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## Maryland Bill Would Put an Armed Officer in Every School

By ZACH SHAPIRO  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Determined to pass meaningful legislation in the wake of the Parkland and Great Mills high school shootings, Maryland lawmakers are considering a measure to put an armed school resource officer in every public school. The bill comes as part of a four-bill package being rushed through the General Assembly as session nears end.

Advocates label this the “deterrence” stage of the package, which also includes prevention, anticipation and protection stages. Pushed by lead-sponsor Sen. Steve Waugh, R-Calvert

and St. Mary's, proponents see this as the stopgap step while other proposals are considered and potentially implemented.

“(This bill is) the one that's going to have the most immediate effect to reduce risks—today,” Waugh told Capital News Service.

There are just over 1,400 public schools in the state. Of those, the Maryland Center for School Safety estimates that between 360 and 400 already have a School Resource Officer, or SRO. But some local jurisdictions can't afford to place an SRO in their schools. In

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## Council Chair Glaros Honors Legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—50 years ago, on April 4th, our nation lost its most influential and celebrated civil rights leader, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This tragedy left an indelible mark on our country, and events honoring Dr. King's legacy and commemorating the 50th anniversary of his assassination are planned across America.

On the night before his untimely death, Dr. King delivered

his last public address, popularly known as “The Mountaintop” speech, in support of striking sanitation workers protesting racial injustice, low wages, and poor working conditions. Remembering his fateful words, Dr. King also touched on his own mortality—“We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop ... I've seen the Promised Land.”

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ANNA MUCKERMAN

Brooke Simonsen, 9, looks at her father, Michael Simonsen, during a hearing in Annapolis, Maryland, on February 23, 2018.

## Maryland Hunters Can Now Wear Pink, Thanks to Two Sisters

By ANNA MUCKERMAN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Thanks to the work of two novice hunters—young sisters from the Eastern Shore—Maryland hunters may soon be allowed to wear bright pink safety gear.

Before taking a hunter safety class in October 2016, sisters Paige and Brooke Simonsen, from Easton, stocked up on pink hunting clothes. Then, they

found out that Maryland law did not allow hunters to wear any color besides blaze orange.

“Our instructor mentioned that other states have pink and we only have orange, and we wanted to change that so we went to Senator (Addie) Eckardt,” Paige, 12, said.

The legislation adds “daylight fluorescent pink” as an alternative color for hunters and is based in part on the Simonsen family's research. On Monday,

the Senate passed the House bill; the next stop is Gov. Larry Hogan's desk.

Part of that research, which made its way into testimony, included a blog post referencing a European Union study that found forestry workers were safer wearing pink than orange. But the post—and its references to a “major study” that included “cognition tests and adrenaline measurements”—turned out to be an

April Fool's joke by the Stihl chainsaw company.

The Stihl company confirmed in a tweet that the April 1, 2016, blog entry was a joke.

Senator Eckardt, R-Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico, said she didn't read the blog post until a Capital News Service reporter showed it to her.

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## Rally Honors Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy, Pledges Fight to End Oppression

By JULIA LERNER  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On the 50th anniversary of his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy was honored by hundreds in the nation's capital with a rally to end what participants said was systemic racism in the United States.

Organized by the National Council of the Churches of Christ, the Rally to End Racism drew hundreds to the National Mall for interfaith prayer services for speeches on racial inequality. Though advertised as a non-denominational event, it was predominantly attended by Christians.

“Everything Dr. King dreamed for us is in the realm of human possibility,” actor Donald Glover told the crowd. “Our humanity was enough in the world for Dr. King.”

But, he added, “none of us can say with any deep honesty that Dr. King would be satisfied if he were here with us today.”

The event, known as the “A.C.T. (Awaken, Confront, Transform) to End Racism,”



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JULIA LERNER

Washington, D.C.—Hundreds gather at the Rally to End Racism event in honor of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his death. Speakers addressed the role of the church in systemic racism and how to honor King's legacy.

asked participants to reject the systemic racism that “continues to exploit” minority communities, said Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a Protestant minister, chair of the NAACP Leg-

islative Political Action Committee and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign.

Ben and Jerry's co-founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Green-

field, religious and community leaders, music artists and Dera

McKesson, an activist and host of the podcast “Pod Save Amer-

See RALLY Page A3

## Renowned D.C. Architect Michael Marshall Joins UMD Architecture Program as 2018 Kea Professor

By PRESS OFFICER  
Michael Marshall Design

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation has appointed Michael Marshall, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, as the 2018 Kea Distinguished Professor in Architecture. Mr. Marshall will join the teaching team for the award-winning ARCH600/611 Integrated Design Studio/Advanced Technology Seminar during the fall 2018 semester.

Mr. Marshall completed his undergraduate degree at The Catholic University and his Master of Architecture at Yale University. While at Yale, his design professors were Frank Gehry and the British architect, Sir James Stirling. As Design Director and Principal of Michael Marshall Design, Mr. Marshall's design sense and artistic perspective is integrated into each of the firm's projects. He leads each project in design excellence and manages every stage of the firm's architectural designs with a keen sensitivity



PHOTO COURTESY  
MICHAEL MARSHALL DESIGN  
Michael Marshall

to context, environment and historic preservation. Throughout his over 30-year career, he has built an extensive portfolio, served on numerous design panels for influential organizations and has been recognized with international, national and local design excellence awards from The American Institute of Architects (National and D.C. Chapters), National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), International Design Awards (IDA), and the Na-

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Household income of owner-occupants of single family homes and all residents of financed rental housing cannot exceed 80 percent of the statewide or Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area median income.

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#### Hogan Administration Urges EPA to Drop Plan to Weaken Vehicle Air Pollution Emissions Standards

The greenhouse gas reductions that would come from the emissions standards are necessary for Maryland to meet its requirement under state law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030.

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#### Maryland Casinos Set New Record of \$150.1 Million in Revenue During March

March 2018 was the third full month in which it was possible to make a direct year-over-year comparison including all six of the state's casinos. MGM National Harbor opened on December 8, 2016.

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#### Movie Review: Game Night

The key to making it work is to not let the oblivious parties remain oblivious for longer than the audience can believe, which depends on how clueless you've established the main characters to be. It's trickier when the characters are smart, though it's potentially funnier to see a smart person (especially a smug one) be deceived.

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#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm in the market for a new mattress after two decades on “old faithful” and I figure it's a good time to go green. What are the options out there these days for eco-friendly mattresses?

—Betsy Langdon  
Chicago, IL

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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Crossland Career Academy plans class in Unmanned Aerial Systems: Drones

Thanks to another \$1.1 million from the Video Lottery Terminal, Crossland is getting better and better. (VLT is a kind of slot machine. Since the casinos want them, they're popular—and our County schools benefit.)

A college and career counselor will be added to the Crossland Career Academy which already includes: Barbering, Cosmetology, IT Cisco, HVAC, Masonry, Electrical, Culinary, Academy of Health Professions-Nursing, Automotive Technician, and Project Lead the Way-Engineering.

Two new programs have been proposed: Unmanned Aerial Systems-Drones, and Academy of Health Professions-Dental Assistant. These are planned to open by school years 2019 to 2021.

Renovations and new running track-and-field events area have been completed and County Councilman Obie Patterson has requested new bleachers and outside water supply for public bathrooms.

When Crossland opened in 1962, it was the school for Morningside and Skyline high-schoolers. Two of my children graduated from Crossland, Therese in '72 and John in '73.

### The Wiz comes to District Heights on April 28

The District Heights Theatre is featuring a live performance of *The Wiz* in the Town Hall gym on Saturday, April 28, at 2 PM Madison Fields, formerly of Suitland, has returned to play Dorothy. Her young brothers, Matthew and

Maxton, are also featured. There is no assigned fee but donations are welcome. For more information, call Nora at 301-335-4123.

### People

Kyle Dameron, son of Lenora and the late Steve Dameron of Morningside, graduated last year from Frostburg State University with a master's in Sports Service & Medicine.

Steven Nguyen movingly portrayed Jesus in the *Living Stations of the Cross* presented by Teens in His Image at St. Philip's Church, Camp Springs, on Good Friday. Other cast members were Diana Melgar-Castillo, Michael Perez, Marcel Langdon, Brian Saravia, Marlia Saravia, Thomas Do, Nicholas Malloy, Niya Burwell and Kayla Nguyen. David Perez and Devin Harley were narrators.

William Dobbs, 93, of Fort Washington, who spent 29 years as staff psychiatrist at St. Elizabeths and retired in 1984 after three years as superintendent, died Jan. 17. According to *The Washington Post*, "he became a psychiatrist because of his experiences in World War II when he served in the Ryukyu Islands near Japan and received the Bronze Star Medal. He went on to research the use of methadone to treat heroin addiction." He was buried from Marshall-March Funeral Home, Suitland.

