missile and nuclear testing, and claimed the U.S. declared war on North Korea. This has created some of the region's highest military tensions in years, and caused Trump to sign an executive order Sept. 21 granting additional authority to the Treasury Department to enforce economic sanctions on North Korea.

In addition to attracting two new companies to Maryland, the weeklong trip, which cost \$85,000, according to the Maryland Department of Commerce, saw the establishment of a sister-state relationship between Maryland and Jeollanam-do, a province in the southwest of South Korea where first lady Hogan was born.

Maryland is home to 48,592 Korean-Americans, the sixth-most in the nation by state, according to 2010 U.S. Census and 2013 American Community Survey data. Most are concentrated in Howard County, especially along Maryland Route 40 in Ellicott City, which was designated "Korean Way" by the Maryland Department of Transportation in December.

provide \$36.5 billion in emergency funding for hurricane and wildfire relief and recovery helping victims in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and California, which many agree is needed but fear will not be nearly enough. Please call your Members of Congress at 877-233-9025 and urge them to pass hurricane relief for Puerto Rico now.

It is absolutely critical that we let children and families in Puerto Rico know that their country will not abandon them and will act with urgency and adequacy.

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

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

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

The Hitman's Bodyguard

The Hitman's Bodyguard
Grade: C+
Rated R, pervasive profanity,
abundant shooting and killing
1 hr., 58 min

The poster for *The Hitman's Bodyguard* parodies the Whitney Houston/Kevin Costner *The Bodyguard*, with Ryan Reynolds lovingly carrying Samuel L. Jackson to safety. It's a terrific spoof, and it hints at the comedy potential in the premise of an assassin needing to hire protection.

Unfortunately, the poster is more clever than anything in the movie, which is sporadically funny but completely devoid of personality. To achieve that despite having two very personality-heavy stars is quite something. Leave it to the director of *The Expendables 3* (Patrick Hughes) and the writer of nothing (Tom O'Connor), I guess.

Reynolds plays Michael Bryce, once an esteemed "executive protection agent" who's been on the skids since losing a client two years ago. Through a convoluted series of events involving his ex-girlfriend, Interpol agent Amelia Roussel (Elodie Yung), Bryce ends up guarding Darius Kincaid (Jackson), an imprisoned hitman who's going to testify at the International Criminal Court and must be transported safely to The Hague.

The man on trial, brutal Belarusian dictator Vlad Dukhovich (Gary Oldman, obviously), has tentacles everywhere and has killed or silenced all previous witnesses. (The scenes depicting his evil are unnecessarily grim and graphic for what's supposed to be an action romp.) But if someone doesn't show up by



ROTTENTOMATOES

The world's top protection agent (Ryan Reynolds) is called upon to guard the life of his mortal enemy, one of the world's most notorious hitmen (Samuel L. Jackson). The relentless bodyguard and manipulative assassin have been on the opposite end of the bullet for years and are thrown together for a wildly outrageous 24 hours. During their raucous and hilarious adventure from England to the Hague, they encounter high-speed car chases, outlandish boat escapades and a merciless Eastern European dictator (Gary Oldman) who is out for blood. Salma Hayek joins the mayhem as Jackson's equally notorious wife.

5:00 on an arbitrary day with hard physical evidence of Dukhovich's atrocities, the ICC has no choice but to let him go! That's just how the ICC works.

One smart move the screenplay makes is to give Bryce and Kincaid a history together, as Bryce and his clients have often been Kincaid's targets. This allows them to quarrel as soon as Roussel puts them together, rather than having to wait until their personality differences—Bryce is cautious, by-the-book; Kincaid is loose and improvisational—emerge and put them at odds. (What if there were a movie about two strangers who were forced to travel together who instantly got along and became pals? Would the movie even work?)

Kincaid is testifying as part of a deal to free his imprisoned wife, Sonia (Salma Hayek), a lethal Mexican whose backstory is barely hinted at. (Apart from two flashbacks set in a bar, the only place we ever see Hayek is in a prison cell.) She swears as prodigiously as her husband, though, and Kincaid's recounting of the night they met is one of the film's highlights, an edgy combination of choreographed violence, sensuality, and humor. The movie needed more of that—because otherwise, it's a standard action-comedy with a formulaic plot, no different from countless others.

And my, does it ever go on and on. The chasing, the run-

ning, the fighting, one sequence after another, as Bryce and Kincaid make their way to The Hague. There's an enormous chase scene shot in Amsterdam, which looks wonderful, but after a few minutes all I could think was: How is this still going on? How big is Amsterdam?!

