

# The Prince George's Post



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1938 VARSITY BOXING SQUAD

FRONT ROW — ALPERSTEIN, COLEMAN, BRADLEY, ROCHLIN, DORR, COX, ASKIN.  
BACK ROW — COL. MILLER, ASST. COACH MAGLIN, HENDERSON, DE PERALTA, PEARSON, ADAMS, HIMEUFARB,  
ACREE, FLAX, JOHNSON, LODGE, MGR. M<sup>c</sup>WILLIAMS.

PHOTO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND LIBRARIES. COPYRIGHT 1938 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
The 1938 University of Maryland boxing team included Benjamin "Benny" Alperstein, Maryland's first national champion. University of Maryland's boxing team existed from 1930 until the university shut it down in 1955. Special Collections and University Archives, University of Maryland Libraries. Copyright 1938 University of Maryland.

## University of Maryland Boxing Team Delivered Champions

By ROBBIE GREENSPAN  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The champ stood in the ring, basking in his accomplishment. For the first time in school history, the University of Maryland had a national champion.

Sixty-five years before Juan Dixon brought a national championship to the University of Maryland, and 16 years before the Terps won a football national championship, Benjamin "Benny" Alperstein won the NCAA boxing lightweight championship in 1937, bringing

home Maryland's first national title.

"Alperstein left the ring unmarked," the Washington Post wrote at the time. "He simply unwrapped a boxing lesson and dished it out."

Alperstein was one of the many success stories that

came from the University of Maryland's boxing team, which existed from 1930 until 1955, when the athletic council voted to end the boxing program.

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## Prince George's County's Decline in Homelessness Best in the DMV

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—In Prince George's County, the number of homeless individuals fell 10.1% from 2017 to 2018. According to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 2018 Point in Time survey report, Prince George's County had the greatest reduction in the percentage of people experiencing homelessness in the Washington metropolitan region. During the annual Point in Time count, which was conducted on Wednesday, Janu-

ary 24, 2018, 478 homeless adults and children were identified as chronically homeless, compared to 532 adults and children identified as homeless in 2017. The overall percentage decline in chronically homeless individuals between 2014–2018 is 27%, which also is the largest decline in the region.

"Our successful efforts to reduce the number of homeless residents in Prince George's County, is directly attributed to our improved economy, a lower

See HOMELESS Page A3

## Prince George's County AAA Bond Ratings Reaffirmed by Major Credit Rating Agencies

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced that the County's AAA bond ratings were reaffirmed by the three major credit rating agencies — Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings. This is the highest credit rating a bond rating agency can assign, and serves as a financial indicator to investors of the County's financial strength and ability to meet financial commitments. The AAA ratings allow the

County to obtain the lowest cost of borrowing available and deliver capital projects at the lowest cost possible to taxpayers.

"The rating agencies' reaffirmation of the County's triple 'A' ratings indicate their confidence in the economic strength of our community and sound financial management," said County Executive Baker. "Congratulations are in order for our financial management team. Over the last seven years, my administration has maintained and expanded the

See AAA RATING Page A7

## Synthetic Cannabinoids Alert!

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Maryland Poison Center has confirmed at least 20 reports of individuals across the state who have developed bleeding disorders after using synthetic cannabinoids.

Synthetic cannabinoids are human-made, mind-altering chemicals that are sprayed on to dried plant material, and then smoked or sold as liquids to be vaporized in e-cigarettes and other devices. These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they are similar to chemicals found in the marijuana plant. They are commonly known as K2, spice, scooby snacks (or snax), synthetic marijuana, fake weed, and genie, among other names. The health effects from using synthetic cannabinoids can be unpredictable, harmful, and fatal.

The Maryland Poison Center at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy was notified of the state's first reported case on April 3, 2018. A user of synthetic cannabinoids in central Maryland experienced significant bleeding due to delays in blood clotting. The symptoms are similar to the ones described in multiple reported cases in the Chicago region over the past two

months to the Illinois Poison Center. In at least 10 of these reported cases, the synthetic cannabinoid contained Brodifacoum, a long-acting vitamin K-mediated anticoagulant that is used as rodenticide.

Clinical signs from the Illinois and Maryland cases include bruising, nosebleeds, bleeding of the gums, bleeding out of proportion to the level of injury, vomiting blood, blood in urine or stool or excessively heavy menstrual bleeding, and back pain. The management of coagulopathy is similar to warfarin-associated bleeding/coagulopathy (vitamin K, fresh frozen plasma and/or activate prothrombin complex concentrate). Once clinically stable, patients often require prolonged treatment with high-dose oral vitamin K.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has reported at least four deaths to date. The patient in central Maryland has been hospitalized for the management of coagulopathy and bleeding. Since then, the Maryland Poison Center has identified at least 19 additional cases in every region of Maryland. The condition is known as synthetic cannabinoid-associated co-

See CANNABINOIDS Page A6

## Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence Economic Empowerment Program Selected as 5th National Demonstration Pilot Project

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention announced that the Center for Survivor Agency & Justice (CSAJ) has designated the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) Economic Empowerment Center as the fifth national demonstration pilot project. CSAJ will engage MSCFV in a state-wide demonstration project aimed to enhance financial independence and increase meaningful partnerships for domestic and sexual violence survivors throughout Maryland.

