

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 86, No. 10 March 8 — March 14, 2018

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON ROSA

Protesters gather outside the Maryland State House to decry a proposed Potomac Pipeline on February 15, 2018.

Pipeline Protesters Take Frustrations to Hogan's Doorstep

By ALEX MANN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Scores of environmentalists gathered Thursday night in Annapolis to protest a “Potomac Pipeline,” citing inaction on the part of the state in properly vetting the environmental impact of a project that would trans-

port fracked natural gas under the Potomac River.

Protesters focused on the review process. The state, they said, has not conducted a thorough enough review.

Maryland must decide by March 15 whether it will accept an offer by Canadian energy infrastructure company TransCanada to drill a pipeline

that would transport fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania through approximately three miles of Western Maryland into West Virginia.

The project would involve drilling horizontally underneath the river. There are already 23 pipelines that cross the Potomac, according to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Also on Thursday, Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles submitted a letter to the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acknowledging that “the public has raised some concerns about the impact of” the

See PIPELINE Page A5

\$10 Million Dollar Donation to PG County Public Schools (PGCPS) from Kevin Durant

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On February 28, 2018, NBA Superstar and Golden State Warrior, Kevin Durant, returned home to Prince George's County with something larger and more significant than his NBA Championship trophy. This time he came to make a big announcement about a \$10 million commitment to Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students through a renowned college completion program called College Track, as well as The Durant Center, a new state-of-the-art educational and leadership facility.

College Track @ The Durant Center will welcome its inaugural class from Suitland High School. Founded by Laurene Powell Jobs and Carlos Watson, College Track empowers students from underserved communities to graduate from college. Its comprehensive 10-year program from ninth grade through college removes barriers that can prevent students from earning a four-year degree, and prepares them to succeed in the 21st century economy. College Track students graduate from college at a rate that is more than double the national average for low-income and first-generation students. This

marks College Track's first center on the East Coast.

“Kevin Durant's athletic skills and accomplishments are known around the world; however, to Prince Georgians, his compassion, commitment and dedication as a humanitarian is what truly makes him a world class role model to our children,” said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. “On behalf of all the residents of Prince George's County, I want to thank Kevin Durant, his mother, Wanda Durant, his business partner Rich Kleiman, the Kevin Durant Charity Foundation, and College Track for this investment for our County's youth. The Durant Center will have a tremendous and positive impact on our County's next generation of leaders.”

This donation to PGCPS from Kevin Durant is yet another example of the new philanthropic and other significant investments that are being made in the County's school system and its students. From federal grants to philanthropic partnerships, PGCPS has been very successful in attracting new investment. Within the last five years, PGCPS has received a \$25 million grant from the Department of Education for teacher retention. In 2014, Former President Barack Obama

See KEVIN DURANT Page A6

Libraries Surpass Beanstack 2018 Winter Reading Challenge Goal!

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—Can you imagine reading 8 hours a day for 39 years! That's how many minutes the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) in collaboration with almost 100 libraries in the United States and South Korea had participants accomplish together in just one month! These Beanstack library customers

read 84,002 books and nearly 7 million minutes during the first ever Winter Reading Challenge by Beanstack! PGCMLS almost tripled its initial goal of 50,000 minutes to 132,334 minutes, adding to the 2018 Winter Reading Challenge's overall success!

Together, these libraries far exceeded the 50,000 books and 1 million minutes goal set by

See BEANSTACK Page A7

Get Free Legal Advice at Your PG County Library

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

Largo, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has partnered with Maryland Legal Aid to bring its Lawyer in the Library program to our Oxon Hill Branch. These free, one-on-one sessions will be held from 1–3 pm on the following Wednes-

days: March 21, April 25, May 16, June 20 and July 25.

Maryland Legal Aid will provide advice on a variety of civil legal issues including:

- Bankruptcy: A legal procedure for dealing with debt problems of individuals and businesses

See LEGAL AID Page A3

\$4,000 For Scholastic Olympics Champions

Area High School Students to Compete in Spelling, Math, Speech and U.S. History

By PRESS OFFICER
Word Consulting LLC

COLLEGE PARK, MD—High School students in Prince George's County and the surrounding metropolitan area have the opportunity to win cash totaling \$4,000, plus other prizes on Saturday, May 5, at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

Scholastic Olympics celebrates its 8th anniversary with four academic contests—oratory/speech, U.S. history, spelling and math—in a game-show like environment. First-place winners in each contest receive \$500, second place \$300 and third place \$200 before an audience of adoring family, friends and community residents. Students may compete in two contests.

Unique, over-the-top career workshops will be offered to high school students attending the competitions. Students will be guided through multiple interactive activities that will challenge them to dig deep to determine who they really are, to better understand their attributes and skills, and to explore futures

they never thought possible. A panel discussion of young, high-achieving professionals will culminate the session.

The exciting daylong event will end with a “reality check” talk by CJ Blair, a popular motivational speaker who melds biblical truths with the common sense he's gleaned from the streets of Washington, DC, juvenile facilities and a long-haul in the penitentiary. His “Got Gifts” Outreach Program partners with churches, schools, athletic organizations and college campuses across the country.

For the second straight year, Scholastic Olympics is partnering with High Bridge Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on empowering young people from underserved communities in the Metro Washington area. Foundation President Mayumi Hairston Escalante announced her organization will fund the American History competition.

Scholastic Olympics is a 501c3 organization that works closely with the Prince George's County Public Schools and The Maryland-National Capital Park

and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County. Director Tamara M. Cooke Henry, PhD, is working with Troy Spencer, volunteer coor-

inator, and Jamika Whitehead, who is spearheading the Career Workshops.

More than 80 students have won nearly \$30,000 in cash by competing the past seven years.

INSIDE

Shocking Acts of Driver Violence on Area Roadways Cause Public to Wonder if Road Rage is an Increasingly Common Act

Nearly 80 percent of drivers in the United States have expressed significant anger and aggression behind the wheel, according to a research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Community, Page A3

Violence Against Children

Violence against children. For many people the words alone are unthinkable—the absolute worst of what humans are capable of doing. The school shooting in Parkland, Florida is a stark reminder of the violence that stalks our children in their schools, homes, places of worship, streets, and communities every day

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Retains Triple AAA Bond Rating, To Sell Up To \$525 Million of General Obligation Bonds

Maryland is one of 11 states* to hold the coveted AAA rating, the highest possible rating, from all three major bond rating agencies. S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard and Poor's) has rated the bonds AAA since 1961

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Black Panther

Apart from the obligatory Stan Lee cameo and references to the events of *Captain America: Civil War*, you'd hardly know this was a Marvel movie at all: no portals in the sky, no metropolises leveled, no mentions of Thanos or his stupid Infinity Stones.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How did the Global Climate Action Summit coming up later this year in San Francisco come about and what do organizers hope to accomplish?

—Jamie Smith,
San Jose, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

It'll hardly seem like Spring without Johannes, founder of Roozen's Garden Center

Driving west on Allentown Road, I always watch for Roozen Nursery at 8009. It makes me want to plant something. Roozen's—founded 43 years ago—has become one of our best-known, best-loved garden centers.

The founder was Jos Roozen, who died Feb. 8. He would have turned 71 on March 21.

Johannes Gerardus Nicolaas "Jos" Roozen was born in Egmond, Holland, to Hendricus and Elizabeth Roozen. The Roozen family has grown flower bulbs since the early 1800s. Jos worked the family farm, studied horticulture and in 1971, after graduating, moved to the U.S. where he worked at a large garden center.

In 1974 he started a lawn maintenance business in Fort Washington, which led to the founding of the Nursery. His brother Eric joined him two years later.

In 1995, he expanded his nursery to include a saltwater ornamental fish department. It has grown to one of the largest saltwater fish retail stores on the east coast.

Jos' interest in media started while working with the "garden guru," Jack Eden. Together they produced more than 200 hour-long Garden of Eden TV shows, aired across the country. In 1999 he started a show on radio, The Roozen's Garden Show, and in 2005 Rick Fowler and Jos became hosts of Garden Sense on WMAL.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Leo. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Brenda; sons Eric, Robert and Nicholas; and daughter Kimberly; five grandchildren; brothers Nicolaas and Eric Roozen and sister Karin Papis. Services were at Lee Funeral Home with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Among the many paying tribute to him is Jay who wrote, "

Heaven will now have the greenest grass and perfect fig trees."

People

Anthony Simmons is excited about getting his CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and will now be able to drive 18-wheelers. He works for Washrite. Anthony is the grandson of the late Anne and Robert Woods and the son of Dean Woods, all formerly of Morningside.

Phoebe Coleman, a 7th-grader at Imagine Foundations at Morningside Public Charter School is being declared a "Rising Star." She has already acted in films, music videos, theater productions and more. She also composes songs, dances and plays several instruments.

Jeffrey Lee Yates, 1972 graduate of Oxon Hill High School and 1976 graduate in engineering from the University of Maryland died at his Alexandria home on Feb. 22.

Theresa Sullivan David, 60, of Haymarket, VA, a 1975 graduate of La Reine High School and 1979 grad from St. Mary's College of Maryland, died Feb. 21. She was a special education teacher. Survivors include her husband Richard, four children, several grandchildren and siblings.

Condolences to Jean Nichols and her brother Steve, both formerly of Morningside, on the death of their sister Judy, on Feb. 28.

Changing landscape

The Shell station, cleaners, uniform store and 7-12 at Old Branch Ave. and Kirby Road are closed. Coming soon, a Dash-In gas station and possibly a small mini-mall.

A Grand Opening Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was held Feb. 26 for Iron Mountain's New Records Management Facility at the Suitland Federal Storage Facility.

County Exec Baker and other officials were at Suitland High on Feb. 27 to announce a 10-year, \$10 million donation from Kevin Durant to create The Durant Cen-

ter in Seat Pleasant, Kevin Durant's hometown. The Center will be a state-of-the-art educational and leadership facility.

The White House announced it has reached a deal with Boeing for two presidential airplanes for \$3.9 billion. They won't be ready, however, for about five years. Then I'll be able to watch them fly from Andrews, right over my house. Very loud, I bet.

Coming up:

vegetable gardening

"Starting a Spring Vegetable Garden Workshop" will be valuable for you wannabe gardeners. Surratts-Clinton Branch Library hosts the workshop on Saturday, March 17, at 2 p.m. For information, call 301-868-9200.

30 years ago this week ...

... Jean Davis, Morningside's election supervisor, returned from three weeks in Alaska where she visited her brother Jay Hull, meteorologist in Anchorage, and watched the dogsleds take off in the annual Iditarod, the world champion dogsled race.