Still, were it not for the repetitive action and off-putting slaughter (SO MANY dudes get killed point-blank), I'd have been on the thumbs-weakly-up side of what is otherwise an amusing, mindless caper. Reynolds, Jackson, and Hayek are fun to watch. But those other factors, like the gunshot to Kincaid's leg early in the story, have an impact from which the movie cannot recover.

Awards from A1

Cheverly

A detailed summary of Cheverly's sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Cheverly's accomplishments:

- Amended a previous ordinance to allow bees to be kept on municipal and residential property.
- Celebrated the 21st consecutive year as a Tree City USA community.
- In 2016 hosted "The Great Cheverly Rain Barrel Event" to help residents purchase a 50-gallon rain barrel and apply for the Prince George's County rain check rebate program.

The attached photo shows (from left) Juan Torres, Director of Public Works, and Mayor Michael Callahan with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference last Friday.

Greenbelt

A detailed summary of Greenbelt's sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Greenbelt's accomplishments:

- 2017 marked the 63rd year of the annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, a four-day event that supports community education and outreach.
- Greenbelt's DPW initiated a food scraps composting program, and has since ed-

ucated community members about composting at 22 different festivals and community events since.

- Greenbelt continues to offset 100% of the city's electricity usage by purchasing wind energy offsets through Washington Gas Electric Services, Inc.

"I'm extremely honored to accept this award on behalf of our staff and residents," said Mayor Emmett Jordan. "Part of Greenbelt's legacy is reflected in our commitment to plan for the future. The Sustainable Maryland certification provides us with a framework to set goals and measure our progress. We're grateful to be recognized!"

The attached photo shows (from left) John Lippert, Chair, Green ACES; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator; Mayor Emmett Jordan; Mayor Pro Tem J Davis; and Councilmember Leta Mach with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference.

For detailed information about Greenbelt's sustainability initiatives, please contact Lisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator, lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov, 301-474-8004

Riverdale Park

Riverdale Park was one of nine Maryland municipalities to originally become Sustainable Maryland Certified in 2014, and the Town successfully became re-certified again this year.

A detailed summary of Riverdale Park's sustainability Ac-

tions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Riverdale Park's accomplishments:

- As part of a large sustainable design project within the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone of Riverdale Park, the Riverdale Park Station will be the first LEED-ND project completed in Prince George's County.
- The Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative is a collaborative program launched in 2015 aimed at providing the Riverdale Park community with a rotating, year-round outdoor, town-wide sculpture gallery to bring promotional opportunities to local artists to extend their audience and their boundaries.

"The Town of Riverdale Park is honored to be re-certified as a Sustainable Maryland Community," said Mayor Alan Thompson. "Our re-certification is the result of the hard work and dedication of the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee, residents, elected officials and staff. Sustainability is part of the fabric of our town and we are proud to be recognized for our efforts."

For detailed information about Riverdale Park sustainability initiatives, please contact John Lestitian, Town Administrator, jllestitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov or call 301-927-6381

University Park

University Park was one of nine Maryland municipalities to originally become Sustainable

Maryland Certified in 2014, and the Town successfully became re-certified again this year.

A detailed summary of University Park's sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of University Park's accomplishments:

- University Park funds and promotes the town-wide "Porchfest", organized by the University Park Civic Association (UPCA), as an innovative way to build community cohesiveness.
- University Park funds and promotes a Shade Tree Reimbursement program for residents, offering reimbursement of up to \$300 toward the purchase of any tree listed in the official Town shade tree list that is planted on private property.
- University Park has been a TREE CITY since 2004, and received the People Loving and Nurturing Trees (PLANT) award in 2016.

The Town of University Park is committed to sustainability and protecting the environment," said Mayor Len Carey. "Jim Henson created the Muppets here in town and we know, as Kermit says, 'it's not easy being green.' The Town appreciates this award from Sustainable Maryland in recognition of the ongoing commitment and efforts from our community."

For detailed information about University Park's sustainability initiatives, please contact Tracey Toscano, Town Clerk, 301-927-4262, ttoscano@upmd.org

A Little This, A Little that

A New Twist On Long-Popular Toys Helps Families Play

NAPSI—The next time you see kids at play, you may care to consider this observation from child care experts at Montana State University: "Play is important for children's development. It offers a chance to connect with your child. Play helps your child learn the rules of your family and what is expected of him or her. As children grow, play helps them learn how to act in society."

Adds educator and author Nancy Schulman, "Everything about play benefits kids. Curiosity, inventiveness, self-esteem and resilience are four things that kids really get through play."

