

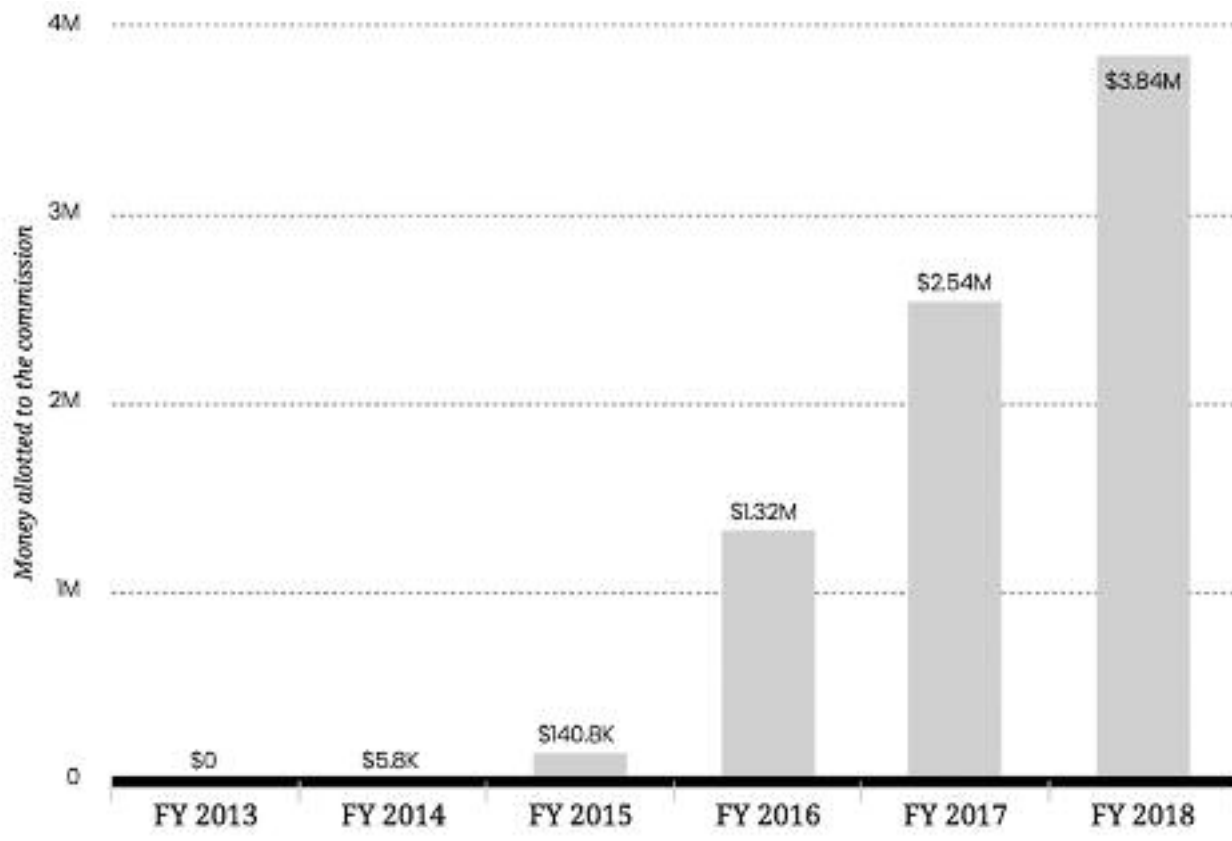
The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

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After Slow Start, Cannabis Commission Funding Has Increased Since 2013



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY OLUWATOMIKE ADEBOYEJO AND LINDSEY FIENGOLD

Source: Maryland Department of Budget and Management, Funding for Fiscal Year 2018 is Projected

As Maryland's Medical Cannabis Nears, Bill Could Boost Minorities' Stake

By OLUWATOMIKE ADEBOYEJO
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—After a four-year wait to provide medical cannabis to patients, the drug could be available to Marylanders as early as this month, according to industry stakeholders.

"I think we could see product in November, with increase in December and a steady flow from all operators in the new year," said Wendy Bronfein, the marketing director for Curio Wellness, a company in Lutherville, Maryland, awarded two licenses to cultivate and process medical marijuana.

However, racial diversity in the state's medical marijuana industry is wanting, and some lawmakers said they are planning to introduce a bill early next session to grant licenses to African-American business owners.

A disparity study ordered by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan in April and due in De-

cember focuses on whether minorities who sought a license in the cannabis industry were at a disadvantage.

The study was prompted after the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus raised concerns

See MARIJUANA Page A5

Baker and Redevelopment Authority Break Ground for New Suitland Town Center

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, local and elected officials and community leaders joined together on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. for a groundbreaking ceremony marking the construction of Town Square at Suitland Federal Center, 4730 Homer Avenue, Suitland, MD. The Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center will be a mixed

use development which will encompass over 1 million square feet and will include: 895 residential apartment housing units and single-family attachment homes; 98,000 sq. ft. of retail; and a 50,000 sq. ft. Performing Arts Center. This project is being hailed as a premiere example of sustainable master planning, and recently won an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for Master Planning and Landscaping.

See TOWN CENTER Page A6

Roy McGrath Selected for University of Maryland College Park Behavioral and Social Sciences Board of Visitors

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Environmental Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD — Roy McGrath, chairman and CEO of the Maryland Environmental Service, has been selected to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors at the University of Maryland's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) in College Park.

Mr. McGrath, a 1993 graduate of the college, formally joined the Board at its 2017 Fall Meeting on November 17, 2017. "It is a genuine honor for me to serve with such a distinguished



PHOTO COURTESY MESS

Roy McGrath

group of board advisors to the college, faculty, and alumni."

See MCGRATH Page A8

Prince George's County Launches New Travel and Tourism Campaign

As Holiday Travel Season Begins County Increases Its Presence in Airports and on Roadways

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Now that the 2017 holiday travel season has begun, travelers in the Washington region are receiving an invitation to "Experience, Expand, and Explore" Prince George's County, Maryland. With brand-new highway entrance signage welcoming drivers and passengers, large format advertising at area airports, and digital and social media building awareness of seasonal offerings, savvy travelers will learn that now is the perfect time to experience the best of Prince George's County.

The Experience Prince George's Campaign will run throughout the holiday season, spring and early summer of 2018 and will help to build awareness, driving consideration & visitation, and generating engagement using multiple cross-media platforms. The Experience Prince George's Campaign is focused

on highlighting the world-class attractions, scenic beauty, seasonal events, and many unique experiences that can only be had in Prince George's County. The official Experience Prince George's Video is a high-energy production that highlights some of the great sights and sounds of Prince George's and features destinations and activities such as National Harbor, the University of Maryland, MGM National Harbor Resort Casino, Tanger Outlets, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Six Flags America, Watkins Regional Park and other award-winning parks & recreational activities.

"Our tourism industry is booming!" said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Prince George's County welcomed over 7.2 million visitors in 2016, up 4.6 per-

See TOURISM Page A3

Federal Government Jobs for Vets

EDC Hosts Federal Government Job Workshop to Help Transitioning Service Members

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Yesterday, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's Workforce Services Division hosted a Federal Jobs Workshop at the Prince George's One-Stop Career Center. Facilitated by Garry Gaston, a certified Federal Career Coach and Outreach & Recruitment Program Coordinator, the workshop provided vital information for veterans and their families as to how to search for and land a job with the federal government. Vernice Gonzalez, the One Stop Career Center Manager, was pleased to be able to provide yet another great service to those who have served the country.

"This workshop was held to target transitioning service members", said Gonzalez. "Many of these service members have special clearances that can be transferred to roles within the federal government. We catered this workshop to bring awareness



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Garry Gaston (standing), Certified Federal Career Coach and Outreach & Recruitment Program Coordinator Conducts Workshop on how to land a Federal Job

to the options that are available to retired service members and how to go about applying for jobs in the federal government."

Mr. Gaston shared what types of jobs are available with the federal government and how transitioning service members can attain those jobs. Several of the programs highlighted incentivize and

ensure that Veterans are among top candidates. Participation in one or more of the programs helps connect a Veteran to a job that matches his or her knowledge, skills and abilities.

Mr. Gaston went on to share how potential candidates can search for, learn about, and cater their resumes for individual jobs. Many of

the career opportunities on usajobs.gov give preference to Veterans and transitioning service members. Workshop participants left with a breadth of knowledge to embark on the journey of starting a sustainable federal government career.

See VETS Page A3

INSIDE

Department of Health Celebrates Maryland Rural Health Day

The Department of Health is committed to improving access to health care in Maryland's rural areas and, following a comprehensive review of community needs and initiatives, has identified three priority areas—the opioid epidemic, workforce strategy, and transportation—to address these issues.
Community, Page A3

Why America May Go to Hell!