Morningsider, MPD retiree dies at 90

Milton O. Holmes, 90, of Morningside (Pine Grove Dr.) and Washington, who retired in 1980 as an officer with Metropolitan Police Department-5D, died Feb. 3. Survivors include a sister, three children, three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, two daughters-in-law, and a fiancée. He's also survived by the descendants of Arthur Kelly, Pettie Littlejohn, George Holmes, Hattie Ury and Arthur Dick (who may have been the developer of McKeldin Drive). Services were at Stewart Funeral Home with burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Anna Buck, Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; An-

See MORNINGSIDE Page A8

Neighborhoods

Maryland Lawyers Donate More Than 1 Million Hours of Legal Service to Help State's Underserved

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland lawyers donated approximately 1,150,205 hours of volunteer or pro bono legal services to help the state's indigent population, according to the Current Status of Pro Bono Service Among Maryland Lawyers, 2016 report. The report was recently submitted to the Maryland Court of Appeals by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Approximately 53 percent of the lawyers practicing full-time in the state helped people of limited means and other vulnerable populations with free or substantially reduced-fee legal services. Maryland boasts one of the highest rates of pro bono activity in the country, according to the American Bar Association Center of Pro Bono.

The 2016 report reflects a comprehensive poll of Maryland's 39,800 lawyers, who have been required since 2002 to report their pro bono legal service hours to the state's highest court on an annual basis. The majority of those doing free legal work dedicated from 10 to more than 50 hours. The polling also revealed the longer attorneys were in practice, the more likely they were to engage in volunteering. Solo practitioners and small firm members tended to offer their time and skills more frequently than those in large and midsize firms. Services included rendering legal help directly to people of limited means, assisting organizations serving the same population, giving organizational help to nonprofits, and working with entities on civil rights matters. Overall, those in the more rural parts of the state, such as Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, reported the highest percentage of pro bono involvement.

The report demonstrates lawyers actively volunteer and financially support legal services in their local communities. However, it also reveals challenges, as the types of law many attorneys practice do not necessarily correlate to the areas of greatest legal need, namely family law, consumer law, housing law and public benefits.

To make volunteer opportunities more accessible for lawyers, the Judiciary's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service works with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC), the pro bono arm of the Maryland State Bar Association, and other legal services programs to ensure training, mentoring, malpractice insurance, and service-learning opportunities are available on a local level. Lawyers who want more information on getting involved in pro bono work can contact PBRC at www.probonomd.org or aspedie@probonomd.org.

MD Health Implements Controlled Dangerous Substances Online Application System

BALTIMORE, MD—The Maryland Department of Health's Office of Controlled Substances Administration (OCSA) has launched a web-based system for applicants to renew their Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) Registration online.

OCSA enforces the CDS Act and ensures the availability of drugs for legitimate medical and scientific purposes while working to prevent drug abuse and misuse. More than 43,000 registrants in 29 practitioner and establishment classifications are required to renew CDS Registrations on a two or three-year cycle. Effective as of Thursday, March 1, 2018, CDS Registration renewals will all be issued on a three-year cycle only.

The CDS Registration Renewal System is designed to provide excellent customer service in issuing CDS Registrations. "The Department is always looking for new and innovative ways to make things easier for our constituents. This new registration system couples one of the core components of the State's plan to address the opioid issue with our continued commitment to customer service," said Health Secretary Robert R. Neall.

According to *Maryland House Bill 437* (2016), practitioners authorized to prescribe CDS in Maryland must be registered with the Department's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) prior to obtaining a new or renewal Maryland State CDS Registration. The PDMP was created to support providers and their patients in the safe and effective use of prescription drugs and is part of Maryland's response to the opioid epidemic. The CDS Registration Renewal System also verifies that the applicant is registered with the PDMP during the CDS renewal process.

"The Department makes every effort to assure that we are providing excellent customer service while continuing to protect the public," said Dr. Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services. "The Registration Renewal System is a great example of this commitment."

The convenience of making renewal payments with a major credit or debit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express), 24 hours per day, 7 days per week is one of the main customer service components of the new online CDS Registration Renewal System.

The CDS Registration Renewal System can be accessed at <https://health.maryland.gov/ocsa> or by visiting www.egov.maryland.gov/mdh/cds. For more information about the online CDS Registration Renewal System, contact the OCSA at 410-764-2890.

Hogan Administration Announces Coordinated Effort to Bring 500,000 Meal Kits to Marylanders in Need

Meals Will Be Distributed to Nonprofit Organizations Across the State

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Hogan administration has announced a partnership between the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to coordinate the acquisition and distribution of approximately 500,000 shelf-

stable meal kits, valued at over \$2 million, to needy Marylanders. The meal kits will be given to Maryland nonprofit organizations, including food pantries and home shelters, whose mission is to feed the underserved.

"Our administration is committed to finding opportunities to help those most in need," said Governor Larry Hogan. "This partnership between our state agencies, and with the support and assistance of Maryland's nonprofit organizations, will provide nutritious meals to families in need of assistance across the state."

The distribution of the shelf-stable meal kits was made available through the Department of General Services' Federal Surplus Donation Program. As the designated Maryland state agency to receive surplus property through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), DGS administers the program, which enables eligible, non-federal organizations to obtain surplus personal property no longer required by the federal government, and at no cost. More than 60 nonprofit organizations across the state have applied to receive the meal kits.

"The surplus property program is a great opportunity to get these meal kits and other resources directly into Maryland communities," said DGS Secretary Ellington E. Churchill Jr. "Our agency is committed to delivering essential services to the citizens of Maryland and this partnership does just that."

GOCI is coordinating the receipt of the meal kits with the nonprofits and local jurisdictions.

"Our office is honored to help execute Governor Hogan's mission to support our communities across the state in every way possible," said Steve McAdams, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. "We are thrilled to be a part of this important new partnership and to connect the hundreds of Maryland non-profit organizations we work with every year to the resources they need."

"When we learned of this surplus, we immediately turned to the network of 17 Community Action Agencies in Maryland. These organizations, funded in part by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, run a wide range of services for low-income individuals and families, including food pantries, meals for seniors, homeless shelters and much more," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "This is a terrific opportunity to get this food directly into the hands and mouths of Maryland's most vulnerable populations."

Through GOCI and DHCD's outreach efforts, the state confirmed a critical demand of 500,000 meals equaling 468 pallets or 18 truckloads of meal kits. DGS and DHCD coordinated the transportation of the meal kits from Greenville, North Carolina to Crownsville, Maryland. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank in Crownsville, Maryland has volunteered their facility to act as a distribution hub for nonprofits that request the meals over the following weeks.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CHOREOGRAPHER: KARON JOHNSON

Congratulations to Ms. K. Johnson and students from Gwynn Park Middle and Gwynn Park Senior High School Dance Team for a dynamic recital presented at Crossland High School on Friday, February 26. Beautiful work Ms. Karon Johnson and Gwynn Park Dance Team. Everyone is to be commended for a beautiful, touching and inspirational and superb performance.

All dancers performed in the opening scene. Choreographer: Karon Johnson. Music: *Take My House Back to Africa* and Artist: Palms Down. All dancers performed in the closing scene curtain call. Music: *I'm Black and I'm Proud*. Artist: James Brown.

Mrs. Stephanie Eugene stated that "the village literally surrounds Makayla. Thanks everyone for coming out to support Makayla". Music *Queens Be Like* performed by Dancer Makayla Eugene is a timely and timeless piece of art. Choreographer: Jodeci Millhouse, Artist: Ryan Caron.

Congratulations Makayla on a beautiful performance. Makayla Eugene resides in Brandywine, Maryland and is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene. She is the sister of Morgan Eugene, and

granddaughter of Frank and Gwen Deville who resides in Brandywine, Maryland.

HOT SOUP & SANDWICH DAY

Join New Hope Fellowship Parish/Christ United Methodist Church Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 1:00 PM-3:0 PM for Hot Soup and Sandwich Day. Free for the Community. Please bring your appetite and one canned food item for the Baden-CSSI Food Bank. They will deliver to sick & Shut in and Seniors. Please contact us at 301-653-7345. Sponsored by Outreach Ministry. Phyllis Slater, Chairperson. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. The Church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Telephone number is 301-888-1316.

CHILD WORLD EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The Center offers ABEKA Curriculum, qualified staff, internet monitoring. Find them on Facebook "Child World Early Learning Center". Elementary schools serviced: Rosaryville, Melwood, Barack Obama, Marlton, Patuxent, Arrowhead and other locations. Hours are 6:30 AM-6:30 PM. Ages: 18 months-12 years old.

The Center is "Where your child's development, education, safety, genuine love for them, and fun matters."

The Center is located at 9688 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Visit us at childworldllc@gmail.com or call them at 301-599-7596 or 301-212-0695.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP PRESENTATION

Join New Hope Fellowship in a Grief Support Group Presentation ("Understanding and Coping with Grief") sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Location: New Hope Fellowship/Christ Church Fellowship Hall 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

Facilitator is Ms. Beverly Allen, Grief Advocate. Light refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact Minister Lillian M. Forbes, Evangelism Chair 301-843-1762, Minister Cary Montgomery, 240-381-5914, Sister Wanda Contee 301-404-6513. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. Please RSVP no later than March 31, 2018.

See BRANDWINE Page A3

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

It Doesn't Always Have To Be A Teen vs. Parent Fight

Parents and teenagers are always going to disagree about some things. It's simply the nature of the beast.

You, as the parent, are the half of the relationship with experience, who knows the limits, who wants to protect your child and who hopes to help guide him or her in positive ways.

Your teenager is the half of the relationship who is not only dealing with physical and emotional changes, peer pressure, and the normal developmental growth of desiring more independence, but who has to also put up with all the rules, "those totally unfair rules", that you, the parent tend, to impose.

Yes, some conflict between parent and teen is inevitable, but there are things you can do to minimize the disagreements.

Start by remembering that you are the adult. Stay in control. Your teen may be trying to act grown-up, but often realizes deep down that protection and guidance are needed. Children want to be reassured that their parents are still in control, helping to guide the teen's life and development.

Most importantly, learn to listen! It's easy to be the busy adult, ignoring or misunderstanding your child. Instead, remember your own teen years and try to understand what your child is feeling and trying to communicate. Really listening to your child, understanding and respecting what is being expressed without being judgmental, can help strengthen and improve overall communication.