### Changing landscape

Topgolf, the premier entertainment and event venue with fun point-scoring golf games for all skill levels, upscale bar food, drinks and music, is coming, and may open in 2019, or sooner. It'll be at Potomac

Business Park off Oxon Hill Road, which at one time was eyed for a Walmart.

The Department of Public Works—believing that winter's finally over—was out in full force repairing potholes beginning April 4 and will continue as needed. Hope your most annoying pothole was among those filled in.

Tucker Road Ice Rink, damaged by fire in December 2016, has finally been budgeted for restoration. All I can say is, "It's about time!"

### Morningside Memories: 40 years ago

In 1978, Mayor Gerald Glaubitz and the Town Council moved into the newly-completed Town Hall at 6901 Ames Street. It was built with federal funds at a cost of \$290,000. The following year, on June 2, 1979, the Town Hall was dedicated as the Matthew P. Rosch Municipal Center. Matt Rosch was Mayor of Morningside back in 1954 and was a dedicated member of the Recreation Council.

### May they rest in peace

Carroll F. "Mike" Shaw, 88, member of VFW Post 9619, Morningside, and American Legion Post 248, Temple Hills, died March 29. He was born in Seat Pleasant to James and Mary Shaw. He served in the Army during WWII and retired from R.C.A. Global Communications after 43 years. His son Michael and brothers James and Paul predeceased him. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Barbara; daughters Jacky

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## Neighborhoods

## National Harbor Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary with Cherry Tree Planting and Cherry Blossom Festival

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—In celebration of National Harbor's tenth anniversary, Peterson Companies (developer and management company for National Harbor) has planted 100 cherry trees along the National Harbor waterfront. These trees, Okame cherry trees, join more than 100 cherry trees located throughout the property. The trees are providing a spectacular display. As fast growers, they're also known as early spring bloomers with "show stopping blooms."

"The trees have been planted in mass around the waterfront so that visitors arriving to National Harbor by car, bus or boat will be dazzled by the site when they reach the property," said Deborah Topcik, director of marketing at National Harbor. "The trees also provide spectacular fall foliage. Okame are known for their orange-fall foliage and reddish brown glossy bark."

In celebration of the anniversary and the cherry trees, locations throughout National Harbor will hold a cherry blossom festival, Sakura Sunday, on Sunday, April 15 from 11 AM to 7 PM. In addition, there are special offerings and displays throughout the property through the month of April.

The April 15 festivities include traditional Japanese picnicking with food available for sale, a Japanese Market (located on American Way), Japanese inspired music and entertainment as well as a Sake and beer garden. Picnicking will take place around the new trees. race's Mandarin will start out the day with a cooking segment on the waterfront Plaza Stage (150 National Plaza.)

Performers at the event include Kanadete sourou, a Japanese rock band that sings original songs based on Japanese folk tales. Dressed in traditional Japanese clothing, they've been described as a "unique mix of tradition and modernity." A.K. Group is an entertainment group based out of Tokyo that performs as dance incorporating Awa Odori dance a traditional and modern dance performed at festivals throughout Japan.

In further celebration of the Cherry Blossom festival season, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center will offer special cherry blossom spa treatments and Gaylord National Resort has special cocktail offerings through April 15. MGM National Harbor has a spectacular cherry blossom display in its Conservatory. AC Hotel will have special cocktail offerings through April 15 as well.

"Given our waterfront location and close proximity to Washington, D.C., we wanted to create and celebrate with our own stunning cherry tree display," added Topcik.

For more information on National Harbor, go to [www.NationalHarbor.com](http://www.NationalHarbor.com).

### Maryland Judiciary Warns of New Telephone Scam

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Judiciary is warn-

ing the public about a new telephone scam that uses the threat of wage garnishment in order extort money from potential victims.

The new scam has been reported in Prince George's County. The scam involves a caller threatening to garnish wages for "evading service." In at least one case the call came from a California area code. The caller "confirmed" the potential victim's identity by stating their complete social security number, banking information, date of birth and address. When the potential victim asked how the caller had gotten the information, the caller stated "it is on the summons we are going to serve you."

This call is a scam. The Maryland Judiciary does not have a "service processing center." Anyone receiving such a call should hang up immediately. Anyone receiving a message claiming the above should not respond. The Maryland Judiciary has notified the Offices of the Prince George's County Sheriff about this scam. People affected by this or other scams may also contact the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Hotline, 410-528-8662 or toll free 888-743-0023, as well as local law enforcement.

Courts do not call or email people to obtain payments or personal information. Courts do not request credit card or PayPal payments by email or telephone. As a general reminder, do not provide any personal information, credit card or bank information to a caller or in response to an e-mail claiming to be from a court. If you have received a call or email about a court case or a warrant for arrest, contact the District Court or Circuit Court in your jurisdiction. Contact information for each court is available on the Maryland Judiciary website's courts directory.

### New Medicare cards will be sent to recipients between April 2018 to April 2019, says AMAC

*'It won't be a foolproof precaution, but it will go a long way toward protecting your identities'*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Medicare has long been a lucrative target for fraudsters. In fact, Medicare fraud costs taxpayers tens of billions of dollars each year. The schemes range from fraudulent claims for healthcare reimbursements to fake prescriptions for medications and costly medical devices.

"But identity theft is one of the most prolific and personally dangerous types of fraud for individuals. While bogus claims target the system, ID crimes target you, the individual. When criminals steal your Medicare card numbers, they are also gaining illicit access to your Social Security number. Not only can they then use the information to submit phony healthcare claims, but they can also use it to commit bank and credit card fraud, for example," says Dan We-

ber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

That's why the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS] will begin issuing new Medicare cards starting in April. These new cards will use random numbers instead of your Social Security numbers as your identifiers.

"It won't be a foolproof precaution, but it will go a long way toward protecting your identities. It will be up to you to keep your new card safe. The bad guys can still use it to submit fake claims for reimbursement," according to Weber.

Beware of new scams, says the Federal Trade Commission, which has offered these guidelines to help Medicare cardholders:

- Don't ever pay for your new card. It's always yours for free. If anyone calls and says you need to pay for it, that's a scam.

- Don't give personal information to get your card. If someone calls claiming to be from Medicare, asking for your Social Security number or bank information, that's a scam. Hang up. Medicare will never ask you to give personal information to get your new number and card.

- Guard your card. When you get your new card, safeguard it like you would any other health insurance or credit card. While removing the Social Security number cuts down on many types of identity theft, you'll still want to protect your new card because identity thieves could use it to get medical services.

"Medicare recipients will not all receive their new cards at the same time," says Weber. "We will be getting our cards according to a state-by-state schedule that will last from April 2018 to April 2019. To see when you will receive your card, click this link."

### CASA Condemns New ICE Policy Endangering Pregnant Women

LANGLEY PARK, MD—Virginia Kase, chief operating officer of CASA, the area's largest immigrant service and advocacy organization, issued the following statement after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced it would end the presumption of release for all pregnant women ICE detains.

"ICE's new policy is a callous decision that exposes pregnant women to dangerous health risks like miscarriages and pregnancy complications. These women are vulnerable, often escaping gang-related violence, sexual abuse, and dire economic conditions. To force expectant mothers to risk their lives in the hazardous, stressful, and unhealthy conditions that characterize detention centers is cruel. However, it is an end to Women's History Month fully fitting the Trump administration and how little they regard women, especially immigrant women. We call on ICE to reverse this new directive immediately."

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### RETIRED TEACHERS

Senator Miller greeted retired teachers from Prince George's County to Annapolis. Throughout the Legislative Session Senator Miller spent time with students from Prince George's County who came to Annapolis to watch government in action. He always takes time to speak with the students, teachers and other visitors and to recognize them from the gallery.

### UNION UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY

Join us Sunday April 22, 2018 at our 10:00 AM Worship Service. The theme is Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbors. Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson. The address is Union United Methodist Church 14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Rev. Dr. Kendrick Weaver, Pastor. Please RSVP: Marville Wilson, UMW President 301-577-2029. In honor of the day please wear Red & Black.

### AMERICAN RED CROSS

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association announces the 2018 National Service Initiative American Red Cross Blood Drive Challenge until November 30, 2018. Get your section and state involved. Host a blood drive at state conferences, athletic events, Tournaments, individual, etc. and be a leader.

Why host a Blood Drive? Support your community. Join a 125-year strong movement of service. Energize your members by providing a convenient way to give back to the community.