Nearly 13.2 million children are poor—almost one in five. About 70 percent of them are children of color who will be a majority of our children by 2020. More than 1.2 million are homeless. About 14.8 million children struggle against hunger in food insecure households.
Commentary, Page A4

Governor Hogan Announces Comprehensive Initiative to Boost Computer Science Workforce Development Statewide

The U.S. Department of Labor projects that by 2020 there will be 1.4 million computer specialist job openings in the nation, but universities are only expected to produce enough qualified graduates to fill 29 percent of those jobs.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Better Watch Out

Set at Christmastime so that someone can eventually be tied to a chair with a string of festive lights (an irresistible image for a provocateur like Peckover), "Better Watch Out" stars Olivia DeJonge as Ashley, a beautiful babysitter charged with tending almost-13-year-old Luke while his bitter parents go to a party.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways we can encourage more commuters to ditch their cars in favor of bikes?

Dennis Northrup,
Avon, CT

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Mudd House

The 16th Annual Victorian Christmas will be held Dec. 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House in Waldorf. Follow the luminarias to the historic house, decorated in the fashion of the period, and open for self-guided tours. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be there, as well as a Civil War soldiers' re-enactors camp, and complimentary holiday treats.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$2 for children, and free for Society members. The Dr. Mudd House is at 3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road in Waldorf. Info: 301-645-6870.

Replica of Bethlehem's Nativity Grotto opens

You are invited to visit the Franciscan Monastery for an Open House on Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured will be a full-size replica of the Grotto where Jesus was born, items handmade by Christians in the Holy Land, a concert by the Ron Freeman Chorale and visits from Saint Nicholas.

The Monastery is a magical place to visit, for Open House or almost any day. It's located at 1400 Quincy Street NE in Washington. Parking is free and convenient. Info: 202-526-6800.

Changing landscape

The Center for Natural Science, Mathematics and Nursing opened in June at Bowie State University. The distinguished new \$102 million building stands at the heart of the campus.

A new Suitland High School is in the planning stages. I know I have a lot of Suitland High alumni who read my column, from all over the U.S. I'll keep you posted.

People

The Oxon Hill Pantry honored three "exemplary volunteers service over the years" at the May meeting. They are Millie Simpson and Dorothy Harden who have retired and Jean Webb who still helps. Another long-serving volunteer, Betty Crompton, is in rehab following a bad fall.

Last week, I wished Mary Gaither a happy birthday, only to have Ange Meoli email that Mary died some years ago. In fact, she did, on Dec. 18, 2012. She was the widow of Bob Gaither, Sr. and mother of Sheila, Robert Jr., Mary Ellen and Edward; and was a grand- and a great-grandmother. She celebrated her birthday with Bob in Heaven.

Mother and daughter die two weeks apart

Irene Thieberger, 99, formerly of Skyline, died Oct. 7 in Lorton. A native of Cleveland, she made her way to Washington as part of the Lipstick Brigade of women supporting the WWII war effort. While working as a Navy Department intern, she met her future husband Fred. They moved to Clayton Lane, just down the street from me.

Their family grew with son Paul. And over the next few years Irene gave birth to two daughters, both of whom were disabled. Along with Fred, she spent the rest of her life caring for her girls and advocating for them.

Daughter Victoria "Vicki" died in 2013, at age 51. Daughter Lori died just 15 days after her mom, on Oct. 24, at 57. Though handicapped, she led a meaningful and active life. She was active in Special Olympics and a medal-winner at the first International Games. She graduated from Key School in Fairfax County and went on to a career at ServiceSource (a leading resource for people with disabilities), working on government contract projects. She loved bowling, dancing, and the Redskins.

Irene's husband of 52 years Fred died in 2007. A native of Vienna, Austria, he was 10 years old when, during the rise of Nazi persecution, he was evacuated to London through the Quaker Children's Rescue program. In time he and his mother came to the U.S. Fluent in German, he began his career with the federal government, retiring as a negotiator for the Defense Department.

Survivors include Paul Thieberger, Irene's son and Lori's brother; Paul's wife Pam (caretaker for Lori); three grandchildren and two great-grands. Irene is buried with Fred at Arlington. Lori's graveside services will be later.

May they rest in peace

Guy Hartwell Trueman, Jr., 95, a 1939 Surrattsville High School graduate who retired from Pepco in 1983 after 41 years of service, died Nov. 6. He was the son of Guy Hartwell Trueman and Cora Grimes Trueman. He was preceded in death by his sisters Kathryn "Boots," Gladys and Sarah Elizabeth "Sister." Services were at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Temple Hills with burial in the church cemetery.

Judith Lynn Miller, 65, a 1970 graduate of Surrattsville High, died at her home in Potomac June 17, of cancer. She was born in Washington, daughter of the late Thomas Vincent Miller and Esther Clifton Miller of Clinton. She graduated from the U. of Maryland, travelled the world and started her own international travel business, Group Trips Unlimited. She's survived by son Jesse Clark and nine siblings: Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., and more Millers: Jonathan, David, Mark, Susan, Cynthia, Melinda, Nancy and Kimberly, nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass was at St. John's in Clinton with burial at Resurrection.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Doyle, Susan McKay and Jon Foster, Dec. 1; John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud and Senator Mike Miller, Dec. 3; Mark Withrow, Jr. and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Eskew) Simms, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Sandra Mickey and Brian Doyle, Dec. 7.

Happy 160th anniversary to my great-grandparents, Dr. Samuel and Sarah Mudd who were wed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 1857.

Bernard Makle (Deceased). She was raised on Horsehead Road in Charles County, Maryland. She attended St. Michaels Catholic Church in Baden, Maryland with her brothers and sisters when she was growing up. During her later years in life she started attending Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland; where her foundation was laid through the mothers/saints of the church.

Minister Forbes wrote "I became involved with the church and began to realize that God had placed a calling on my life. I realized that I wanted to do more. I knew that I loved the Lord and I always wanted to do more and felt the Lord calling me to do more. I always felt a desire and a passion to help others in any way that I could. I enrolled in the (CLM) Certified Lay Ministers classes with my church through the guidance of my Pastor. The CLM are persons who feel a calling to be involved in pastoral ministry as a lay congregational leader. We are also called to be a witness for the growth, mission, and disciple making in our churches and communities. This program is a min-

isterial program in the United Methodist Churches within the Baltimore-Washington Conference. I graduated from the very first (CLM) class offered by the conference in November 2009."

"I served at Christ Church for several years on my journey as a Sunday School Teacher, Evangelist Chairperson, Local Lay Service, Certified Lay Servant, and Certified Lay Minister. I also served at Grace UMC in Fort Washington for several years in various ministerial positions."

Next week Minister Forbes will talk about her life as a Volunteer Chaplain at Charles Regional Medical Center in LaPlata, Maryland.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Congratulations Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church on your 150th Anniversary Celebration. The Seniors 85+ honored and recognized for their continued service were Alice Brooks, Berline Brooks, Loveray Duckett, Elizabeth Hamilton, Alice Myers, Oliver Myers, Arietha Savoy, Ellen Scott, Hattie Shivers, Juanita Turley and Rosie Wilkerson.

Neighborhoods

BGE Joins National Effort to Combat Scammers

BALTIMORE, MD—On November 14, 2017, BGE joined forces, for the second year in a row, with electric and natural gas utility companies across the United States and Canada to help protect customers from the long-running scams targeting customers of utility service providers. BGE and the other Exelon utilities, Atlantic City Electric, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco are committed to educating customers and putting a stop to scamming.

The collaborating energy companies have designated Nov. 15 as "Utilities United Against Scams Day." This day will be supported by a week-long campaign with content focused on exposing the tricks scammers use to steal money from customers, and how customers can protect themselves. The joint effort, which includes utility member organizations such as Edison Electric Institute and American Gas Association, encourages utilities to share these messages to help guard against scam activity.

"BGE proudly partners with utilities across the country to fight back against scammers and help protect our customers from scamming tactics," said Rob Biagiotti, vice president and chief customer officer for BGE. "We want to remind our customers that there may be occasions when BGE may need to call or visit homes or businesses for emergencies or to inspect or install equipment, and these situations can always be verified by calling BGE at 800.685.0123."

When being scammed, a customer typically receives an unsolicited phone call from an individual who falsely claims to be a utility representative. The scammer warns that the customer's service will be shut off if the customer fails to make a payment—usually within a short timeframe through a prepaid debit card.

Scammers have even duplicated the upfront Interactive Voice Response system of some utilities, so when customers call the number provided by the scammer, it sounds like a legitimate business. Some of these scammers also use caller ID spoofing to replicate a utility's phone number.

Red flags for scam activity

- The scammer often becomes angry and tells a customer his or her account is past due and service will be shut off if a large payment isn't made—usually within less than an hour.

- The scammer instructs the customer to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card—widely available at most retail stores—

then call him or her back to supposedly make a payment.

- The scammer asks the customer for the prepaid card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the funds loaded to the card.

How to protect yourself

- Utility representatives will never ask or require a customer with a past due balance to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.

- Customers can make payments online, by phone, automatic bank withdrawal, mail or in person.

- Customers with a past due balance will receive multiple shut off notifications—never a single notification one hour before disconnection.

Don't Get Scammed: Customers can avoid being scammed by taking a few precautions:

- Never provide social security numbers or personal information to anyone initiating contact with you claiming to be a utility representative or requesting you to send money to another person or entity other than your local utility providers.

- Always ask to see a company photo ID before allowing any utility worker into your home or business.