You also want to set limits, but limits with options. Your teens may argue, but they also understand that there are always limits to what is allowed. Instead of being a dictator, offer options whenever possible that keep things within limits but do allow your teen some freedoms. Choices are important to a growing teen, even if sometimes the wrong choice might be made.

You also want to build a relationship with your teen, not one where you are your teen's best friend, but rather one as an adult who can be depended upon and trusted. Get to know your child, his or her friends, interests and feelings. Let your child know that as an adult you have your own feelings, values and rights.

As teens move toward adulthood there will always be some conflicts and disagreements. But by respecting your child's growing maturity and independence, and showing you're aware of those changes, you can help build a more positive relationship for both of you.

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

Brandywine from A2

STARLITE PERFORMING ARTS

The after school dance program features Homework Assistance, Computer Lab, snack and professional dance instruction. They also offer classes on Saturday. Classes on Saturdays will focus on dancing technique and terminology and learn various forms of dance such as Jazz, Modern, African and Lyrical. They pick up from schools. Sign

up now and be a part of their Spring Recital in June 2018.

The cost is only \$100 per week with a 35.00 registration fee (free Saturday classes included). Saturday Dance Classes are 65.00 per month with a registration fee of \$35.00. For more information or to enroll your child feel free to contact the studio or visit their website at www.starlite-boogie.com 9000B Edgeworth Drive Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743.

Public Forum on Community Empowerment and Police Accountability (CEPA)

Sunday, March 11th, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church
7400 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD

Hear from Mr. Jonathan W. Hutto, Sr., Social Justice and Peace Activist, and Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), Executive Director of Law Enforcement Action Partnership.

Learn about the history and current status of police/community relations in the county and new possibilities for community involvement in policing.

Take part in the discussion about the next step
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.
Park in the church parking lot
or in the adjacent lodge parking lot.

For questions or for accessibility or childcare concerns, email CEPAcoalitionPGC@gmail.com.

The forum is sponsored by CEPA Coalition-Prince George's County, including Prince George's People's Coalition, Prince George's Peace & Justice Coalition, SURJ Green Line, Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance, and Greenbelt People Power. The coalition is on Facebook at [CEPAcoalitionPGC](https://www.facebook.com/CEPAcoalitionPGC).

For community empowerment and police accountability in Prince George's County, please join us at the forum.

Shocking Acts of Driver Violence on Area Roadways Cause Public to Wonder if Road Rage is an Increasingly Common Act

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Shots fired. A woman was shot in a road rage incident during the morning rush hour in Alexandria in July. The suspect was summarily arrested. Unfortunately, it is not an isolated incident, as area roadways sometimes seem like the "wild, wild west" and road rage suspects are arrested and charged with "attempted aggravated malicious wounding."

More and more drivers are "Hulking Out" behind the wheel. As a timely reminder of the inherent dangers, February was "Aggressive Driving Awareness Month." To defuse rage and aggression on the part of other drivers, don't engage and don't respond, advises AAA Mid-Atlantic. Plus be tolerant and forgiving.

Lawmakers in Annapolis are weighing a bill today, *HB 881* that, if passed, would reduce the number of offenses a motorist must simultaneously commit to be ticketed for aggressive driving. It's at least three now. AAA Mid-Atlantic supports the measure. Maryland and ten other states have passed specific aggressive driving laws. On area roadways, enraged motorists are threatening lives in high dudgeon, hurling ethnic epithets and racial slurs in streams of invectives, and even pointing or firing guns into other vehicles with intent to kill or wound during road rage incidents.

More local police department blotters now read "arrest made in an assault with a dangerous weapon in road rage incident." Locally, motorists are wielding knives in fury, brandishing an assortment of other weapons in a frenzy, and slapping faces.

"Behind the wheel, all of us can fall into the trap of being Dr. Jekyll one moment, and Mr. Hyde, his alternative personality, the next. Far too many area driv-

ers are losing themselves in the heat of the moment and lashing out in ways that could turn deadly," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's spokesman. "In the Washington metro area, driver violence, inconsiderate driving, bad traffic and the daily stresses of life can transform minor frustrations into dangerous road rage and aggressive driving behavior. Turn the other cheek, and avoid the temptation to get even, seek revenge or intimidate aggressive drivers."

Speeding is one of the most prevalent aggressive behaviors behind the wheel. Some drivers are deadly devils in disguise. For example: in December, an Alexandria man fired and struck another vehicle during a road rage incident on Interstate 395. The suspect was "charged with brandishing a firearm and shooting at an occupied vehicle."

Nearly 80 percent of drivers in the United States have expressed significant anger and aggression behind the wheel, according to a research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Over six million crashes in the United States are caused by road rage, estimates the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "Aggressive driving accounts for more than half of all traffic fatalities" nationally, highway safety advocates warn. Male drivers of the species, between the ages of 25 and 34 years, are involved in the highest number of fatalities and serious injuries related to aggressive driving. In contrast, it is male drivers ages 21 to 34 in Maryland.

Statewide, 61.4 percent of aggressive driving fatalities occur in Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and Baltimore City, reveals the Maryland Highway Safety Plan.

Disquieting examples of driver violence on area roads include:

- The Maryland State Police arrested a driver from Virginia earlier this month after he reportedly pointed a gun at an-

other vehicle on Interstate 95 near Laurel, Maryland. The suspect was taken into custody "in connection with a suspected road rage incident."

- A month earlier, another Virginia man was accused of shooting into a car during a road rage incident in Powhatan, Virginia.

- In December, the driver of a BMW reportedly attempted to ram his vehicle into a young driver who stopped his vehicle along on Route 198 in Prince George's County.

- In October, the Maryland State Police arrested a man in connection with the stabbing of a passenger in a Silverado pickup truck on the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200. Maryland State Troopers say the incident occurred on the "ramp from the ICC to northbound I-95 during rush hour traffic." The accused 49-year-old suspect was charged with "attempted second-degree murder, first-and second-degree assault, reckless endangerment, possession of a dangerous weapon with intent to injure, concealing a dangerous weapons and disturbing the peace."

- A road rage incident reportedly spilled over into a home invasion incident in Woodbridge in October 2017. Two residents were assaulted inside a home by three persons who followed them there after the alleged road rage incident.

- In July 2017, a Stafford man was charged with assault in a road rage incident that spilled over into a parking lot of a convenience store on Route 3. The "Hulk mode" suspect was charged after reportedly throwing a broom at another vehicle.

- A female driver assaulted and stabbed another driver with a knife during a road rage incident in the 1800 block of East Capitol Street, Northeast, on October 4, 2016. "The suspect produced a knife, stabbed the victim, and then fled the scene in her vehicle."

"It's completely normal for drivers to experience anger

behind the wheel, but we must not let our emotions lead to destructive choices," said Townsend. "Don't risk escalating a frustrating situation because you never know what the other driver might do. Maintain a cool head and a cool hand, and focus on reaching your destination safely."

The most alarming findings regarding driver violence suggest that approximately eight million U.S. drivers engaged in some type of road rage, including purposefully ramming another vehicle or getting out of the car to confront another driver.

- Aggressive driving behavior is described as:
- Cutting off another vehicle on purpose.
 - Trying to block another vehicle from changing lanes.
 - Making angry gestures.
 - Honking to show annoyance or anger.
 - Weaving in and out of traffic.
 - Running red and yellow traffic lights.
 - Purposefully tailgating or following too closely.

Rage and aggression on roadways are more common occurrences than previously thought. From 2009–2013, approximately 6,000 aggressive driving crashes occurred yearly in Maryland.

Given this:

- Don't Offend: Never cause another driver to change their speed or direction. That means not forcing another driver to use their brakes, or turn the steering wheel in response to something you have done.

- Be Tolerant and Forgiving: The other driver may just be having a really bad day. Assume that it's not personal.

- Do Not Respond: Avoid eye contact, don't make gestures, maintain space around your vehicle and contact 911 if needed.

Drivers who reported other unsafe behaviors behind the wheel, such as speeding and running red lights, also were more likely to show aggression, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic.

Legal Aid from A1

- Child Custody and Support
- Debt Collection: To collect a debt or obtain payment; to recover goods sold on credit or in installments when the buyer fails to pay for them
- Expungements: Removing convictions from criminal records
- Government Benefits
- Housing
- Landlord/Tenant
- Veterans' Benefits: There are federal and state statutes that provide benefits, privileges and preferences for the welfare of veterans and their dependents.
- Wage Claims

PGCMLS South Area Manager Melanie Townsend Diggs commented, "I have first-hand experience with the program and the benefits that it offers. It is truly a life-changing opportunity for those in need of legal services, but who cannot otherwise afford it."

"Bringing Lawyer in the Library to the Oxon Hill Library is a special opportunity for us," said Gustava "Gusty" Taler, Esq. Chief Operating Officer for Maryland Legal Aid. "Not only do we get to work with Melanie again, but we also get to expand our services in Prince George's County. In addition to our longstanding full-service office in Landover, we maintain partnerships with the One-Stop Center in Largo and the Family Justice Center in Upper Marlboro, where we co-locate our legal staff. Being able to offer the Lawyer in the Library program in Prince George's County brings our service delivery system to a new level."

About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library So-

lution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, Artist-Works for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to people who are in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties

from 12 offices. The firm handles cases involving a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, education, employment, and consumer law. Maryland Legal Aid also represents children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings in 12 Maryland jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects. Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative, which includes its Lawyer in the Library program, assists with expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody through clinics held in community centers, non-profit organizations, places of worship, schools, and other gathering places.

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

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Doubles Down on Efforts to Protect Consumers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), member of the Senate Banking Committee, has joined Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Ranking Member of the Committee, and 50 Members of Congress to demand answers on reports that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) intends to re-organize the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO) and strip OFLEO of its enforcement and supervisory role. This letter follows a letter sent by Senators Van Hollen and Cardin last week, highlighting the impact unfair lending has had on Baltimore, especially in the lead-up to the financial crisis.

The 2008 financial crisis showed us that housing discrimination can come in many forms, most notably in predatory lending. *The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010* directed the CFPB to create OFLEO with duties including “providing oversight and enforcement of Federal laws intended to ensure the fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to credit for both individuals and communities that are enforced by the Bureau.” Congress created OFLEO, in large part, to combat predatory mortgage lending practices targeted at racial and ethnic minorities and traditionally underserved communities that fueled a mass foreclosure crisis and severely worsened inequality across racial and ethnic lines by destroying almost half the wealth in communities of color during the financial crisis.