What they play with can also be important. You may remember some basic kinds of toys from your own childhood you may care to introduce to your kids. Helping parents find innovative ways for their kids to enjoy such classic playthings as collectibles, crafts, vehicles and remote-controlled vehicles are a number of new toys. Here's a look at a few:

1. Collectibles: Supercute squishies are fun to collect and squeeze. Originating in Japan, this latest toy craze features small, soft foam toys, like a stress ball yet softer and more "kawaii" (the Japanese word for "cute"). They even have a delightful, fruity scent. Your child can play with the dozens of delightful creatures in the Squish-Dee-Lish line. Each is an amusing combination of adorable animals and delightful foods, including a panda on top of pancakes, a sherbet bird, a pear bear, and many more for hours of imaginative play.

2. Crafts: How sweet it is to create tasty gifts for friends and family. Now kids can use a Chocolate Egg Surprise Maker to devise their very own chocolate surprise gifts. It's easy to use and can be fun for the whole family. Parents and children simply melt the chocolate, mold it, chill it and wrap it in foil. Each kit includes everything you need to make four chocolate surprise eggs. After that, you can use your own chocolate to create many more.

3. Vehicles: Younger kids will take to Real Workin' Buddies Mr. Dusty. A three-in-one vehicle—Garbage Truck, Street Sweeper and Dump Truck—it works on both carpet and hardwood floors as kids scoop stuff up and dump stuff out while the truck emits over 50 fun sounds and phrases.

Lots of fast fun for older kids is an innovative combination action figure and vehicle in 32 different styles and themes. Each has its own unique performance capabilities for incredible action speed and stunts.

Called the Power Rippers, these toys offer the highest performance of any vehicle in the market. For even more speed, power and accuracy, there's also a Power Rippers Blaster and a 2-in-1 Competition Set. This includes a Track Set and a Battle Arena. The Track Set has dual loops that can be configured for side-by-side racing or in one long strip. It has a crash zone and a jump at the end of the track and it's compatible with leading 1/64th vehicle brands. The Battle Arena allows for spinning, battling and nonstop top action, and the set doubles as a carrying case.

4. Remote Control: Kids can be stoked with the extreme performance of a remote-control skateboard that goes up to 14 mph for an incredible, high-speed experience.

Skateboarding enthusiasts can get even more extreme and launch the toy off jumps for the most air and distance. Parents may be pleased to learn kids can also drift the skateboard when doing high-speed turns without fear of disaster. The XPV Xtreme Performance Skateboard includes a "roll bar" that puts the vehicle back into driving position if it gets knocked over. It comes with one skateboard, one remote control, one rechargeable battery, one USB charging cable, one roll bar, and four wheel adapters.

Learn More

You can find all these items and many more at toy stores and many other retailers as well as online from Jakks Pacific at www.jakks.com, where you can also get additional information.



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

Play is a child's work, child development experts point out. Playing with your child is an important—and delightful—part of parenting.

Calendar of Events

October 26 — November 1, 2017

Trunk & Treat

Date and time: Friday, October 27, 2017, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm
Description: Enjoy snacks, fun activities, and the kids' costume parade contest, and the family car contest. Outside is the spooky train ride with "trunk treating".

Space is limited; tickets are sold on a first-come, first served basis. In the case of poor weather, the event will be held indoors.

Volunteers (ages 15 and up) are needed for the train trail.

Cost: Resident \$6, Non-resident \$8, Day of Event, Resident \$8, Non-resident \$10

Ages: All ages are welcome (12 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Baden Community Center
13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD

Contact: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-699-2544

Sprout Film Festival

Date and time: Friday, October 27, 2017, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm
Description: Experience the films that celebrate difference and create transformational experiences for both the filmmakers and the audience. The three films in this 90-minute program all light the spark of greater understanding and acceptance by presenting work by and about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens Xtreme Party

Date and time: Friday, October 27, 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

Xtreme Teens: Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Date and time: Friday, October 27, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: This Halloween Scavenger Hunt will provide teens with a variety of clues posted strategically throughout the building in the hopes of finding a "treasure." It won't be easy as there will be some surprisingly scary things designed to keep them on their toes. Make sure you make join us for a "spook-tacular" time and a great opportunity to participate in this team-building exercise!