- When in doubt, check it out. Be skeptical of individuals wearing clothing with old or defaced company logos. If you have any doubts, ask to see a company photo ID.

- Never make payment for services to anyone coming to the door.

Any BGE customer who believes he or she has been a target of a scam is urged to contact their local police, and call BGE immediately at 800.685.0123 to report the situation.

Firearms Season Opens in Maryland

State's Most Popular Hunting Season Runs Nov. 25–Dec. 9
by Gregg Botz, MDDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced today that the two-week firearm deer season opens Nov. 25 and runs through Dec. 9. Hunters may use firearms to harvest sika and white-tailed deer during this hunting season.

"The two-week firearms season is our most popular hunting opportunity in the state," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Not only is the harvest during this period a critical part of the department's deer management program, it also allows hunters to spend time outdoors with family and friends after the Thanksgiving holiday."

The bag limits for the season are:

- Statewide: One antlered white-tailed deer. Three sika deer, no more than one antlered.

- Region A: One antlerless white-tailed deer. Antlerless deer season is open Dec. 8-9 on private land and Dec. 9 on public land. Hunters may only take two antlerless deer total for the license year.

- Region B: Ten antlerless white-tailed deer. One bonus antlered white-tailed may be taken per year during a weapon season of the hunter's choice. A hunter must first take two antlerless white-tailed deer and purchase a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp before taking a second antlered deer.

New this year, certain air guns are legal for hunting sika and white-tailed deer during the firearms season. They are defined as any gun that propels a projectile by means of non-ignited compressed air or other gas, with projectiles including arrows, balls, bolts and bullets. An air gun must shoot a 0.40 caliber or larger bullet or ball that generates at least 400 foot-pounds of muzzle energy, or shoot an arrow or bolt at least 18 inches in length with a minimum speed of 300 feet per second. Arrows or bolts must be tipped with a metal broadhead with a minimum cutting width of 7/8 inches. Please note that when checking in deer harvested with an air gun, hunters should choose "other" when asked what weapon they used to harvest their game.

Also new this year, the Apprentice Hunting License Program allows first-time hunters a lower-cost opportunity to explore the sport and tradition with an experienced and licensed guide and mentor.

Hunters are reminded an antler point restriction remains in effect for white-tailed deer. One may harvest up to two antlered deer per license year, which have two or fewer points on each antler present. Any additional antlered deer taken within the legal seasons and bag limits must have at least three points on one antler. Licensed junior hunters are exempt from the restriction.

Hunters should carefully inspect all tree-stands and always wear a full-body safety harness while climbing in or out and while in the stand. The department strongly recommends using a sliding knot, commonly known as a prussic knot, attached to a line that is secured above the stand that allows the hunter to be safely tethered to the tree as soon as they leave the ground.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

ST. PHILIP'S PRAYER BREAKFAST PROGRAM

You are invited to attend our Annual Prayer Breakfast Program Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:00 AM. Theme—"If God Could Speak" with skits, singing and Liturgical dancing.

The address is St. Philip's Church-Baden Parish 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10. Call for tickets (301) 888-1536.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Save the date for Westphalia Church Annual Christmas Concert Saturday, December 16, 2017, Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. More information to follow in a later article. The church is located at 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Telephone number is 301-735-9373.

MINISTER LILLIAN FORBES JOURNEY IN LIFE

Minister Lillian Makle Forbes is a long time resident of Charles County, Maryland. She is the daughter of Mrs. Lillian E. Makle and Mr. Joseph

Wingstop Celebrates First Year In New Carrollton!

NEW YORK, NY—Wingstop, the award-winning concept with more than 1,000 locations worldwide, celebrated their one year anniversary on Thursday, November 16 at its New Carrollton location on 8470 Annapolis Road. Guests were treated to a buffet style meal, which included Wingstop's award-winning chicken wings in 11 distinct flavors. The restaurant is owned and operated by Sizzling Platter, a Utah-based restaurant management company with nearly 400 restaurant units globally.

"We have been welcomed with open arms by the New Carrollton community and it has been a pleasure to serve our guests," said Ted Morton, Chief Executive Officer of Sizzling Platter. "We could not have done it with the everyone's support and want our guests to celebrate this occasion with us by enjoying a special buffet dinner revolving around our wings, sides and everything in between."



PHOTO COURTESY ICR

Guests line up for the Wingstop buffet.

Wingstop is best known for its sauce n' toss method of preparing wings and extensive menu list that caters to everyone's taste buds. The New Carrollton Wingstop's hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. as well as Friday and Saturday, 11:00 p.m. to Midnight.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Does Your Temper Sometimes Take Control?

It's clear we are living in an age of heightened anxiety and stress. News reports are full of events that range from extremely upsetting to utterly terrifying. It's little wonder that many of us feel on edge and easily upset so much of the time.

An unfortunate side effect of feeling stressed out is that it can be easier to become angry over even small things. While your anger might not seem a major problem, if occasionally you become angry enough to strike out, speak violently, or simply seem to lose control, this is unhealthy and dangerous behavior that needs attention.

Anger usually stems from believing that something is "unfair" and believing that you simply "can't stand it" when things are unfair. Sometimes such beliefs are so deep-seated that you react immediately to an event, action or even a statement, not stopping to think about the consequences of your actions.

If your reaction is a physical one, the outcome can be truly harmful, but even out-of-control verbal anger can produce devastating results.

In order to control anger, time is a critical factor. Every second that passes between when something seems "unfair" to you and when you react greatly increases the chance that you will make a wiser, healthier decision.

And while it isn't easy to accomplish taking time to think rather than simply reacting, there are techniques that can help slow you down. The easiest is just to take one or more deep breaths. Because your thoughts of unfairness are what is causing your anger, any thought that replaces such thinking will help. Simply reminding yourself to take a deep breath, or to count to ten when you begin to feel anger, will provide such a distraction.

Some health experts recommend a method called "square breathing." Inhale slowly for a count of five, hold that breath for another count of five, and then exhale slowly. Do this repeatedly until you feel more in control of your thoughts and less angry.

Doing anything that makes you stop and think, rather than just reacting and striking out, is essential to anger control. If you find that you become angry often, and that techniques like deep breathing, or getting friends to warn you when you appear angry, aren't working for you, seek professional help. A professional counselor can offer a variety of approaches that can help you get your anger safely under control.

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

Vets from A1

The EDC has hosted multiple events geared towards providing Veterans and their families with the necessary resources needed to take full advantage of job opportunities. Yesterday's workshop was a

continuation of an ongoing effort to ensure that those who have sacrificed for this country are gainfully employed.

To learn more about job placement assistance in Prince George's County, contact the EDC at www.pgcedc.com or (301) 618-8445.

Tourism from A1

cent from the previous year. Tourism Industry Sales in the County is up 4.2% to over \$2.5 billion. Lodging Sales in Prince George's is up 8.5% to \$540 million. Tourism in Prince George's County supports over 22, 500 jobs and the County has also seen a significant increase in the number of hotels that are under construction or have gone through renovations. This Experience Prince George's campaign will help build on the County's growing travel and tourism industry and continue to make us the 'Place to Be!' in the State of Maryland and the National Capital Region."

"The growth in our travel and tourism market has been very encouraging. Not only are we adding more rooms to our inventory of hotels, we are also upgrading the quality of hotels," said J. Matthew Neitzey, Executive Director of the Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau. "From the MGM and the renovated Double Tree Hotel in Largo to the beautiful ambiance of The Hotel at the University of Maryland, College Park, visitors now have more options with great amenities. We are also fortunate to be the home of some of the Mid-Atlantic's

top attractions, several of which cannot be found anywhere else in the area."

Some of the Experience Prince George's Campaign Attributes:

- New :60 Experience Prince George's video
- Ads on social media
- Pandora audio with banner ads
- Destination Signage within the Washington D.C. metro subway system
- Snapchat On-demand Experience Prince George's Geo-filters
- Destination Signage at National Harbor
- Destination Signage at Reagan National and BWI airports
- Destination Signage/Large Billboard at key locations, on key routes within the Mid-Atlantic travel radius

The Prince George's County Conference & Visitors Bureau is the official destination marketing organization of Prince George's County, MD. Part of its mission is to market Prince George's County as a premier travel destination. To request a Prince George's County Visitor Guide or to learn more, visit www.ExperiencePrinceGeorges.com.

State Department of Health Celebrates Maryland Rural Health Day

Officials Outline Top Three Rural Health Priorities Through the State

By PRESS OFFICER
MDH

BALTIMORE, MD—On November 17, 2017, The Maryland Department of Health celebrated Rural Health Day, along with Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, the Calvert County Department of Health, and rural health advocates. National Rural Health Day was established in 2011 by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" by honoring the selfless, community-minded spirit that prevails in rural America. Governor Larry Hogan signed a proclamation declaring November 17, 2017 as Rural Health Day in Maryland.

"When Governor Hogan and I were sworn in nearly 3 years ago, we said that under our administration, rural Maryland would no longer be ignored, forgotten, or neglected," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "Today, we recognize and honor the selfless, community-minded spirit that is prominent in rural Maryland and call attention to our ongoing commitment to improving rural health, and to addressing the concerns of our rural communities."