“The possibility that the CFPB might stray from carrying out its responsibilities to enforce fair lending laws is especially worrisome in light of proposed legislation that would open the door to increased discrimination in mortgage lending,” the Members wrote.

Joining Van Hollen and Brown on the letter are ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Michael Capuano (D-Mass.), Charlie Crist (D-Fla.), Vicente Gonzalez (D-Tex.), Raul Grijalva (D-Tex.), Denny Heck (D-Wash.), Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.), Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), Al Green (D-Tex.), Luis Guterrez (D-Ill.), Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.), Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.), Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.), Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), Mark Takano (D-Calif.), Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), John Garamendi (D-Calif.), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.), Jim Himes (D-Conn.).

The full text of the letter is follows:

Dear Ms. English and Mr. Mulvaney:

Just ten years after a financial crisis that destroyed trillions of dollars in housing wealth and devastated traditionally underserved communities targeted by predatory lenders, we are troubled by reports that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB or Bureau) intends to reorganize the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO or Office) and strip the Office of its en-

See **PROTECT CONSUMERS** Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Nothing Stands in the Way of Gun Reform But Lack of Courage and Political Will—the Teens of Parkland Have Both

“This is our first task, caring for our children. It’s our first job. If we don’t get that right, we don’t get anything right. That’s how, as a society, we will be judged. And by that measure, can we truly say, as a nation, that we’re meeting our obligations? Can we honestly say that we’re doing enough to keep our children, all of them, safe from harm?”

—President Barack Obama, *prayer vigil for victims of Newtown shooting, 2012.*

Nearly 20 years ago, in the wake of what was then the worst school mass shooting, I led a bipartisan group of mayors urging Congress to pass major gun reform legislation.

The Gun Violence Task Force of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, of which I was President, called for reforms including raising the minimum age for purchasing and possessing a handgun from 18 to 21, requiring background checks at gun shows and limiting gun purchases to one a month per individual.

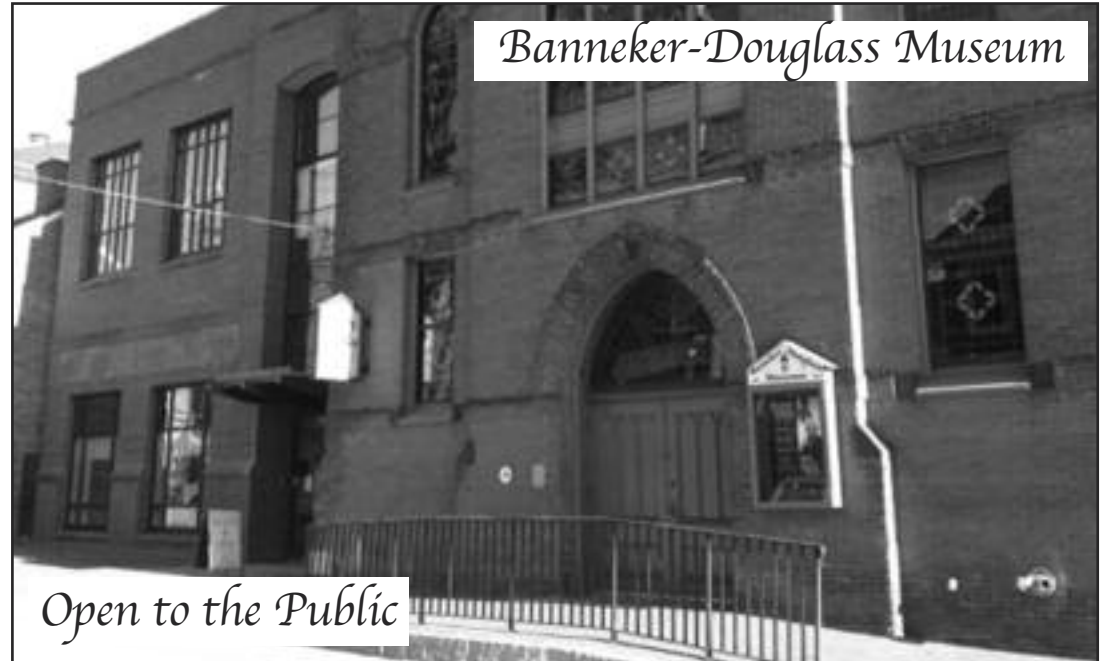
As horrified as we were then, just after the Columbine shooting in 1999, we could not have imagined the next 19 years would bring not reforms, but even more lenient gun laws; another 200-plus school shootings, and more than 122 students, teachers and coaches slain.

The Everytown for Gun Safety coalition, to which National Urban League belongs, has tallied the number of school shootings so far in 2018 at 17. The number is disputed by those who believe accidental gunfire should not be counted, but what a tragic statistic over which to haggle.

Mass shootings garner headlines but gun violence kills an average of 96 Americans every single day. We need reform at every level. The National Urban League supports:

- a criminal background check for every gun sale. States that require background checks for all handgun sales see about half the rate of firearm deaths among domestic violence victims, law enforcement in the line of duty and suicides, and about half as much gun trafficking in cities.
- renewal of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, commonly known as the assault weapons ban. The AR-15 rifle, used in many of the deadliest recent mass shootings, uses 30-round magazines, allowing a shooter to fire about a hundred rounds per minute.
- keeping guns out of the hands of convicted domestic abusers. Half the women killed with guns in the U.S. are murdered by their partners—about 50 women every month. More than half of mass shootings involved the killing of a partner or relative.
- education, technology and laws that keep guns out of the hands of children. American children are 16 times more likely to die via gunshot than in other developed countries, usually as a result of playing with a gun in their own homes.
- a strong federal trafficking law to crack down on illegal gun trafficking networks. Ninety percent of the guns found at crime scenes in New York City were originally bought out of state and brought to the city illegally. The current law that prohibits “selling guns without a federal license,” carries the same punishment as trafficking chicken or livestock.

For those of us who’ve long been engaged in the fight to reform our nations gun laws, the movement that has arisen in the wake of last week’s Parkland, Florida, shooting has brought both inspiration and hope. Nothing stands in the way of common sense reform but our own lack of courage and political will. The teenagers of Parkland have both.



Banneker-Douglass Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ANONYMOUS

BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, located in Annapolis, maintains the state’s official collection of African-American history and culture. Named for Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, this former AME church-now museum hosts lectures, workshops, performances, and multiple exhibits. The museum is open Tuesdays–Saturdays, 10am through 4pm. Admission to the museum is free. Scheduled guided tours and site rentals are available for a fee. Contact the museum at 410.216.6180 or at bannekerdouglassmuseum@gmail.com for further information.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Violence Against Children

“We see things that adults sometimes can’t see.”

—Child participant, United Nations Study on Violence against Children

Violence against children. For many people the words alone are unthinkable—the absolute worst of what humans are capable of doing. The school shooting in Parkland, Florida is a stark reminder of the violence that stalks our children in their schools, homes, places of worship, streets, and communities every day. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students’ brave and inspiring response has reminded us all that adults must take action now to protect our children. The politicians and powerful gun industry lobbyists who are stonewalling reforms and now criticizing and seeking to silence young voices are absolutely shameful. Today our children are leading and we should follow them as it is their lives that are at risk. Tomorrow they will be voters and the elected officials we need to move us forward and we must act now.

Pervasive gun violence against children is a uniquely shameful all-American epidemic. Consider that since 1963, over three times more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers were killed by hostilities in wars abroad. On average 3,426 children and teens—171 classrooms of 20 children—were killed by guns every year from 1963 to 2016. And gun violence comes on top of other major threats of global violence that threaten our children.

The new book *Violence Against Children: Making Human Rights Real*, edited by long-time scholar and advocate Gertrud Lenzer with contributions from authors in many fields, looks at global violence against children in many forms and what we can do to stop it. The book’s foreword is by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the independent expert for the United Nations Secretary-General’s landmark Study on Violence against Children. It begins: “The UN Study on Violence against Children revealed how millions of children almost everywhere have been left behind in their recognition

as rights holders and in their protection from violence. It revealed how the history of violence against children is a history of silence. Since the UN Study was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006, important developments have been achieved ... [yet] today more than 1 billion children around the world continue to suffer multiple forms of violence in the home and family, in schools, in care and justice institutions, in workplaces, in the community and in cyberspace. The international community cannot remain silent and passive; it is time to stop the history of silence and impunity that surrounds violence against children.”

Dr. Lenzer’s *Violence Against Children* is another call to action shattering that silence. A comprehensive global overview on all forms of violence against children and its prevention, this book is on not just physical violence but structural violence. Both hit close to home for millions of American children. Along with physical abuse, sexual abuse, and gun violence, the assaults of child poverty, homelessness, the structural deficiencies of foster care and our juvenile justice systems, the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis, and youth pris-

ons are all pervasive forms of violence against children. Never has there been such a great need in our own nation to protect children from the growing hate and harms facing them.

I was grateful to be able to contribute a chapter to this new book on the violence of child poverty. Coretta Scott King once said, “I must remind you that starving a child is violence.” Child poverty is one of the strongest predictors of poor outcomes in children. It hurts children physically, emotionally, and socially and leaves scars that often last a lifetime. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to be hungry, to experience homelessness, unstable or dangerous housing, to live in a violent neighborhood, to have unmet health needs, and to attend a low-performing and often an unequally funded school. All these substantially affect their abilities to emerge from childhood ready and able to succeed in life. As the Children’s Defense Fund just outlined in our *The State of America’s Children 2017* report, in the United States—the world’s largest economy—there are more than 13.2

See **WATCH**, Page A8

The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2018, The Prince George’s Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty — Working Internationally and Social Security

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: For a number of years I lived and worked in Germany. I paid into their version of social security. As far as I know I will be eligible to receive German benefits either in a lump sum or monthly amount when I reach the age of 65. If that happens can you tell me how this will affect my social security benefits?

Signed: International worker

Dear International Worker: Germany is one of the 24 countries with which the U.S. has a bilateral agreement, also known as a "totalization agreement." This means that your contributions to the German retirement system can be coordinated with your U.S. Social Security contributions to help you qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits. What happens is that you receive U.S. Social Security credit for your contributions to the German equivalent program, to help you gain enough credits to receive U.S. Social Security benefits. The US/Germany agreement has two main purposes:

- First, it eliminates dual Social Security taxation; a situation which occurs when a worker from one country works in the other country and would otherwise be required to pay Social Security taxes to both countries on the same earnings.

- Second, the agreement helps fill gaps in benefit protection for workers who have divided their careers between the U.S. and Germany (or any of the other countries with which there is an agreement).