Enjoy a partnership where everyone wins. Garner good will from inside and outside your organization by supporting the American Red Cross. It feels good to be a part of helping to save lives. Use this designated link to register and be sure to enter NIAAA in the organization field. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/hosting-blood-drive/register>.

### FAMILY INSTITUTE

You're invited! Register for free PGCPs Family Institute Spring 2018 courses. (Growing Together Prince George's County Public Schools). IIE. High Quality Career and Technical Education: Preparing Students for College and Career. This workshop will provide parents and students with valuable information about Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study offered in PGCPs. Learn how your student can earn industry certifications and college credits while participating in an academically rigorous career-themed program in high school. All courses (except IIA) are from 6-7:30 PM. Registration and information website is [www.pgcpfamily.org](http://www.pgcpfamily.org). Free Childcare for ages 4-12 while adults attend class. The dates are Monday, May 14, 2018 at Suitland High School, and Monday, May, 21, 2018 at Bowie High School. Check out the website because there are other workshops available at different schools.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Maryland Governor Hogan appointed Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux to the Governor's P-20 Leader-

ship Council of Maryland, recognizing President's Breaux's Commitment for her dedication to public service. Congratulations Dr. Breaux.

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 1 Clinton United Methodist Church New Junior Usher Board Installation included Rendel Crawford, Ronald Crawford, Jr., Abu Davies, Anthony Davis, Elijah Kerrick, Amiah Knight, Etinosa Omoregbe, Grace Omoregbe, Denia Peralta, Keinel Peralta and Daryn Smalling. Congratulations to all the New Youth Ushers.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Jaselle Dyson, Maudie Goodrum, Glenna Graves, Cosmus Samuel, Eric Knight, Barron Neal, Samuel Bell, Leon Gordon, Claudette Oghogho, Nadia Long, Veronica Thomas, Charmaine Grant, William Stroman, III, Gerald Brown, Alexander Stammer, Nathaniel Holmes and Jameel Hinton who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating birthdays in April.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Ron and Beth Davis, Lloyd and Shirley Brown, Trevor and Denise Bourne, Norman and Jean Noel, Clarence and Dorothy Reid, Eddie and Ruth Wilson, Leon and Louise Gordon, George and Karen Taylor, Cosmus and Stephanie Samuel who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in April.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Yes, Sometimes It's Good To Say "No"

Most of us, most of the time, want to be nice, to do what is asked and to please those asking for our help. We usually try to be accommodating at work, with our friends, and with our family members.

But sometimes, rather than replying, "Sure," when asked to do an inconvenient favor, or to take on a task beyond our abilities, it may make better sense to say, "No."

It can often be difficult to just utter that simple "no." We like to look responsible, helpful and capable. However, the reality is that saying "yes" to virtually every request can produce a variety of negative results.

Research has shown that the more difficulty someone has in saying "no," the more the person is likely to experience stress, burnout and possibly even depression. Difficult requests are highly likely to make you feel frustrated or anxious, or even mad at yourself for saying yes in the first place.

The key to saying no is to do it in a respectful and courteous manner. It starts with understanding what your own boundaries are, and not being embarrassed to accept and follow those boundaries. When you see that a request is going to push you into a zone where you'll feel uncomfortable or not fully competent, it's important to make your feelings, and decision, clearly known.

Responding to a request with phrases like, "Gee, I'm not certain I can," makes it clear that you are not being straightforward about your decision. That's also true when your immediate response is to start apologizing or making excuses and explanations for why you can't do what's being requested.

Instead, first make sure that saying "no" is really the only alternative. Politely let the person know you would like to help, but first ask questions to clarify what is really needed. Perhaps there is a way that you can help that wasn't evident when your aid was initially requested. But if it turns out that no really is the only right answer, then state your decision clearly. Let the person know you're sorry you can't help, but that it just wouldn't work.

While we all want to be helpful, it's important to recognize your own limitations, interests and capabilities. Stepping too far outside those comfort zones will leave you feeling anxious and frustrated, and probably won't be the best help available.

*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*

### Morningside from A2

(Steve) Stauffer and Shelia (Rick) Agustin; his sister Mary Stalling; daughter-in-law Sue Denby; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ethel Tolson Griffith, 90, lifetime resident of Upper Marlboro, died Feb. 24, just nine hours before her son Steven died. Ethel is survived by her other son, Adrian Griffith, her brother Donald Gilford Tolson Sr., and six grandchildren. Steven Griffith, 53, who also died Feb. 24, is survived by his wife Angelia, son Jordan, stepson Andre Henderson, and brother Adrian. Ethel and her son Steven were buried from Forest Memorial UMC in Upper Marlboro on March 9.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Darlie Fay Norton and Donald Brown Jr., April 13; Jean Osterkamp, Donald Brown Sr., Sarah Shipman, Autumn Williams and Southern Maryland Hospital Chaplin Fr. Jeffrey Samaha, April 14; Bill Ward and Les Bornman, April 15; Tara Destiny Proctor, Edna Ducote and Wanda Brooke, April 16; Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17; and Cameron Trexler, April 19.

Happy 68th anniversary to John and Emily Tierney on April 15. Happy 69th to Edward and Jane (Martin) Talbert on April 16, and happy 38th to Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers, on April 18.

### MLK from A1

Dr. King's legacy, principles and values offer each of us, a unique opportunity to be champions for change, including our young people who rally for stricter gun control laws; the brave men and women of the #METOO movement; the peaceful protesters against violence; those fighting for our nation's immigrants, and defenders of progressive civil and equal rights legislative agendas.

50 years ago, today, Dr. King said, "Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation."

These words still resonate today, offering a strong call to action to fully realize Dr. King's dream and his legacy.

During session on Tuesday, the Prince George's County Council unanimously approved CR-22-2018, a resolution addressing disparities and reaffirming the Council's commitment to ongoing dialogue. We will continue to foster inclusiveness and understanding, especially during this challenging time in American history.

The Council remains dedicated to equality, as we celebrate the rich diversity in our communities, and in keeping with Dr. King's message of peace and love, we encourage County residents to connect and engage as the fight for equity, education, justice and non-violence endures.

## Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program—Single Family Properties

*Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development Has Partnered With the Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority and Housing Initiative Partnership to Repair Health and Safety Hazards in the Homes of Eligible Homeowners in Prince George's County.*

By PRESS OFFICER  
DHCD

LANHAM, MD—The purpose of the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program is to preserve and improve single family properties and one-to-four unit rental properties. It is a program designed to bring properties up to applicable building codes and standards.

### Eligible Types of Housing

Program funds may be used to assist in the rehabilitation of owner-occupied single-family homes and rental housing with one to four units.

### Eligible Applicants

Household income of owner-occupants of single family homes and all residents of financed rental housing cannot exceed 80 percent of the statewide or Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area median income. Interest rates range from 0% to 6% and are based on the applicant's ability to pay. Deferred loans are available to some borrowers who require health, safety or access-

ability improvements. For rental units, the project's income determines requirements for loan deferral or repayment.

### Loan Terms

Loans have interest rates based on the income of tenants served and projected income available to repay the loan. Generally, the maximum loan is 110 percent of the value of the property. Loans in excess of \$5,000 or with deferred payments are secured by a mortgage. The maximum loan term is 30 years. Loans which serve families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the statewide or Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area median income may have deferred payments if necessary for project feasibility.

Loans should accomplish the following: correct exterior and interior deficiencies; make accessibility modifications; correct health and safety violations; improve weatherization and energy conservation; and correct lead-based paint violations.

General improvements are eligible for financing after renovation of the priority items listed above. Luxury items such as swimming pools and recreational facilities are not eligible for financing. General improvements include small addition, alteration, carpeting; fences and landscaping, kitchen, bathroom, or closet remodeling.

### Local Government Involvement

Generally, all loan requests are processed directly by local governments for properties within their jurisdiction.

### How To Apply

Applicants should contact their local housing office or the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Single Family Housing at (301) 429-7821 (within the Baltimore area) or 1-800-638-7781.

Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program loans are originated, packaged and closed by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Special Loan Program's

network of local administering agencies. The network includes the county housing and community development offices as well as nonprofit organizations.

**Rehabilitation Application** form can be downloaded at [http://pilot.dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Documents/mhrp-sf\\_application.pdf](http://pilot.dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Documents/mhrp-sf_application.pdf)

**Sponsor Application** form is located and can be downloaded at [http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Documents/MHRP%20Application%20Forms/mhrp-sf\\_sponsor\\_application.pdf](http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Documents/MHRP%20Application%20Forms/mhrp-sf_sponsor_application.pdf)

### More Information

Contact:

Single Family Housing  
Maryland Department of  
Housing and Community  
Development  
7800 Harkins Road, Lanham,  
MD 20706  
Email: [singlefamilyhousing.dhcd@maryland.gov](mailto:singlefamilyhousing.dhcd@maryland.gov)  
Phone: (301) 429-7821  
Toll Free (Maryland Only):  
800-638-7781  
TTY: 711 or 1-800-735-2258

## March of Dimes Nominations Now Open For Heroines of Washington Awards

By PRESS OFFICER  
March of Dimes

ARLINGTON, VA—The March of Dimes is now accepting nominations for the 18th annual Heroines of Washington awards program. Presented by Vencore, the awards honors women in the D.C. region for their dedication to and leadership in community service.