Maryland recognizes 18 out of 24 jurisdictions as rural. This number includes counties that are both Federally and State designated rural areas. Many of the rural areas throughout Maryland face similar challenges when it comes to health care. The Department of Health is committed to improving access to health care in Maryland's rural areas and, following a comprehensive review of community needs and initiatives, has identified three priority areas—the opioid epidemic, workforce

strategy, and transportation—to address these issues.

"The Department conducted a six-month review of rural health needs through the state and found similar needs in all of these communities," said Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, Dr. Jinlene Chan. "This is an opportunity to bring together state and local level resources to share best practices and work collaboratively to address the unique needs of rural communities."

The Department of Health has taken a number of steps to address the top three priority areas.

Opioid Epidemic

In 2016, two people, on average, died each day from opioid overdose in the rural counties of Maryland. Access to naloxone, a life-saving drug that reverses opioid drug overdoses, has been expanded through a standing order that allows pharmacies to dispense naloxone to individuals who may be at risk of an overdose or anyone who may be able to help someone who overdoses. Maryland Medicaid began reimbursement for federally funded residential substance use treatment and instituted policies reforming the opioid-prescribing process. The new policy requires prior authorization for all high-dose and long-acting opioids issued to Maryland Medicaid recipients. These are just a few of the initiatives the Department of Health has implemented to combat the opioid epidemic.

Workforce Shortages

Health Professional Shortage Area designation uses a methodology to identify areas of states with a shortage of primary care

physicians, dental and mental health care professionals. In Maryland, 76 percent of all Health Professional Shortage areas are in rural communities. The Department of Health is working to increase providers in rural communities by streamlining incentive programs, including the State Loan Repayment Program, J-1 waiver program, and the preceptor tax credit program.

The State Loan Repayment Program provides student loan repayment to physicians, physician assistants, and medical residents who practice in a rural area or underserved area of the state for two years. Between 2008 and 2017, 61 physicians have been awarded the State Loan Repayment. That is 25 percent of the total applicants during this time period.

J-1 VISAs allow physicians to stay in the United States after their training is completed in exchange for working in a rural health or underserved community for three years. From 2008 through 2017, 187 physicians have been posted to rural communities through the J-1 waiver program. That is 70 percent of the total J-1 recommendations from that time period.

The Preceptor Tax Credit Program is a recruitment and retention incentive that provides Maryland state income tax credit for nurse practitioners and physicians who train students, without compensation, in rural and underserved communities. In 2016, 85% of providers who received this tax incentive were from the rural counties.

Transportation

Transportation barriers are a social determinant of health that

affects direct access to care. Rural communities face this challenge more than any other communities throughout the state. The Department of Health has organized a charted group to focus on the various means of rural transportation, which includes Non-Emergency Medical Transportation.

Through the creation of a Rural Health Charter, the Department of Health will continue to monitor rural health community issues and advances. The goal of the Charter is to improve quality and access to health care in rural Maryland, which will be measured through healthcare workforce capacity, transportation improvements, and funding.

More Information

Marylanders who need help finding substance related disorder treatment resources should visit the following websites: MdDestinationRecovery.org, BeforeItsTooLateMD.org or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009. If you know of someone who could use treatment for substance related disorders treatment facilities can be located by location and program characteristics on our page at <https://goo.gl/aRRExJ>.

The Maryland Department of Health is the State agency that protects Maryland's public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected and visit us at: <http://www.twitter.com/MD-HealthDept> and <http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH>.

Marijuana from A1

about the lack of African-American involvement in the industry.

Of the 321 business owners granted preliminary licenses to grow, distribute or process the drug, 208 were white men or women and the remaining 113 identified as a member of a minority group or as multiracial. Of these, 55—about 17 percent—were black men and women, according to the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission.

"It's shameful in a state like Maryland where we have one-third of the population of the state, one-third is African American," said Delegate Cheryl Glenn, D-Baltimore, chairwoman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

As the General Assembly's January session approaches, members of the Black Caucus told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service they have begun drafting a bill that would award 10 new licenses for growers and processors specifically targeted at African-Americans interested in the industry.

They will move forward with their legislation regardless of the outcome of a Hogan's disparity study, Glenn said.

"I will bank on it that we'll come away from the table with five new licenses for growers and five new licenses for processors that will be awarded based on the results of the disparity study. What does that mean? That means these licenses will go to, in large part, African Americans," said Glenn.

A weighted scoring system will give businesses an advantage of being awarded a particular license if they have a certain

percentage of African-American ownership, Glenn said.

A "compassionate use fund" will be part of the legislation in order to make medical marijuana affordable for patients in Maryland. The fund will be financed based on the fees that licensees in the industry must pay, Glenn said.

"Marijuana is still an illegal drug, according to the federal government. Your insurance will not pay for marijuana even though it is medical marijuana. So what does that mean? That means it becomes a rich man's struggle. We're not gonna have that," said Glenn, whose mother died of cancer and is the commission's namesake.

Marylanders who are insured through the state's Medicare and Medicaid programs will not be covered for medical cannabis, said Brittany Fowler, spokeswoman for the Maryland health department.

The legislation has been numbered Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 2, and should gain initial approval as an emergency bill during a joint hearing by the House and the Senate during the first weeks of the session—which is scheduled to start Jan. 10—Glenn said.

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus said they intend to use the upcoming election as leverage for the bill.

"Next year is election year ... so timing is everything ... I am very, very sure that this is going to be taken care of," Glenn said.

Cannabis companies have said that the drug is likely to be available to patients this month.

ForwardGro Inc., the first licensed medical marijuana grower, successfully passed the

state's cannabis assessment this year, said Darrell Carrington, the medical cannabis director of Greenwill Consulting Group LLC.

Patients will be able to get cannabis in a variety of forms such as lotion, pills and transdermal patches, said Michael Klein, the chief operating officer of Wellness Solutions in Frederick, Maryland.

The industry has been projected to open toward the end of the year, according to Brian Lopez, the chairman of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission.

"The industry is starting to move forward," Lopez said late last month. "We hope we are going to have another 20 to 30 dispensaries by the end of the year and at that point we will have an industry that is starting to receive product consistently around the state. But with that we are going to also, I'm sure, see some growing pains."

Maryland still faces a wide range of challenges as the industry starts up. The commission has not decided how to regulate how dispensaries will serve out-of-state patients, deal with the green waste from the cannabis, or address fraudulent activity within the industry, said Lopez.

"I'm sure we are going to hit road blocks, but we plan to work through them in a very consistent manner and with diligence," Lopez said.

Maryland is considered to have one of the slowest medical cannabis rollouts in the nation, hampered by several delays that arose during the four-year process since it was legalized.

Stakeholders in the industry have pointed to the lack of fund-

ing of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission in its beginning stages, and to lawsuits filed against the commission, as major stumbling blocks.

The Legislative Black Caucus earlier this year asked Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Prince George's, Charles and Calvert, and Speaker of the House Michael Busch, D-Anne Arundel, to reconvene the General Assembly to Annapolis for a one-day session to pass a law expanding the medical marijuana industry. However, the request was denied.

In another lawsuit against the commission, filed in October 2016 by Alternative Medicine Maryland, a predominately African-American owned business, Judge Barry Williams ruled in May that if he finds that the commission unlawfully disregarded racial diversity during the application process for licenses he reserves the right to revoke the licenses of those who were pre-approved.

This could ultimately shut down the industry, according to John Pica, a lobbyist and attorney representing Alternative Medicine Maryland.

Frosh also had said it would be unlawful to seek racial diversity in the application process without there being a history of racial disparities in the nascent cannabis industry.

"While it is still too soon to say for certain when we can expect a final analysis, we are encouraged and grateful to collaborate with these offices as we pursue this important work,"

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Remarks on Use of Nuclear Weapons

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, delivered the following opening remarks Tuesday at a hearing on the authority to order the use of nuclear weapons:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I almost always, in a perfunctory way, thank you for holding hearings but in this case, I really do believe this is a critically important discussion to have, not just with ourselves in the United States Senate but with the American people.

"I must tell you, I am always amazed as to what subjects come up at town hall meetings that I hold throughout Maryland. Most of the topics deal with the local economic or domestic issues. We don't normally get a lot of foreign policy questions at town hall meetings. But as of late I've been getting more and more questions about, 'can the President really order a nuclear attack without any controls?' That question is asked more and more by the American people.

"And of course, it's fueled by comments made by President Trump in regards to North Korea.

"I'm quoting the President in his August interview, 'North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.' Or the President's comments that we'll have 'no choice but to totally destroy North Korea.'

"Now, many interpret that to mean that the President is actively considering the use of nuclear weapons in order to deal with the threat of North Korea. That is frightening. And as the Chairman pointed out, based on my understanding of the nuclear command and control protocols, there are no checks—no checks—on the President's authority.

"The system as it is set up today provides the President with the sole and ultimate authority to use nuclear weapons. And that was developed because of the realities of the security of our country.

"The nuclear command and control system we have in place is the result of three factors.

"The first was the particular threat and challenge of the Cold War. For decades, the United States faced a nuclear-armed adversary in the Soviet Union with a large and capable nuclear force. The United States settled upon a strategy of Mu-

tually Assured Destruction, which placed distinctive demands on our nuclear warfighting command and control systems.