When a worker has some U.S. coverage but not enough to qualify for benefits, the Social Security Administration will count periods of coverage that the worker has earned under the German Social Security program. Germany will also take into account a worker's coverage under the U.S. program if it is needed to qualify for that country's Social Security benefits. If the combined credits in the two countries enable the worker to meet the eligibility requirements, a partial benefit can then be paid. The agreement allows the Social Security Administration to "totalize" U.S. and German coverage credits only if the worker has at least 6 quarters of U.S. coverage. Similarly, a person may need a minimum amount of coverage under Germany's system in order to have U.S. coverage counted toward meeting the German benefit eligibility requirements. Click on this link to learn all you need to know about the US/Germany totalization agreement: https://www.ssa.gov/international/Agreement_Pamphlets/germany.html

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

Protect Consumers from A4

forcement and supervisory role. We are concerned that in taking these actions, you will frustrate the CFPB's efforts to ensure all "consumers are protected from unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts and practices and from discrimination."

As you know, the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010* directed the Bureau to create the OFLEO with duties including "providing oversight and enforcement of Federal laws intended to ensure the fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to credit for both individuals and communities that are enforced by the Bureau." Congress created OFLEO, in large part, to empower it with the tools to combat predatory mortgage lending practices targeted at racial and ethnic minorities and traditionally underserved communities that fueled a mass foreclosure crisis, and severely worsened inequality across racial and ethnic lines by destroying almost half the wealth in Black and Latino communities during the financial crisis.

Laws that prohibit discrimination in consumer financial markets, like other consumer protection laws, were not prioritized by regulators before the financial crisis. As a result, financial institutions were able to sell consumers dangerous products that fueled the Great Recession. While Mr. Mulvaney once blamed the predatory lending occurring in the mid-2000s on CFPB inaction—notwithstanding the fact that the Bureau did not even exist until 2011—that economic disaster was the result of the same regulatory indifference he is displaying today.

Under prior leadership, CFPB staff were vigilant in protecting racial, ethnic, and other minorities from discrimination by unscrupulous lenders. From its inception through 2016, CFPB had obtained over \$400 million for harmed consumers in fair lending supervisory and enforcement actions. OFLEO played a pivotal role in these actions. For example, the Office led the CFPB's 2015 case against Hudson City Savings Bank for discriminatory redlining practices that denied residents in communities of color access to mortgage loans. In 2013, the Office led the CFPB's case against Ally Financial for systematically charging racial and ethnic minorities higher interest rates on their car loans. These two actions collectively resulted in orders of more than \$130 million for con-

See PROTECT CONSUMERS Page A7

Maryland Retains Triple AAA Bond Rating, To Sell Up To \$525 Million of General Obligation Bonds

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD— Maryland State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp announced today that all three major national bond rating agencies have re-affirmed the State's strong AAA bond rating, all with stable outlooks, in preparation for the upcoming competitive sale of State General Obligation Bonds on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

Maryland is one of 11 states* to hold the coveted AAA rating, the highest possible rating, from all three major bond rating agencies. S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard and Poor's) has rated the bonds AAA since 1961. Moody's Investors Service has assigned the bonds a rating of Aaa since 1973, and Fitch Ratings has rated the bonds AAA since 1993.

Treasurer Kopp said, "We are pleased and proud that Maryland continues to be recognized as a strong AAA State. The retention of an AAA rating from all three major bond rating firms is an affirmation of our State's longstanding commitment to prudent and proactive financial management and continuing overall fiscal strength. The rating agencies recognize the contribution of our diverse economy, well-educated workforce, and above-average wealth and income levels to the overall quality of an investment in Maryland."

"The taxpayers of Maryland will continue to save millions of dollars as they benefit from lower interest rates prompted by these AAA ratings. This achievement allows us to continue to invest in our communities, notably our schools, libraries, institutions of higher education, healthcare facilities and cultural projects important to the residents of our State," Treasurer Kopp added.

Fitch, in assigning its AAA rating and stable outlook, said: "Maryland's 'AAA' Issuer

Default Rating (IDR) reflects its broad, diverse and wealthy economy, extensive budget controls and sound financial operations, and strong management of debt."

Fitch Ratings further noted: "Fiscal management is very strong, with consensus-oriented

long-term planning and multiple sources of flexibility including a consistently solid budgetary reserve and a demonstrated ability to adjust spending to address changing circumstances. Although liabilities are elevated for a state, they are moderate relative to resources and carefully managed."

Moody's, in explaining its Aaa rating and stable outlook said "The state has strong budgetary and financial management practices and a history of proactive initiatives in response to economic cycles." While Moody's acknowledged "[a] relatively high debt and pension burden leads to high fixed costs compared to peers and will continue to test the state's commitment to reducing its long term liabilities while providing the level of services expected by its residents[.]" they also noted "[t]he state's proactive fiscal management enables it to make midcourse corrections and weather economic cycles. It has often taken difficult actions to strengthen the foundation for long term fiscal sustainability."

In assigning its AAA long-term rating and stable outlook, S&P Global Ratings said: "The 'AAA' GO rating reflects what we view as Maryland's: Broad and diverse economy, which continues to post slow growth due to federal budget uncertainty and sequestration; Strong wealth and income levels relative to those of the nation; Long history of proactive financial and budget management, including implementation of frequent and timely budget adjustments to align revenues and expenditures and long-term financial planning that should continue to be helpful in addressing future budget challenges; and Well-developed debt management practices with a moderate debt burden for most measures and rapid amortization, although long-term pension and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities are relatively high, in our opinion."

S&P Global Ratings further stated: "The stable outlook reflects Maryland's continued focus on structural budget alignment and maintenance of minimum state reserves at levels we con-

sider good, despite continued slow economic growth. The state's continued practice of making proactive midyear adjustments to align the budget in case of slower-than-anticipated revenue growth will remain an important credit factor over the two-year outlook horizon, given Maryland's above-average economic dependence on federal government employment and spending."

All three rating agencies praised Maryland's history of strong, sound financial management. In addition to listing "Proactive financial management" as a credit strength, Moody's observed "Maryland's financial practices and flexibility are very strong. For example, the state has a binding consensus revenue forecast, multiyear financial planning, and its Board of Public Works, consisting of the Governor, the Comptroller and the Treasurer, is able to respond swiftly to mid-year budget challenges. The state also has no tax and spending limitations or supermajority requirements limiting its flexibility."

S&P Global Ratings assigned a rating of "strong" to Maryland's financial management practices, noting that such a designation "indicates that practices are strong, well embedded and likely sustainable" and recognized that "[a]lthough Maryland's economic growth is slow, we believe the state continues to demonstrate strong revenue and budget monitoring practices with a track record of making proactive expenditure adjustments midyear when required."

In assessing Maryland's operating performance, Fitch concluded: "Financial resilience is exceptionally strong, with a well-funded budgetary reserve and a willingness to trim spending commitments and increase revenues in response to changing circumstances. Multi-year forecasting and planning are discipline ... Consensus-oriented practices ensure steady management of budgetary conditions and liabilities."

Each of the rating agencies commented on the State's long-term pension liabilities as well as efforts undertaken to improve funding levels. While noting that "[t]he financial condition of

Maryland's retirement system represents the state's most significant credit challenge," Moody's recognized the State's many efforts to manage its pension burden as "[d]emonstrating its proactive management approach." Fitch Ratings noted, "[p]ensions are a comparative credit weakness in Maryland, although the state has taken repeated action since 2011 to revise benefits and contributions practices" and "to improve pension sustainability and accelerate funded ratio improvement over time." S&P indicated "[w]e consider the state's overall three-year average pension funded ratio relatively low at 68%, which incorporates the system's 69% funded position in fiscal 2017" but noted they "expect to monitor the state's future adherence to its revised pension funding policy to budget for actuarially based pension contributions and demonstrate strong funding discipline and commitment to funding the long-term liability."

The bond sale will include two competitive bids which are expected to be sold to institutions. The sale will include \$475 million of tax-exempt bonds and \$50 million of taxable bonds.

As has always been the case with the issuance of Maryland's tax-exempt General Obligation Bonds, the State uses the proceeds to finance necessary capital projects, such as schools, community colleges, university projects and hospitals. The taxable bonds will support important environmental and housing programs in Maryland.

The Maryland Board of Public Works, composed of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Comptroller Peter Franchot, and Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp, will preside over the competitive bond sale on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 in the Assembly Room in the Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis.

The Maryland State Treasurer's Office expects to conduct another bond sale in July or August 2018.

* *The other 10 states with AAA ratings from all three rating agencies are Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.*

Pipeline from A1

Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project "on the environment and public health."

His letter also instructed Corps of Engineers to halt its review of the application until the state's Department of the Environment concludes its review.

Too little, too late, as far as some protesters were concerned.

"He's making like he's just heard of" public outcry, said Ann Bristow of Garrett County—Maryland's westernmost jurisdiction. But he's been made aware of it on multiple occasions, she said.

Grumbles told Capital News Service on Tuesday that the state is conducting a "robust review," and is "absolutely committed" to protecting the environment.

"Any pipeline that's built in the state is subject to stringent regulation and safeguards," Grumbles said. "We're in the process of developing safeguards and review" for the Potomac Pipeline.

A marching, Maryland-flag-toting bagpiper played "Scotland the Brave," as crowds of protesters encircled Gov. Larry Hogan's mansion Thursday evening, jeering "Don't take the bribe! No Potomac Pipeline!"

"Now that (Hogan is) threatening our homes," said Brook Harper, Maryland policy director for Chesapeake Climate Action Network, at the rally Thursday, "I think it's time we surround his."

The group was largely bused in from Western Maryland and from West Virginia.

Protesters sent a clear message: The environmental and health risks of the pipeline outweigh the potential benefits—which many in attendance said they were uncertain of.

"We need to leave our rivers alone," said Matt Seubert of Frederick, Maryland. "They've suffered so much damage over the years, we need to be restoring them instead of destroying them or digging under them."

Seubert added: "Clean water is the 21st century's oil. We can't play games with it."

The protest followed a teleconference Tuesday, during which legislators and environmental organization leaders accused Hogan of keeping the public in the dark throughout negotiations with energy company TransCanada and potentially undermining the drinking water supply of roughly 6 million in the Washington area.

Grumbles tuned in to the teleconference and was "really dis-

appointed by the extreme" nature of the conversation, he told Capital News Service.

Grumbles called the conference "political and premature" and said their "basic viewpoint is that if you ban fracking you have to ban the use of natural gas infrastructure."

But, he said, "natural gas is a bridge fuel to cleaner energy."