### Awards will be presented for the following categories:

- Healthcare Heroine Award
- Professional Services Heroine Award Sponsored by TSI
- Public Sector Heroine Award
- Real Estate Heroine Award
- Technology Heroine Award
- Rising Heroine Award
- Lifetime Heroine Award

To nominate a heroine and learn more about the event and past winners, visit the website [www.marchofdimes.org/heroines](http://www.marchofdimes.org/heroines). Nominees must live in Maryland, Northern Virginia or Washington, D.C. Self-nominations will be accepted. The deadline to submit a nominee is July 16, 2018.

"There is one time in my life I have been speechless and that was when I received the Heroine of Washington Award from the March of Dimes," said 2017 Heroines of Washington Award recipient, Christine Espenshade of JLL Capital Markets. "No one commits to a non-profit or volunteers for the recognition, but being acknowledged for my work with the Pratt Library among a group of successful business women was one of the

greatest moments of my life. The recognition from my colleagues, peers and the entire business community has inspired me to do more and encourage others to do the same."

Winners will be formally recognized at a black-tie awards gala Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner. Guests will include directors, CEOs and other high-level individuals from local corporations and government agencies. Proceeds will support March of Dimes programs, research, community services, education and advocacy.

Since 2001 the March of Dimes has honored over 112 "Heroines" and raised more than \$2.8 million to support the March of Dimes mission. Sponsors include Vencore and TSI.

### About The March of Dimes

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For 80 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines and breakthroughs.

For the latest resources and health information, visit our websites [marchofdimes.org](http://marchofdimes.org) and [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org). To participate in our annual signature fundraising event, visit [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org). If you have been affected by prematurity or birth defects, visit our [shareyourstory.org](http://shareyourstory.org) community to find comfort and support. For detailed national, state and local perinatal statistics, visit [persistats.org](http://persistats.org). You can also find us on Facebook and follow us

### Rally from A1

ica" were among those who helped to commemorate King's life and unfinished legacy.

Speakers addressed a wide array of issues, including the Black Lives Matter movement, education, mass incarceration, police brutality, the war on drugs, housing and gentrification, voting rights, and the "continuing segregation of our churches, which adds to our complicity," Rev. Jim Wallis said. Wallis founded the Christian social justice organization the Sojourners, a religious community from Illinois.

"Our sins nailed Christ to the cross ... our sins past, present, and future," Wallis said. "Today, we confess the sins of white colonialism, and white racism helped nail Jesus Christ to the cross. This is our confession during this holy season."

"Confession is good for the soul ... but once confession is made, there is work to do, there

is a battle to fight," Emmy-winning hip-hop artist and pastor Julian Deshaizer told the gathering.

"There is no area of life in this nation that is untouched by racism. There is nothing in this nation that is not touched and affected by racism. We must understand the insidious nature of racism, how it manifests in everyday life."

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, contended that Christianity is complicit in oppression against African Americans.

"I'm tired of talk. I'm tired of all the promises ... I'm here because the church that I serve has been complicit in the history of racism," Nelson said. "It is time for us to start truly carrying the strength of a community against racism."

Public schools have failed minority students, who find themselves with "an absence of possibility," after years being

neglected by teachers and poor school districts, Nelson said.

"We must not ask 'how' to unity and reconciliation," said Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey, author of "Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation." "Our own history makes clear that that's not the question our brothers and sisters of color have been asking," referencing a number of incidents since 1960 in which white churches failed to fight for equality.

"They've not been asking for more togetherness. They've been organizing and insisting on justice," Harvey said.

Harvey asked white people how they were fighting to end oppression, and criticized the Trump administration for continued attack on minorities.

"Dear white Christians: now what?" Harvey asked. "It feels right to stand in this place just minutes away from a very, very White House. Muslims are being banned.

Latino families are being terrorized ... It feels good to be here because the gospel calls us here."

King's focus on economic justice was a central theme of the event.

"There is this myth that the government isn't responsible for wealth disparity and therefore isn't responsible for fixing it," Cohen said. "The shape of our world then and now isn't an accident. They are a result of deliberate government policy."

"If Jerry and I had been black, there never would have been Ben and Jerry's," Cohen said. "The point isn't that there would be no Cherry Garcia or Chunky Monkey. The point is there are millions of black and brown people who have been screwed."

President Trump declared April 4 to be "a day to honor Dr. King's legacy," and urged Americans in a proclamation to "do their part to make Dr. King's dreams of peace, unity, and justice a reality."

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# COMMENTARY

## Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland



### Hogan Administration Urges EPA to Drop Plan to Weaken Vehicle Air Pollution Emissions Standards

*Calls on Federal Agency to Leave Current Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards in Place*

BALTIMORE, MD—Due to the known effects of increased air pollution on public health and the environment, as well as the potential for higher costs to consumers, Governor Larry Hogan is calling on federal environmental regulators to drop plans to weaken vehicle emissions standards. The Hogan administration is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to leave the current greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty vehicles in place and to allow states like Maryland to continue to adopt vehicle emissions standards that are more protective than federal standards.

“Maryland has made significant progress in improving our air quality in recent years, and we are a leader in fighting the effects of climate change. That progress would be jeopardized by any weakening of vehicle emissions standards,” said Governor Hogan. “We strongly urge the EPA to drop their plans to weaken vehicle emissions standards, and we call on the agency to allow our state to continue to adopt strong standards to protect the air that Marylanders breathe.”

“Maryland is a recognized leader in fighting the effects of climate change, and the Hogan administration opposes efforts to weaken our forward progress on clean cars and a healthy environment,” said Maryland Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. “We will use the law and other tools to block rollbacks. EPA should be supporting state and regional actions to cut greenhouse gases and interstate smog.”

Maryland’s opposition to EPA’s announced decision to move toward weakening national greenhouse gas emissions standards for model year 2022–2025 light-duty vehicles was expressed in a multi-state letter sent this week to the federal agency. Secretary Grumbles was among the state environmental officers who signed that letter, which strongly urges EPA to leave the current greenhouse gas emissions standards in place. The letter also calls for EPA to

See EPA Page A8

### National Colonial Farm & Piscataway Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NPS

#### NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM & PISCATAWAY PARK

Founded in 1957 to protect the view from Mount Vernon across the Potomac River, the Accokeek Foundation, an educational nonprofit, became one of the nation’s first land trusts. Today, the Foundation stewards 200 hundred acres of Piscataway National Park in Accokeek, MD, where visitors can hike a network of trails winding through wetlands, visit a native tree arboretum, and observe an award-winning forest restoration project. The Foundation also runs the National Colonial Farm, a living history museum that depicts a Maryland middle-class family farm on the eve of the American Revolution. Through their heritage breed livestock and seed saving programs, nearly extinct heirloom crops and animals are preserved for future generations. The Foundation’s organic Ecosystem Farm emphasizes the future of agriculture as farmers learn the tools of a new trade and practice sustainable use of natural resources. “Shares” of the farm’s organic produce are sold to area households. The park’s beautiful grounds, trails, and programs are open to the public year ‘round.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Let’s Move Forward Together

In the spring of 1960, I was a senior at Spelman College in Atlanta and decided to help organize the civil rights student sit-in movement to desegregate lunch counters. I went to Atlanta’s City Hall to engage in our cause to end racial apartheid. I felt overwhelming gratitude for the chance to be part of something larger than myself or our campus. My college diary captured a bit of the excitement of those days:

*Now as never before is the chance offered to do something. This is a history-making epoch where we—me—the young—can be major characters. Now is the time to act—to work—to sacrifice ...*

*Change is pervading—change I’m helping bring in. I’m useful and I’m serving and I’m so thankful ...*

*We are making history. We are taking upon ourselves the problems of the time and what a good burden.*

Today hundreds of thousands of students are taking on the burden of their and our time—where adults have failed to act to protect children from guns. The scenes from the March For Our Lives in Washington, D.C. and the more than 800 sibling marches around the country and the world signal hope, inspiration, optimism and the confidence of a new generation of young leaders and activists. I can only imagine how many of these young people feel empowered and blessed as I did by finding their call to serve, work, sacrifice and make history.