"The second, and related, factor is the laws of physics. An ICBM launched from Russia to the United States has around a 30-minute flight time. There wasn't time to convene a special session of Congress or to have the type of consultations that would infringe upon our ability to actually have a deterrent.

"This means the President and his team have an incredibly short window to identify, assess, communicate, decide, and, if necessary, launch our nuclear forces.

"There was no time for cabinet meetings and no time for consultation.

"The Cold War may be long behind us, but such a scenario, based upon the need to deter a massive Soviet nuclear attack with little or no warning time, remains the driving force behind the current command and control architecture even today.

"The final factor behind the U.S. nuclear command and control system rests with the fact that nuclear weapons, ever since their development, have always been considered unique—not like any other military weapon.

"Starting under President Truman, the point was made crystal clear that the White House was in charge of the atomic bomb and its uses, not the military. Nuclear bombs were not a 'military weapon,' whose use would be controlled by the Armed Forces, but a strategic weapon, under the strict control of civilian and elected officials. The president, as both our highest elected civilian official and commander in chief under the Constitution, played a unique role with this unique weapon. The president and only the president assumed sole and unchecked power to launch a nuclear attack.

"President Truman said, 'You have got to understand that this isn't a military weapon. It is used to wipe out women and children and unarmed people, and not for military uses. So we have got to treat this thing differently from rifles and cannons and ordinary things like that.'

See NUCLEAR Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Oscar Winner Mahershala Ali's Diverse Career, Commitment to Social Justice, Earn Accolades From National Urban League

"I absolutely love this country, but like so many people have some real questions and concerns about how things have gone down over the years and where we're at. And that's from a place of love, because I want the country to be what it says it is on paper. I sincerely believe we have the capacity to actually make this country great. There are enough people, there are enough believers out there, there are enough intelligent, empathetic souls out there that want good for the whole. I don't know if it'll happen in my lifetime, but I believe in time the pendulum will swing in the right direction."

—Mahershala Ali

Academy award-winning actor Mahershala Ali's journey has been one of bridging divides. Between the crime and poverty of 1970s and '80s Oakland, where he lived with his mother and stepfather, and the musical theater scene of Manhattan, where he spent summers with his Broadway dancer father. Between basketball, which earned him a college scholarship, and theater, which captured his heart. Even his name bridges Christianity, Judaism and Islam—his Baptist minister grandmother chose a Hebrew name from the Bible: Mahershalalhashbaz, the second son of Isaiah. He converted to Islam in his 20s.

His impassioned Screen Actors Guild Award acceptance speech was a plea for bridging divides.

"We see what happens when we persecute people. They fold into themselves," Ali said, noting that his character, Juan, in Moonlight, "saw a young man folding into himself as a result of the persecution of his community, and taking that opportunity to uplift him and tell him that he mattered, that he was ok and accept him. I hope that we do a better job of that."

Ali's portrayal of Juan, though he appeared in just 16 minutes of the film, earned him every major acting award including the first Academy Award presented to a Muslim actor.

The National Urban League is proud to be honoring Ali with our Arts Award next week at our Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner.

Reaching the pinnacle of his profession hasn't shielded him from discrimination as an African-American and as a Muslim. He's been stopped and ordered to produce I.D. in Berkeley, and found himself on a terrorist watchlist. "What terrorist is running around with a Hebrew first name and an Arabic last name?" he joked to NPR's Terry Gross.

It was no joke, however, when he skipped the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards ceremony in February because he feared the recently-enacted "Muslim ban"

See URBAN LEAGUE Page A8

Captain Salem Avery House



Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: PUBDOG

CAPTAIN SALEM AVERY HOUSE

The Capain. Salem Avery House is a historic home and museum at 1418 East West Shady Side Road, Shady Side, Maryland. It is a two-story frame building, located on a 0.75-acre rectangular lot, overlooking the West River and Chesapeake Bay. The two-story house consists of the original residence, constructed about 1860, which was later expanded the 19th century and in the 1920s, by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. There is also a modern boathouse built in 1993, featuring the locally built *Edna Florence*, a 1937 Chesapeake Bay deadrise workboat. Open most Sundays, 1-4 pm from April through November, except major holiday weekends. Outdoor exhibits are open daily from dawn to dusk. For more information call 410-867-4486.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Why America May Go to Hell!

I hope you will speak up loudly and do whatever else is necessary to stop Congress' hugely unjust Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that rewards billionaires at the expense of poor babies and corporations at the expense of vulnerable children. Millions of America's children today are suffering from hunger, homelessness and hopelessness. Nearly 13.2 million children are poor—almost one in five. About 70 percent of them are children of color who will be a majority of our children by 2020. More than 1.2 million are homeless. About 14.8 million children struggle against hunger in food insecure households. Despite progress and coverage of 95 percent of all children thanks in large part to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 3.3 million children lack the health coverage they need to survive and thrive. Millions of young children need quality early childhood programs during their critical years of early brain development but only 5 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start serves only 46 percent of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds. The majority of all our public school fourth and eighth graders cannot read at grade level; over 70 percent of Latino and 80 percent of Black children cannot read at grade level in fourth or eighth grades. Every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected and the number of children in foster care is increasing rapidly in some parts of our country from out-of-control opioid use.

And what are our callous and morally blind and money greedy political leaders doing to address grim child survival needs in our wealthy nation? Making it worse by seeking to enact tax cuts for billionaires and millionaires and powerful corporations, hugely increasing the national deficit, and imposing emasculating and deep cuts in essential lifegiving investments for children and families. Both the House and Senate are working hard to move millions and millions of low- and middle-income children and families backwards and to line the pockets and fill the coffers of powerful special interests.

The Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R.1) approved by the House of Representatives and the version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that will be voted on in the Senate after Thanksgiving are massively expensive and morally indefensible new giveaways to the wealthiest households and most powerful corporations at the expense of vulnerable children and low- and middle-income families. Countless children will pay for these cruel tax cuts with cuts in their health care, nutrition, child care, education, housing and other survival needs.

Congressional Republican claims that these massive tax cuts will help the middle class are lies. The Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation says more than two thirds of the nearly \$1.5 trillion cost of the House bill would go to the wealthiest families and businesses. Families with annual incomes under \$75,000 would (on average) see a tax increase in ten years, while families making more than \$1 million would see a tax cut.

Although the House and Senate bills include an increase in the maximum Child Tax Credit, both so-called improvements deny benefits for children in

low-income working families. Under the House bill, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates one in three families would be excluded entirely or only partially benefit from the increase—ten million children in families that work for low pay would be excluded entirely and roughly 13 million more children in working families would receive only a portion of the increase. And more than three million low-income children, many U.S. citizens, in hard-working immigrant families currently benefiting from the tax credit will lose it entirely with the new requirement that all families file their income taxes with a Social Security Number rather than the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number many taxpaying immigrant families now use.

The House-approved bill also would eliminate a number of existing credits that currently help children and families at the bottom and in the middle of the income range. It ends tax credits or deductions for employers offering child care to working parents; high cost medical treatment for children and adults with severe medical needs; reimburse-

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Survivors Benefit vs. Retirement Benefit

Dear Rusty: I am a 58-year-old widow, born in 1958. My husband, born in 1953, was collecting Social Security Disability benefits when he died, worked throughout his lifetime and had earned enough credits to be eligible for regular Social Security benefits had he lived long enough. I know I can start collecting survivor's benefits at age 60, but I'm not sure if that's smart because I'd like to keep working and I'm not sure if working would affect my widow's benefits. I should also mention that I don't have the full 35 years working that Social Security uses to calculate my own retirement benefit amount, so I'm unclear about when or whether to consider switching from survivor's benefits to benefits based on my own work record. Please help me figure out the best way forward.

Signed: A Survivor

Dear Survivor: You already know that you're not eligible for survivor's benefits until you are 60 years old, and your plan to continue working after that does, indeed, add a wrinkle. While you will be eligible to begin survivor's benefits at age 60, the benefit you receive will be reduced to 71.5% of what you would receive if you wait until your widow's full retirement age (FRA). Note too that as a widow, your full retirement age is 4 months earlier than the normal FRA for someone born in 1958 - 66 years and 4 months vs. 66 years and 8 months for the normal.

In the immediate future I suggest you focus on eliminating some of those zero-salary years in your 35 year work record because they will reduce the Social Security benefit you will be entitled to. You said you want to continue working, and for each year you work now one of those zero years will be eliminated and your benefit amount from your own work record will increase. If working provides enough money to keep you financially comfortable, then delaying the start of your survivor's benefit beyond age 60 will improve the reduction factor by about 4.5% for each year you delay, up to your FRA. The actual amount of your survivor's benefit will be based upon your deceased husband's primary insurance amount (the amount of benefit he would have been entitled to at his full retirement age) and the age at which you apply for survivor's benefits. Even if you are still working, there's no advantage to waiting beyond your FRA to start survivor's benefits because the maximum survivor's benefit is reached at FRA. Whenever you apply for your survivor's benefit you will need to apply in person at your Social Security office, and you should be specific that you are applying only for survivor's benefits, not your benefits based on your own work record.