Protesters disagreed, arguing that the administration should instead focus its resources on clean and renewable energy.

Last year, Maryland increased its renewable energy portfolio goals to 25 percent by 2020.

Protesters had mixed suggestions on how to remedy energy pollution as the state moves toward more renewable sources.

"I think that 'bridge fuel' should be" nuclear energy, said Karen Russell of Knoxville, MD.

"We should be putting our focus on solar energy," said Judy Stone of Cumberland, Maryland. "Because it's clean and the best long-term solution."

Legislators and environmental leaders said that considering TransCanada's offer is hypocritical because in 2017 the Republican governor signed a bill that banned fracking in the state.

But Grumbles said the governor was being criticized "for

supporting responsible natural gas infrastructure" and that the administration "has demonstrated strong commitment to climate progress and environmental issues."

More than 44 percent of Maryland households use natural gas as their primary heating source, according to a 2015 Towson University study.

That number could also increase because, according to the same study, natural gas is more cost effective than traditional heating alternatives.

On average households using natural gas could save \$806 more than households using heating oil, \$1,172 more than those using electricity and \$1,705 more than those using propane, the Towson study shows.

Grumbles on Tuesday also addressed concerns that committing to natural gas infrastructure could jeopardize meeting the state's climate goals.

Maryland needs "an array of tools and strategies to reach its climate goals," Grumbles said.

And natural gas infrastructure at "the right place and right time makes a lot of sense, with the appropriate protections," he said. "It's irresponsible to say we should be banning (it)."

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Black Panther

Black Panther
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, a little profanity,
the usual action violence
2 hrs., 14 min

Black Panther is a bold entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, not (just) because there are hardly any white people in it but because there's almost nothing connecting it to the other films. Apart from the obligatory Stan Lee cameo and references to the events of *Captain America: Civil War*, you'd hardly know this was a Marvel movie at all: no portals in the sky, no metropolises leveled, no mentions of Thanos or his stupid Infinity Stones. It's the closest thing to a standalone entry we've had since this franchise started, which is refreshing by itself.

Even better? It's pretty good, full of nobility and purpose without sacrificing fun and charm. Proudly directed by Ryan Coogler (*Fruitvale Station*, *Creed*) from a screenplay he wrote with Joe Robert Cole, *Black Panther* is more serious-minded than its glib predecessors, steeped in African lore and spectacle, with traditional costumes, dancing, and mysticism folded seamlessly into a story centered around the fictional nation of Wakanda. Like *Coco*, it stealthily introduces American audiences to foreign cultures while delivering new heroes who cross national and ethnic boundaries—a painless expansion of our horizons that also happens to kick butt.

Wakanda's new king is T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), who by virtue of his office is also the Black Panther, a mighty figure with superhuman strength and agility courtesy of a sacred herb, and a high-tech suit courtesy of his delightfully insubordinate genius sister, Shuri (Letitia Wright), whose inevitable meeting with Tony Stark we cannot wait to see. Wakanda presents a facade of a simple third-world nation, but it's actually a technologically advanced society powered by vibranium, the



ROTTENTOMATOES

Black Panther follows T'Challa who, after the events of Captain America: Civil War, returns home to the isolated, technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to take his place as King. However, when an old enemy reappears on the radar, T'Challa's mettle as King and Black Panther is tested when he is drawn into a conflict that puts the entire fate of Wakanda and the world at risk.

strongest substance in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, a mountain of which sits in the heart of Wakanda. T'Challa intends to continue his country's tradition of isolationism, protecting itself by keeping others out and by not revealing its power to the world.

But there are Wakandans who disagree with this tactic. Chief among them is Erik, nicknamed Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), who grew up in the United States and has seen firsthand how "people who look like us" are oppressed, their communities ruined by drugs, their men disproportionately incarcerated. Wakanda has the weapons technology to support a worldwide uprising of black people, but T'Challa insists that the Wakandan way is never to fight unless absolutely necessary. It's the old Professor X/Magneto debate, repurposed for something with weightier, more fraught implications than the treatment of mutants.

As you can see, we don't need the Avengers here; this is a local dispute to be handled internally. Coogler populates Wakanda with fierce, colorful characters who help us understand the details of this new so-

ciety we've been dropped into without resorting to boring exposition. T'Challa's ex-girlfriend, Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o), is a trusted adviser. The fearsome General Okoye (Danai Gurira) leads an army of bald female soldiers and is, by herself, utterly terrifying, capable of destroying an enemy (at least emotionally) with a glance. The regal queen mother (Angela Bassett), a passionate elder statesman (Forest Whitaker), an old friend (Daniel Kaluuya), and a rival tribal leader (Winston Duke) all figure prominently, as do a CIA agent (Martin Freeman in a bad American accent) and an insane one-armed arms dealer (Andy Serkis). Also, there are war rhinos!

Structurally, there's nothing about the film that's unusual, except within the comic book genre. It isn't an origin story explaining how Black Panther got his powers (or even what his powers are, really). It doesn't seem to be setting up plot threads for sequels (until the post-credits scene, which doesn't count because the movie's OVER by then, man). It's so far removed from the

usual superhero tropes—thwarted bank robberies, media fame, secret identities, etc.—that viewers who had their hearts set on the regular formula will be disappointed if they don't recalibrate to Coogler's rhythm. Our hero's powers are inseparably connected to his nation's history and customs in a way that no other superhero can claim—not even Captain America, who was made in a lab as a propaganda tool and, despite his name, isn't inherently American, not in the way T'Challa is inherently Wakandan.

All of that makes *Black Panther* different. What makes it good is the collaborative sincerity, the sense that the large cast of black actors has worked in solidarity to produce something inspiring for their community while having a blast playing within the boundaries of the Marvel world, creating characters with the potential to interact in interesting ways with the ones we already know. It's not just that there's finally a superhero with African roots. It's that the whole thing is done with dignity, unpatronizingly, a slam-bang action adventure that also fills a need.

Kevin Durant from A1

visited Bladensburg High School to announce a \$7 million Department of Labor grant, as well as a \$3 million grant from the Carnegie Foundation for International High Schools. Previously, the school system received over \$20 million from Wallace Foundation to enhance its Principal Pipeline. PGCPSS is currently collaborating with Venture Philanthropy Partners to raise \$15 million, including a \$1 million investment from the Peterson Foundation for college and career readiness programs at three County high schools. The Kaiser Permanente Foundation, the Washington Redskins Foundation, along with several other philanthropic organizations also have made significant investments in the County's public schools.

"Too often, the students, teachers, administrators and parents of the Prince George's County Public Schools are victims of a negative propaganda campaign against the school system by political opportunists,"

continued Baker. "There is plenty of good news about the progress within our schools that allows students to thrive and become college and career ready through innovative school system programs and through partnerships with non-profit organizations, the faith community, and businesses. I am very appreciative of all the hard work of our teachers, students, parents, and administrators of PGCPSS and I'm dedicated to sharing their successes as we address our challenges. And I am very thankful to the individuals and organizations, like Kevin Durant and College Track, who invest in our County's students, who are our future."

Since the 2013-2014 school year, the Prince George's County Public Schools have leveraged these grants, donations, and investments into incredible resources and innovative programs for students. One of those programs is arts integration. Currently, PGCPSS has the largest arts integration program in the state and perhaps in the country, with 73 schools where the arts

are strategically integrated in the curriculum. PGCPSS also boast two International High Schools and several language immersion programs throughout the system where students are learning Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Italian, German, Latin, and American Sign Language.

In addition, our school system's enrollment has grown to 132,000 (from 125,000) at a time when student enrollment in other districts around the country are decreasing. Full-day pre-kindergarten has been restored, and is a resource for almost 4,000 four-year old children.

The school system is also giving County students a jump on higher education with the expansion of the Middle College Programs, in collaboration with Prince George's Community College, including the Academy of Health Sciences and brand new Teacher Academy, as well as the 3D Scholars and P-Tech programs, (both of which are the first of their kind in the State of Maryland). Many PGCPSS stu-

dents are learning financial literacy through the Junior Achievement Finance Park and 30 POSSE Scholars have received over \$4.2 million in scholarships.

In addition to rigorous academic programs, PGCPSS' "Transforming Neighborhoods@Schools Initiative" provides wrap around services for those students and families that need assistance in more than 60 schools.

Although there is still much more to do, PGCPSS has opened brand new state-of-the-art high schools in Fairmount Heights and in Oxon Hill, as well as at Accokeek Academy, Glenarden Woods and Edward M. Felegy Elementary Schools.

Last but certainly not least, Prince George's County Public Schools also has reinvested in people by fully funding every single contract negotiated by the respective collective bargaining units, including providing the members of our Teachers' Association, PGCEA, with over \$77.9 million in compensation enhancements, as negotiated by PGCEA.

A Little This, A Little that

Hottest Pepper Varieties to Try this Year

By MELINDA MYERS

Turn up the heat and add a bit of spice to your meals with hot peppers. Add them to your garden, flower borders and containers for added beauty and easy picking.

Your biggest challenge will be narrowing down your choices. Let All-America Selections (AAS), all-americanselections.org, winners help. This nonprofit organization tests new edible and ornamental varieties nationally for their suitability to home gardens and containers.

Grow a few cayenne peppers if you like Mexican, Cajun and Asian cuisine. They also add a bit of zip to dips, stews and marinades. Brighten your meals and garden with the brilliant red and tasty fruit of Red Ember. This 2018 AAS winner is pretty enough for flower gardens or containers. You'll be harvesting earlier and longer, providing more time to use and enjoy them. For a mildly spicy option with the same great flavor try Cayennetta. Its heat and cold tolerance makes it a great choice no matter where you garden.

If you like it even hotter, include a few habaneros in the garden. Then add heat and flavor to jerk chicken, chili, jam and other recipes. For those that like the flavor of habanero, but can't stand the heat, try Roulette habanero. It looks and tastes like a habanero in every aspect except its not hot. Roulette is the perfect solution for families with different heat tolerances.

Add a full spectrum of color to containers and small space gardens with the early ripening Hungarian Mexican Sunrise and Sunset wax peppers. The conical shaped fruit transition from green to yellow, then orange and red. The fruit can be harvested and eaten at any stage. But the longer it is on the plant, the better the flavor. Mexican Sunrise is semi-hot while Mexican Sunset is for those that like a bit more heat. Both can be eaten fresh, stuffed, baked, grilled or pickled.