It was wonderful to see children of all ages participate, the youngest being Dr. King’s 9-year-old granddaughter. He would be so proud of her as she stood on stage saying “Enough!” Special memories, tears and chants of anger—Not One More! Vote Them Out! were shared for the lives and hurt that remain with all left behind. There were powerful homemade signs—Will I Be Next? Arms Are for Hugging! My Life is More Important Than Your Guns! Fear Has No Place in Our Schools! Restrict the Piece, Reserve the Peace! We

Are Students, We Are Change! And a Little Child Will Lead Them! Watching it all gave such a sense of togetherness for all those who gathered whether it was in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, New York City, Los Angeles, Wichita, Miami, Philadelphia, or in dozens of other cities across the country and around the world.

We must move forward together to keep our children safe. As part of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF)’s longstanding work to Protect Children, Not Guns, we have released an updated factsheet on *The Truth About Guns*, debunking common myths and sharing 11 truths we should all know and act upon. Consider just one: Guns make violence more deadly. Contrary to what the gun industry says, guns do kill people. Guns make killing easy, efficient, and somewhat impersonal, thereby making anger and violence more deadly. An estimated 41 percent of gun-related homicides and 94 percent of gun-related suicides would not occur if no guns were present. The use of a gun in family or intimate assaults increases

the risk of death 12 times.

*The Truth About Guns* shows the effectiveness of common sense gun safety laws and the benefits of restrictions that regulate guns and vigorous enforcement of existing gun safety laws. It documents the overwhelming support for common sense gun safety laws among American voters, including gun owners, and the dangers of guns in the home. Share and discuss the factsheet with your friends, family, and congregations and go see your Members of Congress while they are home on recess and contact them when they return to Washington the week of April 9th. The truth will help set America free.

CDF also has updated our toolkit to support faith communities seeking to end gun violence against children. It includes a menu of suggested activities to inspire congregations to act. Please share the educational materials and incorporate them into teachings through Sunday school lessons, bulletin

See WATCH, Page A8

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Where Do We Go From Here?

*“When we foolishly maximize the minimum and minimize the maximum, we sign the warrant for our own day of doom. It is this moral lag in our thing-oriented society that blinds us to the human reality around us and encourages us in the greed and the exploitation which creates the sector of poverty in the midst of wealth. Again we have deluded ourselves into believing the myth that Capitalism grew and prospered out of the protestant ethic of hard work and sacrifice. The fact is that Capitalism was built on the exploitation and suffering of black slaves and continues to thrive on the exploitation of the poor both black and white, both here and abroad.”*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a civil rights organization that worked closely with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the April 4 anniversary of King’s assassination has always been a somber day of remembrance for the National Urban League.

This year, the 50th anniversary, is an especially poignant one, presenting an opportunity to examine the progress of racial equality over the last half-century, and examining King’s legacy through the lens of that history.

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018, I have the honor of speaking at the official 50th Anniversary Commemoration at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Museum occupies the former Lorraine Motel where King was shot to death. At 6:01 p.m., the moment of his death, bells at the Museum will ring. To symbolize the news of his death rippling across the country and around the world, bells will ring nationally at 6:05 p.m. and internationally at 6:07 p.m.

I was a child at the time of King’s death, but I remember the devastation of my parents, Dutch and Sybil Morial, who knew him personally. My mother first met King when he was a graduate student at Boston University, where she was an undergraduate. She describes the day in her memoir, *Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment*.

He knew it was his time. He had said it ... “I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.” He knew it, but we didn’t. And we didn’t under-

stand his death. I was inconsolable ... I said to Dutch, “Now that Martin is gone, what will become of the movement?” “It will go on. It must.” And it did.

And now, 50 years later, the country asks itself the same question: What will become of the movement? The Museum’s commemoration is part of its year long exploration of the theme, “MLK50 - Where Do We Go From Here.”

It’s seldom emphasized that the reason King was in Memphis on April 4, 1968, was to support the city’s striking sanitation workers. Earlier in the year, a worker had been crushed to death by malfunctioning equipment, leading 1,300 men to walk off their jobs to protest dangerous conditions and low pay.

Memphis was the first stop in his Poor People’s Campaign, a massive march on Washington planned for later that year. King saw the Poor People’s Campaign as an expansion of his movement from civil rights to human rights, an effort to unite all marginalized people.

His plan for the Poor People’s Campaign included petitioning the federal government to prioritize helping the poor with a \$30 billion anti-poverty package that included, among other demands, a commitment to full employment, a guaranteed annual income measure and more low-income housing.

Sadly, the campaign floundered as a result of the sudden loss of his leadership. With an eye toward this history, the National Urban League has established robust programs to cultivate and nurture leadership potential within and without our movement. Our Emerging Leaders Program is a competitive, 12-month development opportunity for professionals that provides a unique chance to master analytical and critical leadership skills in the non-profit sector. Walmart Foundation, a sponsor of Wednesday’s ceremony, has made its support of Emerging Leaders and other leadership training initiatives a centerpiece of a community-wide commitment to honoring King’s legacy.

With the help of a new generation of leaders, the Poor People’s Campaign has been revived, and begins a series of local action, peaceful rallies and protests in April. In alignment with the National Urban League’s mission of economic empowerment and opportunity, we look forward to helping the spirit of King’s legacy live on through sustained activism.

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty — Turning 70 and Still Working: What about Social Security?

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I turn 70 on March 13, 2018 and I'm single. I was told to apply for Social Security one month before I turn 70, but now I'm hearing that I should have applied 4 months in advance. I have also been told not to apply for Social Security because I plan on still working. I think this is not right, but thought I'd ask anyway. I plan on working after 70 and I'm wondering what happens to the Medicare and Social Security deductions. Are they still deducted? Any other hints would be appreciated.

#### Signed: 70 but Still Kicking

**Dear Still Kicking:** I'm happy to be able to clarify these things for you. The Social Security Administration recommends that you apply for your benefits up to 3 months before you want them to start, but you won't lose anything because you didn't. Just be sure you specify in your application that you want your "Benefit Start Month" to be March 2018. They will make sure your benefits start for that month, even if they must pay you retroactively.

Working after your benefits start will not affect your Social Security payments in any way. Social Security's annual "earnings limit" goes away once a person reaches their full retirement age, which in your case was age 66. So now at age 70, you can earn as much as you like and your benefits won't be reduced as they might normally be for someone who had not yet reached their full retirement age. But if you continue to work, even though you are on Medicare and collecting Social Security, FICA taxes (which include both Medicare and Social Security contributions) will continue to be withheld from your earnings. There is no exemption because you are already on Medicare or receiving Social Security benefits, nor because you've attained a certain age.

By claiming your benefits at age 70, your Social Security check will be 32% higher than it would have been at age 66. Please be aware also that depending on your income level, some of your Social Security benefits may be taxable income when you file your Federal taxes. As a single filer, if your "combined income", also known as your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), exceeds \$25,000 then up to 50% of your benefits may be taxable; if your MAGI exceeds \$34,000 up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable. To clarify, your "combined income" includes your regular Adjusted Gross Income for income tax purposes, plus 50% of your Social Security income, plus any non-taxable interest you received but did not need to claim on your IRS Form 1040. You should include this potential additional tax obligation in your thinking as you consider your income tax situation.

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

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#### Armed from A1

those cases, the Department of State Police would then assign a state police officer.

The bill, which would go into effect July 1, calls for 1,000 new officers, roughly the amount it would take to fill the remaining schools. This is where it gets expensive.

The cost of stationing each state police officer would be roughly \$224,300, according to a fiscal analysis—\$101,617 for salary; \$61,675 to complete State Police Academy training; \$59,000 for a fully equipped police car; and \$2,054 for uniforms and other equipment.

In total, the law would cost around \$224 million in just the first year.

"Not everything is a quick fix, so you have to come up with a stopgap measure. This is it," said co-sponsor Sen. J.B. Jennings, R-Baltimore County and Harford. "It might be expensive, but you know what,

these are our children. They need to be protected."

While the bill has significant bipartisan support—Democratic Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Calvert, Charles and Prince George's, is the third sponsor—it still faces some pushback.

Skeptics of the proposal make clear that they don't question the motive, but the priority and funding.

Sen. Will Smith, D-Montgomery, questioned whether funding an SRO program is the best use of money to combat school shooters. Sen. Delores Kelley, D-Baltimore County, raised concerns that some children in over-policed areas are intimidated by officers and would struggle to concentrate in class.

It's in everyone's interest to keep children safe, Kelley said, but "not everything we're talking about would make it so."