If you choose to start collecting survivor's benefits early and continue to work, Social Security's "earnings test" could affect your benefit. Except for the year in which you attain your FRA, Social Security will take back \$1 for every \$2 you earn above their annual earnings limit, which for 2017 is \$16,920.

Unlike survivor's benefits which stop growing at FRA, the benefit available from your own work record will continue to increase if you wait beyond your full retirement age to start collecting it. In fact, your benefits from your own work record will increase by about 8% for each year you delay beyond your FRA, until you reach the maximum at age 70. A prudent approach might be to continue collecting your survivor's benefits until some years past your FRA (but not later than 70) and allowing your benefit from your own work record to grow. Provided your own benefit is larger than your survivor's benefit, you can then switch over to the higher benefit. In any case, do not wait past your FRA to start your survivor's benefit, nor after age 70 to start your own retirement benefits.

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Marijuana from A3

In 2015, when the commission was recreated as the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, they were given a greater responsibility to evaluate and certify businesses to grow, process and distribute the drug.

The commission received \$140,795 in fiscal year 2015 and \$2,540,331 in fiscal year 2017. The increase of funding over time was used to hire more employees, contractual labor, office spaces that can support the growing staff, travel expenses and to pay Towson University for scoring license applications for the industry, according to Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

When the panel was created as the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission in 2013, its purpose was to oversee academic medical intuitions in distributing medical marijuana. However, the institutions were unwilling to distribute the drug because it is illegal under federal law.

In 2015, when the commission was recreated as the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, they were given a greater responsibility to evaluate and certify businesses to grow, process and distribute the drug.

The commission received \$140,795 in fiscal year 2015 and \$2,540,331 in fiscal year 2017. The increase of funding over time was used to hire more employees, contractual labor, office spaces that can support the growing staff, travel expenses and to pay Towson University for scoring license applications for the industry, according to Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

Governor Hogan Announces Comprehensive Initiative to Boost Computer Science Workforce Development Statewide

Executive Order, Proposed Legislation, and \$5 Million Added Funding Aim to Increase Job Readiness, Diversity in Computer Science Industries

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On November 2, 2017, Governor Larry Hogan announced a comprehensive computer science education and workforce development plan, including a new executive order, proposed legislation, and \$5 million in new education funding.

The governor's plan, known as the ACCESS Initiative (Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide), fulfills the commitment he made in joining the National Governors Association's Governors Partnership for K-12 Computer Science in July. In joining the Partnership, the governor committed to strengthening computer science education across states for all students in order to meet the demands of a 21st century workforce and prepare students for the jobs of the future. Current estimates indicate that there are more than 500,000 open computing jobs across the country and over 115,000 total computer science-related jobs in Maryland.

"For nearly three years, our administration has worked tirelessly to build an unrivaled ecosystem of innovation and economic growth in Maryland," said Governor Hogan. "We want to make sure that Marylanders have the tools and the skills they need to compete for 21st century jobs.

"In this rapidly-evolving job landscape, states that have access to a highly trained workforce will have a major advantage. Maryland simply must continue to lead the way, and closing this skills gap begins with a focus on education. We must spark the interest of students—particularly girls—beginning at an even younger age, and we must inspire high school and college students to pursue careers in computer science," the governor continued.

While Maryland has a highly educated workforce and com-

puter science-related industries are growing in the state, the demand is increasing at an even faster rate, and companies often experience difficulty in finding workers with the necessary training and skills. There are currently nearly 20,000 openings for high-paying computing-related jobs in Maryland—four times the national average—and while computing-related jobs in the state are projected to grow by another 12 percent over the next decade, in 2015, Maryland produced fewer than 3,000 computer science graduates.

The U.S. Department of Labor projects that by 2020 there will be 1.4 million computer specialist job openings in the nation, but universities are only expected to produce enough qualified graduates to fill 29 percent of those jobs. In addition, there is a lack of diversity in the computer sciences sector; in 2015, only 20 percent of computer science graduates were female, and of the Maryland students who took the AP Computer Science exam, less than one quarter were girls.

To help address these issues, Governor Hogan today signed Executive Order 01.01.2017.27, directing the Task Force on Cybersecurity and Information Technology, as part of the Governor's Workforce Development Board, to study opportunities to grow the sector of Maryland's economy associated with computer science and the Information Technology industry. The task force will focus on developing pathways that meet identified workforce needs in computing fields, addressing the challenges facing Maryland's talent pipeline, and encouraging employer partners to invest in Maryland's IT workforce. In addition, the task force will be asked to identify innovative, sustainable ways to promote gender and minority equity in the STEM and IT workforce. Their findings will culminate in a final report due to the governor by June 2018.

"This kind of investment in secondary school STEM infrastructure is exactly what is needed to meet the long-term requirement of cybersecurity workforce development," said Bruce Spector, Task Force member and President of Baltimore Cyber Range. "With the large number of open jobs and the lack of qualified applicants available to fill these requirements we need strategic as well as out-of-the-box thinking. What the Governor has come up with is a great way to start filling the gap. It is a perfect allocation of resources and will pay the State great dividends in employment gains for the long term."

"The National Security Agency recognizes the importance of developing a nation that is cyber-aware and ultimately cyber-secure," said Judith Kain Emmel, Task Force member and Director for State and Local Affairs for the NSA. "With the highest number of designated National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, Maryland is positioned to lead the way in improving the STEM and IT pipeline, which is critical for defending our nation."

The governor also announced that he will be submitting legislation in the next Maryland General Assembly session to implement computer science standards statewide for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This will include: goals of the computer science curricula, strategies for accomplishing these goals, and a timeline to carry out the strategies described in the plan. The administration will collaborate with computer science education stakeholder groups, including teachers and representatives from higher education and computer science organizations in Maryland.

Additionally, the governor will allocate \$5 million to fund teacher training and professional development for computer science and provide grants to Local

Education Agencies and individual schools for professional learning models and equipment.

"Maryland's commitment to an innovative economy is holistic," said Pat Yongpradit, the Chief Academic Officer of Code.org. "Not only is there workforce development to address current needs, but also an investment in the future by ensuring a foundational computer science education for all students."

Finally, in order to specifically promote the education of young girls in STEM and computer science and increase the number of women in the computer science workforce, Governor Hogan announced a partnership with Girls Who Code to create the first-ever Governor's Club Challenge in the nation. Girls Who Code is a national non-profit organization working to close the gender gap in technology fields. The Girls Who Code clubs are free after-school programs that allow 6th- through 12th-grade girls to use computer science to impact their communities alongside supportive peers and role models. There are already 23 clubs in the state, and the Governor's Club Challenge will create a partnership among state and local leaders, school districts, community organizations, and industry representatives to launch new Girls Who Code clubs in diverse communities statewide.

"We are thrilled to be working with Governor Hogan and the State of Maryland to expand computer science education with an eye on gender. The policy changes and Governor's Club Challenge will help build a pipeline of female coders, changing not only their lives, but the lives of those who will benefit from the innovations they create," said Reshma Saujanya, Founder and CEO of Girls Who Code. "When you teach a girl to code, you're giving her a path into the middle class and giving her a say in her future and the future of her world."

Watch from A4

ment for public school teachers who purchase supplies for their classrooms out of their own pockets; student loan interest and other higher education assistance; and help to find jobs. Charitable contributions that help service programs for vulnerable children and families will likely decrease as the percentage of taxpayers who itemize deductions is expected to decline because of changes in the House bill to eligibility for the standard deduction.

It gets worse. Senate Republicans announced this week that they will use their tax bill to continue their cruel efforts to destroy the Affordable Care Act (ACA)'s individual mandate requiring most Americans to purchase health care or pay a penalty as they file their tax returns. This will "save" \$338 billion for the rich and leave millions of children and families without health insurance beginning in 2019 and 13 million children and adults without health insurance over the next ten years while raising premiums for millions more. Savings from the mandate's repeal will threaten

treatment and be used to pay for tax cuts of nearly \$100,000 a year for the very top 0.1 percent of the income scale. A broad group of health care providers and insurance companies oppose the harms it will cause.

Finally, it is critical to understand that the massive and morally obscene tax cuts in the House and Senate bills will require huge budget cuts in safety net programs for vulnerable children and adults. The \$1.5 trillion ten-year deficit both bills will allow will undermine the health and well-being of millions of children and is just Part I of theft from the minds and bodies and spirits and hopes of children. In Part II we will see additional huge cuts in Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, child care and Head Start, education, Pell grants, and other crucial child investments likely to be proposed to pay for welfare for non-needy billionaires and corporate tax cuts. The 2018 budgets proposed by President Trump and those approved by the Senate and the House provide a multilane highway roadmap to eviscerate the basic survival and development needs

of millions of babies, children, and youths hungering for hope.

Although polls reflect public skepticism about these unjust tax cuts for the very non-needy rich, Congressional Republicans and the President are recklessly zooming full speed ahead. Every American who believes in fairness must stand up and stop their indefensible massive giveaways to the least needy and richest among us at the expense of the most needy and vulnerable young and old. A recent CBS poll showed 70 percent said Congress should address other issues before passing a tax bill. Over the Thanksgiving recess and for as long as it takes, make sure your voices are strongly heard by the morally bankrupt leaders who have lost any semblance of our nation's purported commitment to just opportunity for all.