Cost: FREE! with appropriate ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Rollingcrest/Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD

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

Bill Charlap Trio

Date and time: Friday, October 27, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: One of the world's premier jazz pianists, Bill Charlap has performed and recorded with many leading artists of our time, ranging from jazz masters Phil Woods and Wynton Marsalis to singers Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand. *Time* magazine wrote, "Bill Charlap approaches a song the way a lover approaches his beloved? no matter how imaginative or surprising his take on a song is, he invariably zeroes in on its essence." Since 1997, he has led the Bill Charlap Trio with bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington, now recognized as one of the leading groups in jazz.

Cost: \$25/person, 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Kids' Euro Festival

Date and time: Saturday, October 28, 2017, 2:00 pm
Description: Kids' Euro Festival is a two-week long festival of European arts and culture presenting free activities to D.C. metro area children and their families. There are performances, concerts, workshops, movies, storytelling, and more, and it's all brought to you by the 28 European Union Member States!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Haunted Attractions Tour

Date and time: Saturday, October 28, 2017, 5:00 pm
Description: Ready for a hauntingly "ghoul" time?! Join us as we take a trip to the "Field of Screams" or "DC Haunted Mansion"—your choice!! Then, get ready to come face-to-face with some of the scariest ghosts and goblins you'll ever see!

Departure time is 5 pm - SHARP!

Cost: \$25 (attraction fee)

Ages: 10–17

Location: Cedar Heights Community Center
1200 Glen Willow Drive, Seat Pleasant, MD

Contact: 301-773-8881; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Boo Bash Costume Party

Date and time: Saturday, October 28, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: Witch's brew and eye of newt! Join us and wear your scariest Halloween costume at our Boo Bash! Maybe—just maybe!—you might have a chance to win the costume competition and one of the many available giveaways! We hope you're not too scared to attend—BOO! Snacks will be provided.

Cost: FREE! with appropriate ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Palmer Park Community Center
7720 Barlowe Road, Palmer Park, MD

Contact: 301-773-5665; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Hyper-Efficient Future Planes Coming Within Two Decades

Dear EarthTalk:

You hear a lot about greener cars these days, but what about airplanes?

—John Caldwell,
Lorton, VA

While it may be the fastest and most convenient way to go long distances, air travel remains the most environmentally-unfriendly mode in our mix of transportation options. Airplanes require massive amounts of petroleum-based fuel that deposits greenhouse gas emissions directly into the atmosphere (where they're two to four times more potent in causing global warming than equivalent ground-level emissions). The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that aviation is responsible for some 3.5 percent of human-caused global warming to date and expects that figure to grow to somewhere in the five to 15 percent range by 2050 if we don't take action soon to curb emissions.

Fortunately, the aviation industry hasn't been hiding its head in the sand. New planes coming off assembly lines at Boeing and Airbus, the world's two biggest jet manufacturers, are about 15 percent more efficient than previous models. Deploying next generation engines that can produce more thrust with less fuel is one way in which airplane makers are boosting efficiency. Another is

through the use of lighter materials, with carbon fiber replacing metal in many applications and 3D printing of lightweight titanium parts taking the place of forged or machined aluminum.

Better design is also contributing to the optimization of fuel efficiency. One example is the winglet, a small vertical projection retrofitted on the tip of the wing that can cut emissions some six percent by reducing drag. Less than 20 percent of the world's jets have them now; spreading the technology widely could significantly boost the overall fuel efficiency of aviation.

We can expect to see even more dramatic gains when so-called blended wing-body (BWB) designs go mainstream. Thanks to their broader wings and the resulting higher "lift-to-drag" ratio, these futuristic planes are significantly more aerodynamic than conventional jets. The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), a non-profit focusing on sustainable development in aviation, reports that these BWB-design planes can go as far and as fast as conventional jets on 75 percent of the fuel. But don't hold your breath: Researchers don't expect BWB planes to be ready for commercial use for another two decades.

There is also considerable R&D going into greening the fuel side of the equation. Illinois-based General Biomass, for instance, is developing carbon-neutral jet fuel formulations derived from the seed oil of jat-



CREDIT: UC IRVINE, FLICKRCC

Environmentalists are optimistic that new designs and technologies—like this hyper-efficient Blended Wing-Body (BWB) design plane that recently emerged from a joint effort between NASA and Boeing—could significantly reduce aviation's huge carbon footprint and environmental impact.

ropa and camelina plants. And Texas's Neste is a leader in developing "recycled jet fuel" made from the residue of used diesel fuel.