Carroll County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said, to the contrary,

## Maryland Casinos Set New Record of \$150.1 Million in Revenue During March

By PRESS OFFICER  
MLGCA

BALTIMORE, MD—Maryland Lottery and Gaming today announced that March 2018 gaming revenues for the state's six casinos established a new single-month record of \$150,073,958. The figure is a 6.3% increase from the March 2017 total of \$141,166,114, which was the previous record month.

Maryland has six privately owned casinos: MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County; Live! Casino in Anne Arundel County; Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City; Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County; Ocean Downs Casino in Worcester County; and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County.

March 2018 was the third full month in which it was possible to make a direct year-over-year comparison including all six of the state's casinos. MGM National Harbor opened on December 8, 2016.

"We are incredibly proud of the performance of Maryland's casino industry," said Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director Gordon Medenica. "The state's casinos employ more than 7,000 people who work hard every day to make this success possible. We also thank the thousands of players and customers who have found Maryland's casinos to be such an enjoyable and exciting entertainment option."

**MGM National Harbor** set a new single-month record of \$60,446,025 from both slot machines and table games in March. The casino's previous record month was \$56,575,869 in December 2017. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day in March at MGM National Harbor was: \$386.74 for slot machines, \$6,316.19 for banked table games and \$1,574.37 for non-banked table games. March 2018 revenue at MGM National Harbor increased by \$9,196,232 or 17.9%, from March 2017. MGM National Harbor operates 2,692 slot machines and 173 (134 banked and 39 non-banked) table games.

**Live!** Casino totaled \$47,029,736 from both slot machines and table games in March. Live! Casino's gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$254.11 for slot machines, \$3,791.79 for banked table games and \$968.48 for non-banked table games. March 2018 revenue at Live! Casino increased by \$403,386 or 0.9%, from March 2017. Live! Casino operates 3,747 slot machines and 186 (136 banked and 50 non-banked) table games.

**Horseshoe** Casino Baltimore totaled \$24,865,345 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$231.32 for slot machines, \$1,935.68 for banked table games and \$845.17 for non-banked table games. Horseshoe Casino's March 2018 revenue

decreased by \$2,102,116, or 7.8%, from March 2017. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,100 slot machines and 175 (154 banked and 21 non-banked) table games.

**Hollywood** Casino Perryville totaled \$7,114,084 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$239.54 for slot machines, \$2,235.75 for banked table games and \$437.24 for non-banked table games. Hollywood Casino's March 2018 revenue increased by \$165,161, or 2.4%, from March 2017. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 822 slot machines and 21 (13 banked and 8 non-banked) table games.

**Ocean Downs** Casino totaled \$5,896,147 from slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$196.54 for slot machines and \$1,509.93 for banked table games. Ocean Downs Casino's March 2018 revenue increased by \$1,223,826, or 26.2%, from March 2017. Ocean Downs Casino operates 890 slot machines and 10 banked table games. The first table games at Ocean Downs Casino were introduced in December 2017. Ocean Downs Casino does not have non-banked table games.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,722,622 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was:

#### UMD from A1

tional Housing and Rehabilitation Association.

Some of Mr. Marshall's architectural projects have significantly transformed the urban landscape of Washington, D.C., most notably the University of the District of Columbia's Van Ness Campus. Since opening its doors in the 1970s, the campus has been viewed as a heavy-handed "brutalist" intervention into that Washington neighborhood. Between 2011 and 2015, Mr. Marshall led a team (designed by CannonDesign in association with MMD) to re-design the public face of that campus by proposing a new 80,000 square foot Student Center that re-engages the neighborhood, creates much-needed student space, and presents a compelling frontispiece to the campus. Mr. Marshall's

105,000 square foot City Vista project in the Mount Vernon Triangle area of Washington, D.C., a collaboration with Torti Gallas Architects, has brought life back to this portion of the city that has laid fallow since the riots following Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968. Several of Mr. Marshall's projects have been proposed to transform the Florida Avenue corridor and Meridian Hill areas of Washington, D.C. Mr. Marshall's firm is also currently working on the Entertainment and Sports Arena (scheduled to open September 2018) on the historic St. Elizabeth's campus in Southeast.

"As a student, I found it incredibly inspirational to learn from, and engage with, practicing architects who brought real-world insight into the classroom. I am honored to collaborate with Professor Kelly and his col-

leagues and look forward to working with the architecture students at the University of Maryland's distinguished School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation," said Marshall.

Paul Kea and his wife Grace established the Kea Distinguished Professorship in Architecture in 1967. The Kea Distinguished Professorship has played an important part of the life of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation by recognizing eminent practitioners and scholars. According to the original agreement, the Kea Distinguished Professor is to be recommended by the Dean and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and President of the University. Historically those appointed to the Kea Distinguished Professorship have been notable individuals outside the campus community.

#### About

##### Michael Marshall Design

Michael Marshall Design (MMD) is a DC-based architecture and design firm, serving clients in the public and private sectors. A seasoned collective of architects, brand strategists and creative thinkers, we work across design disciplines, beyond the expected, to inspire greater engagement and impact everywhere we come together.

We are passionate about using architecture and branding to create more relevant public spaces and more dynamic experiences. An architecture firm since 1989, we have always understood the power of the built environment, and now we bring our broad-based design thinking to create greater opportunities and drive positive change in our communities. www.michaelmarshalldesign.com.

an SRO presence improves the student-police dynamic. He's been involved with the SRO program for nearly 20 years, and said he's seen a positive impact.

"We're working from those early ages to try to repair those relationships, where people are trying to put fear in the police," Gahler told lawmakers. "The students trust the school resource officers and feed us information on all kinds of different crime issues facing our area. I think those relationships have to be fostered."

Sen. Robert Cassilly, R-Harford, echoed the sheriff's position. But he told the Capital News Service that funding is complicated and perhaps unfair. Counties have to prioritize how they spend local money, he said, so it wouldn't be right if taxpayers had to front the bill for a county that didn't prioritize SROs.

The other three school safety measures in the package

have bipartisan support, each bill also with at least one Democratic and one Republican sponsor. But there's a sense among some lawmakers that they've already been covered—at least in some part—in other pending legislation.

Here's a brief breakdown of the other three proposals in the School Safety Act:

**Senate bill 1262**, sponsored by Miller, Waugh and Sen. John Astle, D-Anne Arundel, would call for closer investigations during gun-ownership background checks. It would establish a specialized workgroup to make quarterly recommendations on conducting background checks. Lastly, the bill would give local sheriffs a specialized school-crisis welfare officer. In all, it would cost roughly \$1.8 million in the first year, an analysis found.

**Senate bill 1263**, sponsored by Waugh and Miller, would establish a "Threat Assessment Team," comprised of a mental

health counselor, teacher, principal, and possibly the state's Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Services, by the 2019-2020 school year, to evaluate students. It also expands prohibitions on making a threat of mass violence. General funding for the Maryland State Department of Education could increase by \$125 million or more by the 2020 fiscal year, according to a state fiscal analysis. The state's judicial system could pay more than \$220,000 in the first year for programming costs, the analysis said.

**Senate bill 1265**, sponsored by Sen. Katherine Klausmeier, D-Baltimore County, Miller and Waugh, would require all public schools to have lockable classroom doors, an area of safe refuge (safe zone) in each classroom, and security technology by the 2020-2021 school year. It also calls for an active training drill for stu-

dents in the first quarter of the fall semester. A pay-as-you-go bill, it would cost just over \$10 million a year, from 2019 to 2023, according to a fiscal analysis.

Right now, the first three bills are pending in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, while *Senate bill 1265* remains with the Senate Budget and Tax Committee. All four had hearings in late March and are awaiting committee votes to hit the full Senate floor.

With the 2018 session ending April 9, lawmakers know it will be difficult to prepare all four bills for passage. Waugh, the lead architect of the School Safety Act of 2018, said he doesn't prioritize any proposal over the other, but maintained that the SRO part would provide more immediate safety.

"You can do it now and it will reduce risks," he said. "Not completely, but it will reduce some risk right away."

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Game Night

Game night  
Grade: B+  
Rated R, a lot of  
harsh profanity, some  
fairly strong violence  
1 hr., 40 min

The very funny *Game Night* belongs to the comedy sub-genre of People Think They're Pretending But It's Actually Real, a class that includes such fine entries as *Three Amigos*, *Galaxy Quest* and *A Bug's Life* (which are all the same movie, as you know), plus *Tropic Thunder* and the under-appreciated Bill Murray entry *The Man Who Knew Too Little*. The key to making it work is to not let the oblivious parties remain oblivious for longer than the audience can believe, which depends on how clueless you've established the main characters to be. It's trickier when the characters are smart, though it's potentially funnier to see a smart person (especially a smug one) be deceived.