In his last Sunday sermon at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. retold the parable of the rich man Dives who ignored the poor and sick man Lazarus who came every day seeking crumbs from Dives' table. Dives went to hell, Dr. King said, not because he was rich but because he did not realize his wealth was his op-

portunity to bridge the gulf separating him from his brother Lazarus and allowed him to become invisible. Calling for a Poor People's Campaign, Dr. King warned this could happen to America, the richest nation on earth. On the day he was assassinated, he called his mother to give her his next Sunday's sermon title: "Why America May Go to Hell." He warned that "America is going to hell if we don't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life." If this horrifically unjust tax bill passes we will be well on our way there!

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

Better Watch Out

Better Watch out
Grade: B-
Rated R, abundant harsh
profanity, some very strong
violence
1 hr., 25 min

It suffers a bit in the execution, but conceptually, *Better Watch Out* (originally titled *Safe Neighborhood*) is the best twist on the "home invasion" thriller that the sub-genre has seen in a while, a consistently surprising story with more than one jaw-dropping moment.

And the execution isn't bad, either, just clunky at times, with some weak dialogue and an unconvincing performance in a crucial role. Writer-director Chris Peckover, last seen stirring up trouble with the brutal *Undocumented*, certainly has his fiendish head in the right place, and the new film allows for more levity than the last one did while still being pitch-black in its sensibilities.

Set at Christmastime so that someone can eventually be tied to a chair with a string of festive lights (an irresistible image for a provocateur like Peckover), *Better Watch Out* stars Olivia DeJonge as Ashley, a beautiful babysitter charged with tending almost-13-year-old Luke (Levi Miller) while his bitter parents (Virginia Madsen and Patrick Warburton) go to a party. Luke, mature for his age, doesn't think he needs a sitter. Moreover, he has a crush on Ashley and sees tonight as his last chance to profess his love before she goes off to college. Luke is encouraged in his delusions by his best



ROTTENTOMATOES

This holiday season, you may be home, but you're not alone ... In this fresh and gleefully twisted spin on home-invasion horror, babysitter Ashley (Olivia DeJonge) must defend her young charges (Levi Miller, Ed Oxenbould) when intruders break into the house one snowy night—or so she thinks.

friend, Garrett (Ed Oxenbould), who fits the mold of the good kid's troublemaking, kissing-up-to-the-parents sidekick.

While Luke is putting the moves on Ashley (who's preoccupied with her own stormy love life) and Garrett is playing video games upstairs, someone is lurking outside—or maybe inside?—the house. The intruder manifests in the usual ways: a creak here, an open door there. Soon there's no question about it. Something deadly is afoot.

And that's all you'll get out of me, plotwise. With the basic elements in place—babysitter

with boyfriend problems, lovelorn adolescent, comic-relief friend, an empty house—Peckover plays the music as written for a while before veering off into his own clever variations. The girl-in-peril scenario comes to involve issues of masculinity and entitlement, played for laughs that grow darker as the action progresses. Like his characters, Peckover makes some questionable choices that he doesn't seem to realize are questionable. (For example, the parents are given vivid personalities, then dismissed from the film.) But he refrains from show-

ing the graphic, gory details—a sign of restraint.

Olivia DeJonge is stellar as the beleaguered babysitter, vividly playing a range of emotions as her fortunes change throughout the night. Unfortunately (and you hate to lay a lot of blame on a kid), Levi Miller's performance as Luke is a great hindrance. It's a tricky role anyway, with a lot of intensity and layers to it, and Miller (who played Peter in the 2015 Hugh Jackman film "Pan") isn't up to the task. Still, the film's ingenious plotting and wicked sense of humor shine through.

Town Center from A1

"This groundbreaking is exciting and new for Prince George's County and certainly for the Suitland community. Over the last 20 years, there have been many attempts to create the right development for Suitland and we are finally making it happen," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "This new town square will be the spark that will ignite the Suitland community that the residents have been long-

ing for. The economic impact of this project will be tremendous for this area with over \$400,000,000 in construction costs and an estimated 1,200 construction jobs. I have been telling folks to "Buy Suitland" for the last few years and this project will be the foundation of what we hope will be the rebirth of Suitland."

This is the largest mixed-use development ever undertaken by the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County," says Howard Ways, Executive Direc-

tor of the Redevelopment Authority. "It is also the first occasion where the Redevelopment Authority is serving as the master land developer and we are excited about this project getting underway."

The Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center will be constructed in phases. The November 16th groundbreaking began Phase One which included grading and infrastructure construction. In the Spring of 2018, the construction will begin for 219 for sale townhouses by developer

NVR and 137-unit senior apartment building by developer Mission First. The second phase will begin in 2020 with the construction of 538 apartments and 2 Net Zero Energy homes. Phase Three will include 80,000 sq. ft. of new retail space and a Performing Arts Center.

For more information, the media contact is: Alexis Revis Yeoman, Public Information Officer, Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (301) 883-2760 or aryeoman@co.pg.md.us

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is Now Accepting Donations for Warming Hearts and Hands

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

Greenbelt, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is once again inviting members of the education community to donate new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks to help students in need through its Warming Hearts and Hands program. New winter accessories for K-12 and community college students can be dropped off at any of the Credit Union's 12 branch locations until December 9, 2017.

Now in its fourth year, Educational Systems FCU has

sponsored Warming Hearts and Hands to provide students in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties with items of warmth and comfort for the winter months. In addition to Credit Union members and volunteers donating items, Credit Union employees have also raised nearly \$5,000 to support the program this winter season.

"It's so inspiring to see our members and employees embracing this program and making such a difference in these students' lives," said Chris Con-

way, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We started Warming Hearts and Hands because a need was identified in the education community. We heard from the school systems and community colleges we serve that their students needed these items during the winter months."

Educational Systems FCU has 12 branches located throughout Maryland in Annapolis, Aspen Hill, Bowie, California, Cherry Hill, Clarksburg, Greenbelt, Middlebrook, Prince Frederick, Rockville, Upper Marlboro and Waldorf. For directions to the Credit

Union's branches and to learn more about how to donate to Warming Hearts and Hands, visit esfcu.org.

Educational Systems FCU has proudly served the education community for over 60 years. With over \$900 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties. For more information about Educational Systems FCU, visit esfcu.org.

Smooth Holidays

Holiday Havoc? Consider it Handled

BPT)—The holiday season is full of magic and wonder - until your flight gets cancelled, your budget is blown and you fall ill at the worst possible time. Fortunately, staying merry despite common holiday conundrums is easier than you think with the right attitude and a few simple steps.

Here are some of the most notorious holiday hurdles, with practical advice for overcoming them and enjoying the best of the season.

Holiday hang-up: Blown budget

The holidays can get expensive fast. Buying something for everyone on your list shouldn't put you in debt. Instead, think outside the box.

Solution: Organize a gift exchange where each person draws one name and buys one gift. Additionally, consider homemade gifts to cut costs, as well as experiences, like taking kids sledding or ice skating.

Holiday hang-up: Sickness

From holiday travelers being confined in planes and trains to loved ones gathering under one room for festivities, it's no surprise that germs are rampant during the holidays. Germs are not a gift anyone wants to receive and they can quickly strip a joyous occasion of all its fun. In fact, a recent survey by Robitussin found that 68 percent of people have been sick and miserable during holiday gatherings and 24 percent have had a holiday gathering ruined because a family member was sick.

Solution: 'Tis the season of giving, but sharing your germs will get you on Santa's naughty list. One sick person at Christmas dinner can turn into the whole family ringing in the New Year while sick in bed. If you feel ill, be prepared with a medicine like Robitussin Severe Multi-Symptom Cough Cold + Flu, which provides relief for your worst symptoms. If you're still not feeling yourself when festivities are occurring, it's best to stay home. Try putting on comfy pajamas and binge watching your favorite holiday movies while you rest up. Sure, it stinks to miss the fun, but in the long run you're protecting others from getting sick and giving yourself the rest you need to get well again.

Holiday hang-up: Kids get the "gimmies"

Commercialism runs high during the holiday season. Kids' wish lists seem to grow with each passing day. You want them to focus on the "season of giving" and they want to focus on "the season of getting."

Solution: Show kids how good it feels to give back. There are many ways to help those in need, especially around the holidays. Try volunteering at a local nonprofit, donating gifts to a local shelter or assisting an elderly neighbor by shoveling their driveway. Be sure to encourage your kids to participate, too!

Holiday hang-up: Travel problems

Whether it's a missed connection, delayed flight or the weather is too bad to drive, travel is difficult during the holiday season.

Solution: If you're stuck at home, make the best of it with a staycation. Sleep in, make yourself a big breakfast and do all the things you never get to do. Explore the fun that's available in your hometown, whether that's a trip to the museum or splurging on tickets to the local theater. Spontaneous adventures can be some of the most memorable!

Holiday hang-up: You burned the food

Did you mess up Grandma's famous apple pie? Do your gingerbread men look a little deranged? Are your kids concerned that Santa will refuse your holiday cookies? Kitchen fails happen to even the most skilled chefs.