And as in the auto industry before it, aviation is now abuzz with talk of hybrid-electric and all-electric planes. Seattle-based Zunum Aero plans to have a prototype of its hybrid-electric 19-seater commuter plane ready for test flights by 2020, and hopes to start supplying airlines soon thereafter with commercial-grade models. Meanwhile, Silicon Valley's Wright Electric is collaborating with Europe's easyJet in developing a new battery-powered aircraft designed for short hop commuter routes. These new all-electric planes, which should be ready for prime

time within a decade, will be 10 percent cheaper for airlines to buy and operate than traditional jets—and without the emissions stigma.

CONTACTS: IPCC, ipcc.ch; Boeing, boeing.com; Airbus, airbus.com; ATAG, atag.org; General Biomass, generalbiomass.com; Neste, neste.com; Zunum Aero, zunum.aero; Wright Electric, weflywright.com; easyJet, easyjet.com.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Water from A1

with 80 percent of the work contracted out to local, disadvantaged, small businesses, and 51 percent of all work hours performed by Prince George's County residents.

"Prince George's County selected the CBP3 solution as an alternative delivery method because it could deliver both greater environmental improvements and local economic development results for the County in a more economical manner than the traditional design-bid-build procurement method," said David Washington, Program Executive for the CWP.

The CBP3 is a collaborative effort among Corvias and the two Prince George's County agencies of the Department of Environment, Department of Central Services, Supplier Diversity Division. The CBP3 approach focuses specifically on

prioritizing the benefits to the community and creating procurement opportunities for local, small, minority, and disadvantaged businesses as well as hire locally and therefore create true local economic impact.

Together, Prince George's County and Corvias have been able to achieve social, economic, and infrastructure benefits that go well beyond the industry's standard measurements of water quality. Furthermore, to-date the program has exceeded its socio-economic performance milestones.

The success of this groundbreaking partnership between Prince George's County and Corvias will be celebrated during CWP Spirit Week which began Sunday, October 15 and will run through Saturday, October 21, 2017.

Spirit Week consists of multiple events throughout the week to engage the community

with a volunteer event with the CWP implementation team at the Junior Achievement Finance Park and social media campaign to encourage residents of Prince George's County to volunteer at a local nonprofit. Additional events are planned each day that model the community aspects of the CBP3 model and to thank the program's partners for achieving this important program milestone.

About the Clean Water Partnership

The Clean Water Partnership is a nationally recognized, groundbreaking public-private partnership between Prince George's County, MD and Corvias to retrofit up to 2,000 acres of impervious surfaces using green infrastructure. Further, the Partnership is also tasked with driving local economic development by using

local, small and minority businesses to build local capacity.

About Corvias

Corvias is a privately-owned company that strives to tackle tough, large-scale challenges through trusted partnerships that put client interests first; focus more on performance than profit; and, produce sustainable long-term solutions. We work on behalf of the U.S. military, colleges and universities, and public sector agencies to develop tailored solutions that remedy some of America's most challenging deficiencies in infrastructure and facilities caused by chronic underinvestment. Corvias is governed by three core principles: Be the best provider of service; be the best place to work; and, generously give back to the communities where we live and serve. Corvias (kor-vee-us) is headquartered in East Greenwich, R.I.

Urban League from A4

Americans are notorious for not going to the polls to vote when the stakes are less than presidential. But in reality, it is what happens at the local level that has the most everyday impact on your life. The president is not respon-

sible for your local community, you and your locally elected officials are. If you are frustrated by the rhetoric and policies coming from the executive branch, you must remain engaged in local races. The men and women who campaign to run your city, your school board, and your criminal

justice system are your voice and your frontline against policies that hurt your community and communities across our nation. The resistance to unfair immigration policy, stagnate minimum wages and a myriad other challenges will not trickle down from the top. The seeds of resistance will

be planted at the local level and grow into a movement.

The National Urban League congratulates Randall on his recent win, and supports his vision for a Birmingham that is progressive, thriving, inclusive and allows all its residents to reach their highest potential.

BEAUTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Introduce some eco-friendly habits into your health and beauty routine. Follow these tips that can help you prevent waste from going to the landfill.

- Purchase health and beauty products offered in biodegradable or refillable packaging.
- Repurpose used containers as planners or storage containers for makeup brushes.
- Recycle empty shampoo, lotion and body wash bottles, which are accepted in the Prince George's County Single-Stream Recycling Program. Empty tubes of lipstick, eyeshadow and foundation can also be recycled.
- Makeup companies such as Origins, M.A.C. and Aveda offer take-back services that accept beauty care products when they have reached end-of-life.
- Consume used makeup or makeup that has not been used at all can be donated to a local women's shelter, which will sanitize it and give the items to women who are unable to purchase makeup.