That's what *Game Night* achieves. Directed with surprising visual flair by John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein (the *Vacation* reboot duo) from a screenplay by Mark Perez (*Accepted*), it's focused on a shrewd, competitive married couple, Max (Jason Bateman) and Annie (Rachel McAdams), who met at bar trivia and have made board games a regular part of their lives. They host a weekly gathering to crush their opponents/friends, attended by fellows marrieds Kevin (Lamorne Morris) and Michelle (Kylie Bunbury), and singleton dummy Ryan (Billy Magnussen) and his rotating series of Instagram-model dates.

One night they are spontaneously joined by Max's older brother, Brooks (Kyle Chandler), a jet-setting entrepreneur who makes Max feel inferior and has a lifelong track record of beating him at everything. Brooks has arranged for the group to play an immersive murder-mystery game, wherein actors come to



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Bateman and McAdams star as Max and Annie, whose weekly couples game night gets kicked up a notch when Max's charismatic brother, Brooks (Chandler), arranges a murder mystery party, complete with fake thugs and faux federal agents. So when Brooks gets kidnapped, it's all part of the game—right? But as the six uber-competitive gamers set out to solve the case and win, they begin to discover that neither this game—nor Brooks—are what they seem to be. Over the course of one chaotic night, the friends find themselves increasingly in over their heads as each twist leads to another unexpected turn. With no rules, no points, and no idea who all the players are, this could turn out to be the most fun they've ever had ... or game over.**

your house and "kidnap" one person and the others compete in deciphering clues to save him. But wouldn't you know it, ACTUAL kidnappers show up and have a knock-down, drag-out fight with Brooks before dragging him away in front of the three couples, who are impressed by the authenticity of the fight and eager to start sleuthing.

The pairs work separately for a while, each twosome pursuing a different wrong path to solve what they have not yet realized is a real kidnapping. Max and Annie, normally a great team, start to unravel under the pressure, culminating in a hilarious scene where they must tend to a wound while bickering and fighting back nausea. There's great comic potential in intelligent people thinking they have the upper hand when we know they don't, and Bateman and McAdams—he with his smug-

ness, she with her confidence—are perfect for it. Kevin and Michelle's mini-thread is his discovery that she once cheated on him with a celebrity, which he obsesses over endlessly and which ultimately pays more comic dividends than you'd expect. And Ryan, that gleam-eyed fool, has brought a ringer as a date tonight, a co-worker named Sarah (Sharon Horgan) who's smart but doesn't like him.

The reality of the situation becomes clear soon enough, and the six players set out to rescue Brooks, whose trouble with organized crime is what led to this and will yet lead to the plot of the film getting so big it almost derails. It's held together by the group sticking together: they can be snippy with one another, but they always revert to affectionate teamwork before the mood grows caustic. The comedy gets dark, occasionally involving vi-

olence and pain, but it's never nihilistic or mean-spirited.

You see that basic good-naturedness in a jaunty, well-choreographed sequence where our players cooperate to keep a Faberge egg out of some bad guys' hands (it's a long story), and in the film's treatment of Max and Annie's next-door neighbor, Gary (Jesse Plemons), a sad-sack police officer who was part of game night until he and his wife divorced and he stopped being invited. Established first as an object of scorn, the humorless Gary comes to be a sympathetic character whose amusing idiosyncrasies endear him to us and his neighbors. It helps that Plemons is clearly enjoying himself, giving a performance that's loopy and weird but always under control. The whole cast has that infectious can-do attitude, resulting in an unexpectedly sharp, upbeat action comedy.

### Hunters from A1

"Yep, it's all bogus," Eckardt said March 27, while looking at the post. "To me it's immaterial. It wasn't a part of what we were all about."

The joke study did not appear in the bill's legislative analysis and the senator did not use the study in her own testimony, although she accompanied the girls to the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, where it was heard.

Vice Chair Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, said he was unaware the testimony was in part based on an April Fool's Day joke, but said the information doesn't change the premise of the bill.

"The idea that using pink to stand out against green still makes sense," he said. "Reading each piece of testimony ... is beyond our ability to do."

Michael Simonsen called the mistake "a learning experience for the entire family" but said he is proud of his daughters for participating in the legislative process.

"It is so important to share, that Paige and Brooke used multiple sources in their research and it is unfortunate that this one used, was not legitimate," he wrote in an email to Capital News Service. "They will want to continue researching every-

thing, even more thoroughly, particularly on the other six states ... who have already approved daylight fluorescent pink as an additional safety color choice."

It's no joke, however, that Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Virginia, New York and Wisconsin allow hunters to wear pink.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources wrote in a letter to lawmakers that "there has been no nationally recognized study completed ... on the effectiveness of this daylight fluorescent pink as a safety color."

The department also noted that while there is a standard for hunter orange, none exists for pink, even in other states. Maryland's bill leaves the definition of "daylight fluorescent pink" to the department.

When the Simonsens began looking into the topic during the fall of 2016, they had no idea that Eckardt, who represents the Simonsens' region, has had an interest in pink since long before the sisters were born.

"Since I campaigned in 1994, I chose pink. I was outside the box. Everybody said don't use that color," the senator said. "I said ... I will do it the way I want to do it because I want to have fun."

Eckardt, a former psychiatric nurse, decided to use a bit of operant conditioning, she said, by associating herself with the color

for more than two decades. She's known for wearing pink on the Senate floor almost every day.

Paige and Brooke, 9, noticed the pink decorations in her office right away, but Eckardt contemplated the potential backlash of sponsoring the bill.

"My initial response was 'Oh my goodness, I can just see it now — she doesn't have anything better to do than to promote pink in an election year,'" Eckardt said. "I was a little nervous about that."

Brooke, whose favorite color is green, and Paige, who likes light pink, said their bill has little to do with being chic.

"We don't like to think of it as a fashion statement," Brooke said. "We just want it to be a safer choice and maybe another choice, but we're not trying to eliminate fluorescent orange."

The sisters pointed out that it is safer than orange for people like Matthew Hurst, a family friend who hunts and is colorblind.

"I have a really hard time picking up the fluorescent orange in the fall when the trees change, especially with the small amount you're required to wear," said Hurst, who also testified before lawmakers. "The blaze pink stands out more in the natural environment."

When Talbot County, Maryland, hunter Leslie Milby first

heard about the bill, she thought it might be another attempt to "pink it and shrink it" — manufacturers' strategy of targeting women through less durable, brightly colored clothing.

"At first when I heard (of the bill) I kind of rolled my eyes because I was picturing bright pink camouflage," she said. "As long as the gear is as tough as a man's there's no reason I wouldn't support it."

Now that the bill has passed, it won't just be girls in the Simonsen family wearing the new color.

"I'm definitely going to wear fluorescent pink," Michael Simonsen said. "I'm their dad but more important I'm going to be their hunting partner so the thing is I want to be seen."

The girls occasionally shoot clay pigeons and said they plan to go hunting soon. In Maryland, children younger than 16 can hunt with an adult.

The girls said last month that they planned to share the joy of passing a bill with friends and classmates.

"We would be really happy if blaze pink became a color because we would be known for that," Brooke said in March. "Sometimes it's just nice to be known for making a law in Maryland."

House Bill 1118 is slated to go into effect July 1.

## Outdoor Living Spaces

### Take it Up a Notch Out Back—Adding Appeal to Your Patio or Deck

By MELINDA MYERS

Summer means time spent gardening and relaxing with friends. And just like the kitchen in winter, the patio or deck tends to be the gathering spot when the weather turns warm.

Get the most from this space with a bit of preseason planning and decorating. Select functional and beautiful furnishings to create a special spot for you, family and friends to enjoy whenever the weather allows.

First, sketch out the space and measure the dimensions of all furnishings you are considering, making sure they will fit. Allow extra space for people to pull chairs in and out from the table and navigate around furnishings, preferably 3 to 4 feet.

Next, select a table that fits the space and provides ample serving space. An extension table allows you to expand your surface if a few more folks drop by. A round folding table provides space for guests, and it can be stashed against the wall when workspace is needed.

Small- and large-space gardeners will enjoy the benefits of elevated gardens with built-in trellises. These maximize growing space even on a small deck or patio and bring the garden to the party. Look for self-watering planters and especially those with wheels so you can easily move them out of the way of a family gathering or closer to the kitchen for easy harvesting.

Include a multifunctional piece like a potting bench. Look for a versatile and well-built, furniture-quality piece like the CedarLast potting bench (gardeners.com) that complements other furnishings and can be used as a serving surface when entertaining. Consider features like a faucet for washing and watering that drains into a bucket or the ground, as well as hooks for hanging tools and baskets and space for storage.