Grow a few Aji Rico peppers to add warm heat with a hint of citrus to your dishes. Eat them fresh or cook into salsa and hot sauces. Control the heat with the number of seeds left in the fruit. The more seeds that remain; the greater the heat.

Roast them, use them fresh or string a few Giant Ristra peppers together to dry and use throughout the winter. Don't be fooled by its appearance. This 7-inch chili pepper looks like a sweet Marconi but has the spiciness of a cayenne.

For those who want to crank up the heat try Emerald Fire at 2,500 Scoville units. Not the hottest pepper on the market, but this jalapeno is certainly one to respect. The deep green fruit resists cracking and matures to red. Use them fresh, stuff with cream cheese, grill or can for later use.

If your taste lies on the other end of the heat spectrum start with Chili Pie and work your way to some of these hotter varieties. These miniature bell peppers are mildly hot when the fruit turns red. Be careful not to mix them in with your sweet bell peppers.

Heed this warning when growing and using any hot peppers. Clearly mark or better yet grow your hot peppers away from sweet peppers to avoid an unwelcome surprise. Keep your hands away from your eyes when working with hot peppers and wash them thoroughly when done.

Most importantly, have fun growing and using hot peppers in your garden, containers and meals. These beauties combine nicely with other vegetables, herbs and flowers to create stunning garden beds and containers. And their spicy flavor is sure to help you create memorable meals this season.

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



PHOTO COURTESY MELINDA MYERS

Red Ember pepper

ADVERTISE! in The Prince George's Post
Call Today 301 627 0900

Calendar of Events

March 8 — March 14, 2018

49th Annual Laurel Art Guild Juried Exhibition

Date and time: Friday, March 9, 2018, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Public Reception: Sunday, March 11, 2018, 2 PM–4PM

Description: Organized by the Laurel Art Guild, this annual exhibit is juried by a regional professional and showcases works by artists ages 18 and older who live in the Washington metropolitan area and includes paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, collages, and more.

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

Xtreme Teens: Basketball Play

Date and time: Friday, March 9, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Calling all Hoopers!! Come out and enjoy friendly competition while participating in open basketball games and contests that test your skills. Do you have what it takes? Let's find out!

Cost: FREE, with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Vansville Community Center
6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Fear Factor

Date and time: Friday, March 9, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Do you have the guts to face your fears, and be the person who outruns their competition? Facing your fears means doing things you never thought you would do before. The winner of this competition will probably say a \$10 gift card and a free table at our Yard Sale next month was well worth facing their fears!

Cost: FREE, with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Ballet: Children

Date and time: Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:00 AM–9:45 AM
Description: Learn the beauty of ballet through this program that develops proper body alignment and muscle training with Cecchetti ballet techniques. This method is used to train for classical ballet and adheres to a strict program of planned daily exercise routines pinpointing the laws of anatomy.

Secure your child's spot. Sign up today!
Cost: Resident: \$50; Non-resident: \$65
Ages: 6–12
Location: Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrook Road, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

Title Family Fun Walk/Run

Date and time: Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM
Description: We're calling all Prince George's County walkers and runners to join us for a fun walk/run at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex. This is a great way to enjoy time with loved ones and maintain a healthy lifestyle at the same time! Bring the whole family, lace up your shoes and meet us on the outdoor track!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: March Madness

Date and time: Saturday, March 10, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: We're launching our very own hoop event in honor of college basketball's "March Madness" tournament! Join us as we play a co-ed basketball tournament and hold a shoot-off competition. If you can't take the "madness", then stay off the court!

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Trips and Excursions: Philadelphia Flower Show, The Wonders of Water

Date and time: Sunday, March 11, 2018, 8:00 AM–10:00 PM
Description: The 2018 Pennsylvania Horticulture Society's *The Wonders of Water* will celebrate the ways in which water and plants combine to provide universal meaning to our lives. "Grow with the Flow" at a lush artful hydroponic wall. Marvel at the secrets of the plant world, "Frozen in Time." Delight in fanciful fountains that capture the imagination and invite visitors to see water in a whole new "Light." The 2018 Philadelphia Flower Show will be a playground teeming with lush landscapes, do-it-yourself ideas and hands-on experiences that will use water as a unifying theme to explore new thinking around gardening.

Before heading to the flower show, enjoy a family-style lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy. On the table will be: appetizers and an Italian tossed salad, followed by mushroom Ravioli al Forno, sauteed vegetables, Chicken Parmesan, and Chicken Marsala. Finish the lunch with Chocolate Zuccotto Cake and New York-Style Cheesecake.

Cost: Resident: \$115; Non-resident: \$150
Ages: 18 and older
Pick-up location(s): 1st Stop—College Park Airport
1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive,
College Park, MD
2nd Stop, Lake Arbor Community Center
10100 Lake Arbor Way,
Mitchellville, MD

*Bus leaves promptly at 8 AM from Colleg Park Airport, before heading to Lake Arbor Community Center.
Contact: 301-445-4405; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Caring About Climate without The Federal Government

Dear EarthTalk:

How did the Global Climate Action Summit coming up later this year in San Francisco come about and what do organizers hope to accomplish?

—Jamie Smith,
San Jose, CA

The purpose of the forthcoming 2018 Global Climate Action Summit—scheduled to take place September 12-14, 2018 in San Francisco, California—is to showcase the actions that state and local leaders, businesses, investors, scientists, students, nonprofits and other so-called "sub-national actors" have taken to reduce their emissions already. Organizers hope to secure bold commitments from them to do even more, thus showing that decarbonization and economic growth go hand-in-hand and galvanizing a global movement for climate action that leaves no one behind.

This new international meeting is the brainchild of California's 79-year-old outgoing governor Jerry Brown, one of the country's great crusaders for cutting carbon emissions despite lack of federal interest in solving the climate crisis. According to Brown, subnational actors are a critical part of the climate solution and can help push the world's leaders to go further, faster. These leaders will join citizens from around the world to showcase exam-

ples of major climate action initiatives already taking place without the aid of the federal government. They hope to inspire deeper commitments from each other and from national governments in support of the Paris Agreement.

Brown has tapped three leaders as summit co-chairs: Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Anand Mahindra, chairman of the Mahindra Group, an Indian conglomerate that recently committed to meet its Paris climate agreement commitments; and Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City and founder/CEO of Bloomberg LP who is a vigorous campaigner for and generous donor to environmental causes. These three are primarily responsible for shaping the event's purpose, format and overall curation and leveraging their voices and network for the cause.

Why now? According to Brown, 2018 is a turning point: Countries and all of us must step up the commitments that were made in Paris and do more. "The momentum we generate this year must lead to a climate turning point by 2020 in order to prevent the worst effects of climate change," says Brown. "It must be the beginning of a new phase of action and ambition on climate change."

Participants are expected to go beyond just sharing what they



CREDIT: NEON TOMMY, FLICKRCC

he Global Climate Action Summit, coming up next September in San Francisco, is the brainchild of California's 79-year-old outgoing governor Jerry Brown, one of the country's great crusaders for cutting carbon emissions despite lack of federal interest in solving the climate crisis.

have achieved to date and announce stepped-up commitments to usher in what organizers are hoping will be "a new era of decarbonization and prosperity." The culmination of the meeting will be a call to action to nations to step up their ambition under the Paris Agreement and cut emissions on a science-based trajectory that limits warming to well below two degrees Celsius.

"The Summit seeks to change the climate conversation, broaden and depoliticize the issue, and activate everyone to call for change to preserve our future," Brown concludes. The governor's actions in steering California to be one of the

world's most fuel efficient large economies is even more inspiring than his words. Given that Brown won't be able to run again for governor due to term limits, the Summit may represent the last hurrah of his storied political career.

CONTACT: Global Climate Action Summit, globalclimateactions summit.org.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - **The Environmental Magazine** (www.emagazine.com).
Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Beanstack from A1

Shark Tank personality Mark Cuban in order to claim the billionaire's donation of \$35,000 of which \$25,000 went to First Book and \$10,000 to top performing libraries and their communities. "I'm inspired by the work libraries do for their communities," says Cuban. "The prize for everyone is to pay it forward to an awesome organization [First Book] focused on literacy and access to books."

The most popular books during the Winter Reading Challenge were as follows:

Preschoolers: *Goodnight Moon*
Young Students—
Harry Potter series
Teens—*To Kill a Mockingbird*,
Everything, Everything and
The Only Road
Adults—*A Wrinkle in Time*
and *Origin*

The 2018 Winter Reading Challenge was coordinated through Beanstack, an innovative software that takes a modern approach to managing reading programs, bringing everything online and making it easy for li-

brarians and readers alike to set up and maintain accounts to track their reading.

About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, Artist-Works for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out

our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmcls.info.

About Beanstack

Beanstack is an online platform for local families to participate in reading programs, early literacy initiatives, and book clubs. The service provides tools to track their reading and earn incentives, as well as sending personalized emails or text messages recommending a book or upcoming event. For libraries and schools, Beanstack makes it easy to register patrons, create reading and activity challenges, and produce extensive reports. The entire experience is set apart by the software's easy usability and customized, mobile-first design. In 2018, Beanstack plans to launch a first-of-its-kind mobile app designed to encourage reading all year long. Visit Beanstack at the website www.beanstack.com

About First Book

First Book transforms the lives of children in need. Through a sustainable, market-driven model, First Book is cre-

ating equal access to quality education—making everything from brand-new, high-quality books and educational resources, to sports equipment, winter coats, snacks, and more affordable to its member network of more than 350,000 educators who exclusively serve kids in need. Since 1992, First Book has distributed more than 170 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families in more than 30 countries. First Book currently reaches an average of 3 million children every year and supports more than one in four of the estimated 1.3 million classrooms and programs serving children in need. With an additional 1,000 educators joining each week, First Book is the largest and fastest-growing network of educators in the United States exclusively serving kids in need.

Eligible educators, librarians, providers, and others serving children in need can sign up at firstbook.org/register. For more information, please visit firstbook.org or follow the latest news on Facebook and Twitter.

Protect Consumers from A5

sumers, with the latter being the largest-ever settlement in an auto loan discrimination case. OFLEO's record makes it clear that the Office has played an important role in fighting discrimination—just as Congress intended.