"Our administration is extremely proud that a Maryland program has been chosen as a pilot for this incredibly important and highly competitive project," said Governor Larry Hogan. "We are committed to using every resource possible to support victims of domestic violence, and this partnership is essential to helping Maryland survivors regain their financial stability."

Maryland's MSCFV Economic Empowerment Center helps clients who are victims of



PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor Larry Hogan and GOCCP Executive Director, Glenn Fueston, join MSCFV Executive Director Jeanne Yeager and staff during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Economic Empowerment Center which opened in August of 2017.

domestic violence and sexual assault to achieve financial independence through legal and non-legal services. MSCFV data shows 93 percent of clients improved their family financial situation. The Center receives a Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) grant of \$1.3 million, distributed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for this project.

"Financial dependence is a major factor causing victims to stay in abusive relationships.

The Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence Economic Empowerment Center connects victims of domestic abuse to the services they need to help them regain self-sufficiency and financial freedom," said Glenn Fueston, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. "Funding programs that help keep Marylanders safe and improve their quality of life is what we do."

Founded in 2006, the Center for Survivor Agency and Justice

is a national organization that works to enhance economic justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. CSAJ enhances economic justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by promoting advocacy approaches that remove systemic barriers, enhance organizational responses, and improve professional practices to meet the self-

See EMPOWERMENT Page A3

### INSIDE

#### High School Students Win \$4,000 at Annual Scholastic Olympics

Scholastic Olympics is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that attacks learning deficits with alternative or unconventional programs. The quadrathlon is the signature event that has awarded more than 100 students over \$30,000 in the eight years sponsoring the program.

Community, Page A3

#### Honoring Birmingham's Great Children's Crusade Which Changed Our Nation

Children didn't face some of the risks adults might, including losing breadwinning jobs, and college students had already proven to be extremely effective activists in cities across the South in desegregating lunch counters.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Leaders From All Around the Country Descend Upon PG County For Annual Brainstorming Session

The 34th annual NOBCO Economic Development Conference is a chance for members from across America to get together and talk specifically about Economic Development policies and strategies that have worked in various local communities.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Ready Player One

The premise is that the designer of the OASIS, a soft-spoken space cadet named Halliday (Mark Rylance), hid a contest inside of it in the form of three challenges that must be discovered and conquered. Whoever does this first will win the now-deceased Halliday's half-trillion-dollar fortune and ownership of the OASIS.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm in the market for a new acoustic guitar and I'm wondering what are my options if I care about its impact on the environment?

—Angelo Martinez,  
Scranton, PA

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Memorial Day at Cheltenham and Archdiocesan Cemeteries, Rolling Thunder at the VFW

Memorial Day starts early in Morningside when VFW Post 9619 opens its doors to Rolling Thunder XXXI at 6 PM on Friday, May 25. A chicken and fish dinner will be available to them, and everyone, for \$8.00. Then, Rolling Thunder will head off to the 9 PM Candle Light Vigil at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a full schedule of activities, concluding with the Parade on Memorial Day at 2 PM and at 3 PM, a National Moment of Remembrance.

On Memorial Day, Post 9619 will take part in ceremonies at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, beginning at 11 AM. Military bands will play and tributes will be paid. The cemetery, which usually closes at 5 PM, will remain open until 8 on Memorial Day.

To remember those who gave their lives for our freedom, the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington will offer Mass at 10 AM on Memorial Day. At Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton, Monsignor Charles Antonicelli will celebrate the Mass.

Other cemeteries offering a Memorial Day Mass at 10 AM are Gate of Heaven, Silver Spring; Mount Olivet, Washington; St. Mary Queen of Peace, Mechanicsville; and All Souls, Germantown. For more information: [www.ccaaw.org](http://www.ccaaw.org).

### Coming up in Morningside: yard sale, movie night

The Town is holding a Yard Sale at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 16, 8 AM to 2 PM. Tables are \$10 for residents (and Skyline, with proof of address) and \$15 for non-residents. To reserve a table,

or for information, call the Town Hall at 301-736-2300.

Also on June 16, there'll be Movie Night at the Town Hall—outdoors, weather permitting. Admission is free. Nominal charge for refreshments. The movie has yet to be selected, but it'll be suitable for the whole family and will start at dusk.

### Mayor comes with news

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann was a guest at the Skyline Citizens meeting May 16 and had lots of news from the Town, including the two events listed above. He mentioned that in the Town election May 5 the only candidates, both incumbent, won. They are Sharon Fowler and Katie Blade.

The Mayor also reminded us that their 4th of July Parade is coming up, followed by family fun day in the afternoon and fireworks at dusk. If you have a vintage car, a marching band, Scouts, a float, or a clown that might like to march on Independence Day, call the Town Hall, 301-736-2300.