Bring nature to your door and mask unwanted background noise with the soothing sound of water. Wall-mounted and container fountains add the sound and motion of water to even the smallest patios and decks. Watch for colorful winged visitors stopping by for a sip.

Extend your enjoyment into the evening with pleasing outdoor lighting. Make sure the light is deflected and not shining directly into visitors' eyes. Downward facing overhead lights brighten large areas. Use them to illuminate key spaces such as those used for cooking. Strands of lights on structures, ribs of an umbrella or the underside of a bar provide a festive touch.

Use tabletop lighting to create a more intimate mood. Outdoor flameless candles add warmth to your space while a Columbine Solar Lantern adds charm. Look for a style that complements your outdoor décor.

Add pathway lighting to direct guests to the patio or on a stroll through the garden. Solar lighting allows flexibility and eliminates the need for trenching wires to a power source. Think beyond traditional pathway and railing lighting. Strategically placed upward lighting of structures and plants or downward lighting hung from above can also provide needed illumination.

Whatever the size of your patio or deck you can create an inviting outdoor space for gardening and entertaining. Just invest a bit of time planning and shopping for attractive and functional furnishings. Then sit back and relax in your newly decorated space.



PHOTO COURTESY GARDENERS SUPPLY COMPANY

### Cedarlast Bed

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](http://www.melindamyers.com).

# Calendar of Events

April 12 — April 18, 2018

## Smooth Sounds for Seniors: Avon Dews

Date and time: Thursday, April 12, 2018, 12:00 Pm–2:00 PM  
 Description: Avon Dews is a native Washingtonian who started playing the harmonica at an early age. His style is classic, cool, and jazzy with a little old school and a touch of funk and blues. A professional harmonica player, Avon has played at venues including the Kennedy Center, the American Market at the National Harbor, the 2015 Cherry Blossom Festival, and the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club.  
 Cost: \$12/ticket  
 Ages: 60 and better  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Jerk Chicken Taste Off

Date and time: Friday, April 13, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Grab your recipe box and your favorite spices, then head on over to our Caribbean Jerk Chicken taste off! Our judges will decide which culinary group of teens make the best jerk chicken. You'll double your pleasure at the cookoff by not only learning how to cook jerk chicken, you'll also get the chance to eat your culinary delight!  
 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

## Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and time: Friday, April 13, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Grab some popcorn. Get your soda. Choose your favorite candy and get comfortable as you prepare to watch one of the latest movies - courtesy of us! Tell a friend and make this experience the ultimate in fun!  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Vansville Community Center  
 6813 Amendale Road, Beltsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Spring Arts and Crafts

Date and time: Friday, April 13, 2018, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: The temperatures are warming up and Spring is nearing! It's time to get creative to welcome in the festive days of the season. Your creativity will be on full display during this arts and craft showcase!  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: College Park Community Center  
 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

## Lecture Series: Historic African-American Architects

Date and time: Saturday, April 14, 2018, 11:00 AM  
 Description: Please join us for the second in our lecture series on the works of African American architects. Historian Susan Pearl will discuss architect W. Sidney Pittman (1875-1958), who lived in Fairmount Heights, Prince George's County. Son-in-law of Booker T. Washington, Pittman was best known for his design of the Negro Building at the 1907 Jamestown Ter-centennial and the 12th Street YMCA building in the District of Columbia.  
 Light refreshments will be served during a meet and greet with Pearl following the program.  
 Cost: \$5/person  
 Ages: 8 and older  
 Location: Marrietta House Museum  
 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD  
 Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Flag Football

Date and time: Saturday, April 14, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: If fast-paced action is your cup of tea, then you'll want to come participate in this co-ed, highly competitive flag football game. Do you have hands like Odell Beckham Jr? Are you as swift as Antonio Brown? Does the ball shoot out of your arm like a Carson Wentz deep pass? Show us what you're made of - sign up today!  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Lip-Sync Contest

Date and time: Saturday, April 14, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Get ready for the big stage and join us as we lip-sync to some of your favorite tunes! Words memorized—check! Dance moves down pat—check! Now, let's see who will take home the night's top prize!  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

## Mandy Harvey

Date and time: Sunday, April 15, 2018, 4:00 PM  
 Description: With effortless intonation and immaculate timing, jazz singer and songwriter Mandy Harvey brings fresh delight to both standards and original work. It's easy to understand why she is a contestant in season 12 of America's Got Talent. Mandy became almost completely deaf while studying for a career as a choir director, which makes her story even more fascinating. Although she temporarily abandoned her music studies, she eventually recognized passion and determination can make anything possible. In overcoming the challenges of profound hearing loss she has inspired millions, and fans love her impeccable interpretations of jazz hits and her imaginative, heartfelt original songs!  
 Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 for seniors, students, and groups of 20 or more  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Want Better Sleep? Consider a Green Mattress

Dear EarthTalk:

*I'm in the market for a new mattress after two decades on "old faithful" and I figure it's a good time to go green. What are the options out there these days for eco-friendly mattresses?*

—Betsy Langdon  
 Chicago, IL

Who would have thought that the comfy mattress you've been sleeping on for years contains dozens of potentially harmful substances and materials, from petrochemicals to adhesives to dyes to flame retardants, among other toxins and carcinogens. Luckily for green-minded consumers, though, there's never been a better time to find a truly "green" mattress.

"Green technology and innovation have impacted a wide range of industries in recent years...and this growing demand has led many mattress manufacturers to offer sustainable products as well," reports Tuck, a website dedicated to improving sleep hygiene, health and wellness through the creation and dissemination of comprehensive, unbiased, free resources. "However, terms like 'green,' 'natural' and 'eco-friendly' are often misused or exaggerated within the mattress industry." Further complicating matters, there is no regulatory body fact-checking green claims within the mattress industry, although certifications

are available for certain mattress materials like foam, latex, and fabrics.

So, what's a green-minded, health-conscious mattress shopper to do? First and foremost, know what to look for. According to Tuck, a true green mattress features natural and/or organic materials (natural latex, plant-based polyfoam or memory foam, cotton, wool, etc.). Tuck says that any mattress that contains less than 60 percent natural or organic material has no right to market itself as "green."

There is no overall certification for green mattresses overall per se, but there are certifications that apply to certain types of mattresses and their materials. To wit, if a mattress meets the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), at least 95 percent of its materials are certified organic, while certain noxious chemicals (chemical flame retardants, polyurethane) can't be present at all. Meanwhile, the Global Organic Latex Standard (GOLS) certifies that a latex mattress is made from 95 percent organic latex, with similarly stringent restrictions on what can be in the remaining five percent of the mattress.

Another certification to look for is OEKO-TEX, which sets limits on how much a given mattress can off-gas potentially harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde and other so-called volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) linked to



CREDIT: NATUREPEDIC

**A true green mattress features at least 60 percent natural and/or organic materials (such as natural latex, plant-based polyfoam or memory foam, cotton, wool, etc.).**

respiratory illness, memory impairment and other human health issues.

Foam mattress buyers should keep an eye out for the CertiPUR-US label, which certifies polyfoams and memory foams as made without ozone depleters, chemical flame retardants, heavy metals, formaldehyde and phthalates—and emit little if any volatile organic compounds that can compromise indoor air quality.

Some of the leading green mattress brands out there, as vet-



ted by Tuck and other experts, include Avocado, Bear, Essentia, Happpy, Keetsa, Live & Sleep, LifeKind/OMI, Loom & Leaf, Luxi, My Green Mattress, Naturepedic, Nest Bedding, Organic Mattresses, Plushbeds, Saatva, Sleep On Latex, Soaring Heart, Spindle, Tuft & Needle and Zenhaven.

To learn more, peruse Tuck.com. The freely accessible database contains information on 125,000 different customer experiences from nearly 1,000 individual sources.

CONTACTS: Tuck, tuck.com; GOTS, global-standard.org; GOLS, <https://goo.gl/THzRCp>; OEKO-TEX, oeko-tex.com; CertiPUR-US, certipur.us.

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Columbia Association Youth and Teen Center in collaboration with the Jacaranda Center for Family & Youth Development, Inc. present

## Family Matters Dinner Workshop Series

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**May 2, 2018 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**  
 Information | Resources | Prizes



<b>Youth &amp; Teen Center</b> 5853 Robert Oliver Place Columbia, MD 21045	<b>Cost: \$20.00</b> To register visit <a href="http://www.thejacarandacenter.org">www.thejacarandacenter.org</a>	<b>Dinner Workshop</b> Bring Your Own Brown Bag or Take Out Dinner
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**The Jacaranda Center for Family and Youth Development, Inc.**  
 For more information contact (410) 978-1859  
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 Stengthening Families One Household at a Time