While the details of the reorganization have not been fully disclosed, it will undoubtedly hinder this important work. In his letter to staff announcing the reorganization, Director Mulvaney wrote "[t]he Fair Lending Office will continue to focus on advocacy, coordination, and education, while its current supervision and enforcement functions will remain in SEFL." That represents a significant departure from the status quo. Over the last six and a half years, OFLEO helped design specialized oversight and supported bank examiners in assuring that CFPB's regulated institutions were complying with anti-discrimination laws. When the entities were unable to resolve problems identified in the examinations, OFLEO staff worked with the CFPB's enforcement lawyers and the Department of Justice to bring lawsuits. OFLEO also counseled banks in their efforts to build good compliance systems. Of those functions, only the counseling will be supplied after the reorganization, though in the absence of dedicated anti-discrimination enforcement, it's not clear whether there will be continuing demand.

The possibility that the CFPB might stray from carrying out its responsibilities to enforce fair lending laws is especially worrisome in light of proposed legislation that would open the door to increased discrimination in mortgage lending. Section 104 of Senator Crapo's *Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act*, as well as H.R. 2954, the *Home Mortgage Disclosure Adjustment Act*, would exempt 85% of depositories already reporting data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA)'s reporting requirements, undermining the CFPB's ability to spot racial discrimination in these markets. The analysis of HMDA data has resulted in the discovery of brazen patterns of discrimination. Two studies, for example, used HMDA data to find that Blacks and Latinos were, even after controlling for other factors, more likely than Whites to receive subprime loans. Predatory subprime mortgage lending played a significant role in the financial crisis, causing scores of Americans to lose their homes. The financial crisis had an especially harmful impact on persons of color, which studies have attributed in part to racial discrimination in the subprime market. If this legislation passes, regulators and other watchdogs will lose critical information used to police the mortgage market, and it will become even more important for OFLEO to keep a vigilant eye on discrimination.

In responding to our letter, please provide written responses by no later than March 1st to the following questions:

1. Did the CFPB perform a legal analysis to determine whether stripping the OFLEO of its enforcement authority would hinder the CFPB's ability to carry out its statutory mandate to provide oversight and enforcement of federal fair lending laws?

2. How will bringing the OFLEO under the control of the Office of the Director modify the Bureau's decision-making process with regard to enforcement and other actions to protect consumers from unfair discrimination?

a. What, if any, continuing role will the OFLEO play in supporting the Bureau's enforcement of fair lending laws?

b. How will the reorganization affect the reporting duties for OFLEO employees, including the OFLEO Assistant Director?

c. After the reorganization, which officials in the Office of the Director will be consulted about OFLEO activities? Which of these officials have been hired, politically appointed, or detailed to the CFPB since November 24, 2017?

d. After the reorganization, which political appointees and temporarily-detailed employees will be granted veto power over OFLEO activities and decisions?

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA

United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"
9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Two Worship Services:
8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30**

**(301)735-9373
Fax: (301) 735-1844**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,
Pastor**

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org**

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD
20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship:
7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Saturday Worship:
6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fbhp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park
Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

*Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.*

UNITED METHODIST

Union

United Methodist Church


14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-5088

Sunday School: (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.


Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, Pastor

Have a Safe Weekend



Church Directory Advertisements are paid ads.

Call the Prince George's Post today and have your Church information published in our Directory.



**Call Today!
301-627-0900**

S. G. Spottswood

A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD
20785 • 301-490-2625
Rev. Jonathon Counts, Pastor

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sound of Victory Prayer Call
Wednesdays 9:00pm
(712) 770-4160,
Access Code 929037
Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00pm

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745
Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD
(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer:Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration: 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Watch from A4

million poor children, 6 million of whom are extremely poor. A child in the U.S. has nearly a one in five chance of being poor, and the younger she is the poorer she is likely to be. This is a national moral disgrace.

The entire second section of the book is devoted to violence against children in the United States. Dr. Lenzer writes, "According to the 2012 Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence and the Department of Justice, violence against children is epidemic proportions. The report summarizes: 'Exposure to violence is a national crisis that affects approximately two out of every three of our children ... Whether the violence occurs in children's homes, neighborhoods, schools, playgrounds or playing fields, locker rooms, places of worship, shelters, streets, or in juvenile detention centers, the exposure of children to violence is a uniquely traumatic experience that has the potential to profoundly derail the child's security, health, happiness, and ability to grow and learn—with effects lasting well into adulthood.'" We are helped to understand that every assault on children's well-being—I would add, including our leaders' current refusal to put children's lives first ahead of gun owners' dangerous unregulated weapons of death—has lasting effects.

Other chapters in Violence Against Children describe child exploitation, the effects of ad-

versity on neurodevelopment, the global movement to end corporal punishment, violence against children in other regions of the world, and proven public health approaches to prevention. This volume confirms the United Nations study's conclusion that all violence against children is non-justifiable, preventable, and all sectors of society have not just a role to play but a responsibility for doing their part to prevent and eradicate it.

Violence Against Children's foreword reminds us: "We are all connected. Violence against one child affects the entire human family. No child should be left behind." Silence and inaction in the face of child suffering must never be continued or an option and must be stopped by every possible means. We have too frequent shameful and heart-breaking reminders in the United States that we must make this message heard and act on it. And now is the time to protect children not guns.

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.

Protect Consumers from A7

e. What criteria will political appointees and temporarily-detailed employees in the Office of the Director use to determine whether the Bureau will follow the recommendations of career policy experts in the OFLEO?

f. What actions will the Bureau take to ensure that OFLEO decisions continue to be based on the best advice of independent, expert, career policy staff?

g. How will new requirements that the OFLEO report to the Office of the Director enhance the CFPB's ability to protect consumers from unfair discrimination?

3. Please describe any independent analyses, such as third-party studies, that informed the decision to bring the OFLEO under the Office of the Director and strip OFLEO of its enforcement and supervisory authority.

4. Did Mr. Mulvaney or any other CFPB employee consult with or discuss this reorganization with any outside entities—including lobbyists or representatives of the banking or financial services industry—prior to announcing the reorganization?

5. Did Mr. Mulvaney consult with other officials, employees, or political appointees at OMB or the White House about the OFLEO reorganization prior to its announcement?

6. Is the CFPB considering any substantive changes to its approach to the enforcement of fair lending laws, including changes to the CFPB's interpretation of these laws?

In addition, please provide a copy of all documents and communications relating to the decision to bring the OFLEO under the control of the Office of the Director, and strip OFLEO of its enforcement and oversight responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.


Morningside from A2

Turner and Marcy Richardson, March 12; Pamela Woodall, Kathy Elborne, Cordelia Bland, Shirley Carruth and Gregory Ritter, March 13; my daughter Therese Gallegos and Belinda Benavidaz, March 14; Jacob Thompson, Jose Gyskewicz and Jonathan Capps, March 15.

gelo Meoli, John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson, Rebecca

Proudly Serving Prince George's County
Since 1932

FIND THE True You at SU



Salisbury University offers valuable knowledge and experience to prepare students for any goal in life. Our excellent academics come with an affordable price tag, too.

There is no better way to learn about SU than to visit!

Contact us at: 410-543-6161
admissions@salisbury.edu
www.salisbury.edu

Follow SU on Twitter @HocktoSU

Salisbury UNIVERSITY

A Maryland University of National Distinction

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILE DONATIONS

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S. LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Your donation helps local families with food, clothing, shelter, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA License #W1044. 410-636-0123 or www.LutheranMissionSociety.org

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multi-Media Specialists of MDDC Advertising Network assist you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 410-212-0616 and start seeing results NOW. www.mddcpress.com.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Bulk advertising at its best: Advertise in over 70 newspapers and reach millions of readers with ONE call. Broaden your reach and get results for pennies per reader. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email wsmith@mddcpress.com.

Increase your presence by advertising on FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND GOOGLE ADWORDS. Call our Multi-Media Specialists to experience the success of social media advertising today! CALL 410-212-0616.

Place your ad on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google AdWords through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network. Call today to find out how to maximize your presence on Social Media. 410-212-0616 or email Wanda.Smith@mddcpress.com.

Increase frequency with your advertising—call one of MDDC's Multi-Media Specialists to grow your business. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email Wanda.Smith@mddcpress.com.

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—let MDDC help you grow your business! Call TODAY at 410-212-0616 to increase your customer base and get results.

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING—Get FAA certification to fix planes. Financial Aid if qualified. Approved for military benefits. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance—866-823-6729.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

IF YOU HAD HIP OR KNEE REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2010 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

HELP WANTED

EARN \$500 A DAY: Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Wants Insurance Agents * Leads, No Cold Calls * Commissions Paid Daily * Agency Training * Life Insurance Required. Call 1-888-713-6020.

MISCELLANEOUS

Join other advertisers of the MDDC Small Display Advertising Network. Grow your revenue with a business card-sized ad in this network. Let the Multi-Media Specialists help you increase your customer base. CALL TODAY—410-212-0616. See your results NOW!

REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS

AUCTION: LUXURY WATERFRONT VILLA, FT. WASHINGTON MD \$350,000 Opening bid, \$1,000,000 List, Gorgeous 5 Bdrm, 4.5Bth, Private Pier, Nature Preserve. www.PrimeAuctionSolutions.com, Auction March, 16 at 12:00pm 703.889.8949

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. New Homes from low \$100's. No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or www.coolbranch.com.

SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS

Increase your customer base and get great results by placing your ads in the MDDC Classified Advertising Network! Call today—410-212-0616 Ask for Multi-Media Specialist Wanda & watch your results grow.

SAVE loads of money with your advertising BUDGETS—CONNECT with the Multi-Media Specialists of the MDDC Advertising Networks. GET Bulk Advertising Opportunities NOW. CALL TODAY—With One Call; With One Ad Placement & One Bill, You'll Reach the Entire Mid-Atlantic Region! Call 410-212-0616.

SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—reach 3.6 million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and D.C. TODAY! For just \$1,450.00. Get the reach, Get the results and for just Pennies on the Dollar Now. Call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email Wanda.Smith@mddcpress.com.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!

CALL 301-627-0900

Is Addiction Destroying Your Family?

We Accept All Insurances. BCBS, PPO, HMO
1-855-890-2464

- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Intervention Assistance
- Insurance Accepted, Free Coverage Check
- Long Term Success
- One Year Aftercare

Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Regain Control Today, Call 855-890-2464
www.USAddiction.com



Lutheran Mission Society

Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
Lutheran Mission Society

"MDDC has connected donors with the LMS Vehicle Donation Program for over six years! Great exposure, cost effective, and Wanda is so helpful."

Call Wanda: 410-212-0616
wsmith@mddcpress.com
Local touch, infinite reach.



Enter To **WIN \$4,000**



\$100 awarded weekly \$3,000 Grand Prize
Newspaper sponsored - Local shopping survey

Enter to win now, go to:
www.pulsepoll.com

AD SPACE AVAILABLE!