Solution: Always have a backup. An extra store-bought pie or cookies in the cupboard provide peace of mind. Plus, during the holiday crunch, avoid trying new recipes. Best to stick to tried-and-true for the best shot at success.

Holiday hang-up: Unexpected party guests

When your cousin RSVP'd for one but ended up bringing his new girlfriend, there's no need to panic. Unexpected holiday guests can put you in a tailspin, but being flexible is all part of a memorable holiday adventure.

Solution: Don't stress! Now is a good time to remember the old saying, "the more the merrier!" Put out an extra table setting, grab that bottle of wine from the cupboard and slap a bow on the top for a quick gift. Savvy hosts and hostesses will plan ahead by keeping a few extra gifts on hand, so whether there's an extra child looking for a present under the tree or an adult who needs a bit of holiday magic, you're always set with the perfect present.



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDPOINT

The Prince George's Post Your Newspaper of Legal Record

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Calendar of Events

November 30 — December 6, 2017

Home School Science Club: Nature Friends

Date and time: Thursday, November 30, 2017, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
Description: Bring your children to participate in this home-school science club where they will experience nature through multimedia presentations, discussion, stories, hikes, and hands-on activities. Each class focuses on a different nature theme. Class meets once a month for 3 months.

Cost: Resident \$24, Non-resident \$32

Ages: 7–9

Location: Watkins Nature Center

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Healthy Holiday Cooking: Meals Made Simple

Date and time: Friday, December 1, 2017, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm
Description: The Department of Recreation invites you to stay healthy and fit during the holidays with our healthy holiday cooking demonstrations! Enjoy samples, take home new recipes, and learn to prepare delicious meals that are good for you and your loved ones this holiday!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Bladensburg Community Center

4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD

Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

Healthy Holiday Cooking: Appetizers

Date and time: Saturday, December 2, 2017, 12:00 am–1:00 pm
Description: The Department of Recreation invites you to stay healthy and fit during the holidays with our healthy holiday cooking demonstrations! Enjoy samples, take home new recipes, and learn to prepare delicious meals that are good for you and your loved ones this holiday!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

An Old Fashioned Holiday:

Bringing Christmas Past to Christmas Present

Date and time: Sunday, December 3, 2017, 12:00 pm–4:00 pm
Description: Come celebrate the Christmas of yesteryear amid period decorations, special exhibits, seasonal histories, and more. On the weekend of December 9 and 10, return to enjoy special activities for all ages, cookies and cider, and holiday discounts in the museum's gift shop.

Cost: \$5/person, \$4/60 and better, \$2/5–18 years old

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Surratt House Museum

9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD

Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY: 301-699-2544

Annual Holiday Open House

Date and time: Sunday, December 3, 2017, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
Description: Montpelier Arts Center invites families to a fun holiday celebration! Tour resident artists' studios, attend exhibition receptions, shop the pottery sale, enjoy holiday music, and become inspired by art demonstrations.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

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

Seniors on the Move: Visit Museum of the Bible

Date and time: Tuesday, December 5, 2017, All day
Description: Experience the "Book" that shapes history. Museum of the Bible is an innovative, global, educational institution that aims to provide an unparalleled experience. Journey through immersive exhibits with cutting-edge technology.

Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$10

Ages: 60 and better

Location: College Park Community Center

5051 Pierce Road, College Park, MD

Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Publick Playhouse 40th Anniversary Celebration:

Christmas with Santa

Date and time: Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 10:15 AM
Description: The spirit of the most wonderful time of year is overflowing in this hysterical Christmas-wrapped comedy packed with sing-along holiday songs. Two zany and lovable elves, Scrunchie and Bangles, have accidentally misplaced some of Santa's presents. When Santa finds out, he teaches the well-meaning elves that the real gifts of the season are the people and friends with whom we celebrate.

Curriculum Connections: Language Arts (Foundational Skills, Informational Text, Literature, Reading, Speaking & Listening, Writing)

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/person in groups of 20 or more

Ages: Recommended for grades Pre-K through 3rd

Location: Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

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

Healthy Holiday Cooking: Soups

Date and time: Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM
Description: The Department of Recreation invites you to stay healthy and fit during the holidays with our healthy holiday cooking demonstrations! Enjoy samples, take home new recipes, and learn to prepare delicious meals that are good for you and your loved ones this holiday!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Southern Regional Technology

& Recreation Complex

7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Better Bike Commuting With E-Bikes, New Routing Apps and Better Infrastructure

Dear EarthTalk:

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways we can encourage more commuters to ditch their cars in favor of bikes?

Dennis Northrup,
Avon, CT

One of the best things we can do as individuals to fight climate change is to reduce the number of miles we drive in our fossil-fuel powered cars. But replacing those car rides with more fuel-efficient options isn't so easy, especially if you don't live near a transit hub. Given all the new bike lane infrastructure across the country and the availability of battery-assisted bicycles to help you around, there's never been a better time to ditch the car in favor of pedal power.

If you've only got a short way to go, your good old bike might work just fine. But if you need to get further than you're comfortable riding under your own power, why not upgrade to something with battery assistance? You can retrofit your current conventional bike with a battery-powered rear wheel, such as Superpedestrian's Copenhagen Wheel (\$1,499), lovingly referred to as the "Two-Wheeled Tesla," given its sleek design, Bluetooth connectivity and biometric monitoring. Or DIYers might prefer to spend their weekend tinkering

with Aosom's battery-powered rear-wheel replacement kit (\$219) instead.

If you're ready to buy a new electric-assist bike, there's a lot to choose from. Some top choices include Stromer's ST2 (\$6,500), Elby's 9-Speed (\$3,700), the Espin Sport 350W (\$2,000) or Raleigh's Superbe iE (\$1,700). City slickers might prefer Brooklyness' CMYK 5.0 Folding Electric Bike (\$999), which pedal-assists for 50 miles per charge and can fold up into a neat little 25-pound bundle when you get there. Brooklyness is also getting ready to release the first production models of its new helmet design, the Classon, which has sensors built in to detect cars approaching your blind spots, motion-activated brake and turn signals to keep drivers and pedestrians in the know about where you're going, and a video camera to document your adventures.

Another way technology is facilitating bicycle commuting is through the release of various apps to help riders optimize their routing. For instance, Lanespotter aims to be the Waze of cycling by providing riders with real-time data to find bike lanes and trails nearby, filtering mapping options based on other cyclists' routing choices and safety recommendations. If you live in Atlanta, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland



CREDIT: GRINBLOG, FLICKRCC

Battery-assisted E-Bikes, like this "Two-Wheeled Tesla" with the famed Copenhagen Wheel, are helping to bring back cycling as a viable option for commuters looking to drive their cars less.

(Oregon), San Francisco, St. Louis or Washington DC, you can download and start using Lanespotter (free) today.

And then there's bike sharing, a growing phenomenon from coast-to-coast whereby riders can pick up a bike in one part of town and drop it off in another to speed up their commute. New York-based Motivate has designed and implemented bike share networks in

nine U.S. cities to date, with the largest in New York (10,000 bikes) and San Francisco (7,000 bikes). A typical ride on one of Motivate's bikes costs \$3, and many of the systems are integrated with larger transit networks. For instance, Bay Area riders can pay for their "GoBike" using the same refillable Clipper card that gets them onto BART trains and MUNI buses.

CONTACTS: Superpedestrian, content.superpedestrian.com; Brooklyness, www.brooklyness.com; Lanespotter, beta.lanespotter.bike; Motivate, www.motivateco.com

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Nuclear from A4

"Nuclear weapons remain unique, but today we face a different question than the one we faced during the Cold War. Given today's challenges we need to revisit this question of whether a single individual should have the sole and unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack under all circum-

stances, including the right to use it as a first strike.

"The most likely attack we face is not a massive surprise nuclear attack by Russia or China, but a nuclear conflict that springs from an escalating conflict with the smaller nuclear forces of North Korea. In this sort of circumstance, where the United States would not face the same sort of 'use

them or lose them' pressure we faced during the Cold War, it may be both possible and certainly wise for the President to take the time to consult Congress before the profound and historic decision to use nuclear weapons is made.

"I would like to be able to tell my constituents and the American people we have a system in place that prevents an impulsive

and irrational decision to use nuclear weapons.

"Unfortunately, I cannot make those assurances today.

"I look forward to hearing from our very distinguished witnesses.

"I would like to acknowledge Mr. McKeon's presence here as former counsel on this Committee to Senator Biden. It's nice to have him back."

Prince George's County | Department of the Environment | Animal Services Division

All I want for Christmas is... YOU!

Adoption prices	kennel hours
Dogs: \$125 (regularly \$225)	Mon ♦ Tues ♦ Fri: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Cats: \$70 (adopt a second cat for \$25)	Wed: 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
<i>Adoption fee for a second cat is \$25 if both cats/kittens are adopted at the same time.</i>	Sat: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
	Sun ♦ Thur: CLOSED

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please help us place hundreds of animals into caring homes for the holidays.

There is no charge for animals already spayed or neutered. Adoption application must be received during the month of December

All household members MUST interact with your adorable new pet

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