### Smashed windshields

Mayor Cann and Skyline President Stan Holmes also discussed a serious problem we've been having in the last week or two—broken car windows. The vandalism has been perpetrated late at night. In response, the Morningside Police and County Police District IV are doing extra patrols.

### Academia

County Executive Baker delivered remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the Steve and Dianne Proctor Leadership Room at Bishop McNamara High School on April 19.

Ana Carolina Gubert Galvão

was honored by her parents, João and Tânia Galvão, with a Gradation Dinner on May 19 at Fiorella's Kitchen in National Harbor. She has just graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Chemical Engineering. As an exchange student from Brazil, Ana lived for a year of high school with my son John McHale and his family in Columbia, Md.

Surrattville High Class of 1968 has two events planned for their 50th anniversary: a gathering on Aug. 18 and a cruise Dec. 30–Jan. 6.

I will be pleased to announce your graduate or your high school reunion in my column. Call me at 301-735-3451 or email [muddmm@aol.com](mailto:muddmm@aol.com).

### Life-long Morningsider David Sanford dies

David Wayne Sanford, 62, who lived most of his life on Allies Road in Morningside, died in that home on August 11. He was born in Washington and worked in the sheet-metal industry until disabilities interfered. He loved staying busy in the community, helping his mom and neighbors with yard work and odd jobs.

Survivors include his mother, Ruth Sanford Lambert; daughters, Jennifer Bower, Lisa Sanford, and Michelle Sanford; seven grandchildren; and siblings, Janet Hemming, Margie Crowl, Linda Sandoval, Ray Sanford, and Judy Hill.

David loved music, collected vinyl records, and if you saw him around, he might have been wearing a wild shirt featuring Frank Zappa or Jimi Hendrix.

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## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Thanks to Barack Obama Elementary School PTA for serving the staff at Barack Obama Elementary School a very delicious Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon last Wednesday. Thanks to Nakida Simmons, President, Konya White, Treasurer and Kianna Banks, Secretary who served the food. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

### KREAYOLA KIDS SUMMER ADVENTURES

One of a kind Summer Camp is full of summer adventures, over 40 Field Trips, daily structured activities. They also offer conditioning camps: Football, Basketball and more. Temporary, daily and emergency care are offered at the Camp. The Camp is open 6:00 AM–6:00 PM for 3–14 years old. They have an All Day program/Curriculum Based Computer Lab, Arts & Crafts, enhancing creativity, kid's day out, transportation to and from various schools, educational field trips, vouchers accepted and meals included.

The two locations are 6801 Walker Mill Road, Capital Heights, Maryland 20743 and 3120 Branch Avenue, Temple Hill, Maryland (Next to Skate Palace). Visit [www.KREAYOLA.COM](http://www.KREAYOLA.COM) or call 301-278-7532 if you need additional information.

### ADVANCING TREATMENTS/ CHANGING LIVES

If you're living with a heart problem or a failing heart valve, take the next step and

contact the structural and heart valve experts. Talk to a specialist today. Call (888) 317-2504 to schedule your consultation or visit us at [MedStarHeartInstitute.org/advancedcare](http://MedStarHeartInstitute.org/advancedcare) for more information.

### SUMMER 2018 YOUTH PROGRAMS

Prince George's Community College offers activities for Grade 2–11. Register the campers for the highest grade they have completed. Make summer memorable and enroll today for OWL SCHOLARS CAMP. Visit [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu) or call 301-546-0120.

### AQUASCO FARM

Aquasco Farm located at 16665 Aquasco Farm Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608 is Agricultural property. This property managed with bow hunting area in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

### CHELTENHAM NATURAL AREA

This 270-acre park features a boardwalk through diverse habitats. The park is ideal for school groups, scouts, and others seeking educational, outdoor experiences. The park is located on Commo Road, near Frank Tippet Road in Cheltenham. Call to schedule FREE tours.

### 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Westphalia United Methodist Church Rev Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor located at 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774 is celebrating Westphalia 50th Celebration

September 26–30, 2018. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Westphalia, a souvenir book will be published. You can contribute to the support of this book with an ad for your church, organization, business or family member. For details visit Westphalia website at [www.westphaliaum.org](http://www.westphaliaum.org).

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND BLUE CRABS

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli invites all pastors and lay people of the Washington East District to Regency Furniture Stadium, 11765 St. Linus Drive, Waldorf, Maryland on Friday, June 8, to enjoy a Southern Maryland Blue Crabs baseball game and to fellowship with each other before and after the game.

The District has rented the picnic pavilion for a two hour 'all you can eat' buffet featuring BBQ ribs, baked herb chicken, grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, potato chips, ice cream sandwiches and unlimited soft drinks and water.

The cost is \$25, which includes the game ticket and starts at 6:00 pm. The game starts at 6:35 PM. Come out and enjoy good food, good fellowship and a good baseball game. Tickets must be purchased on the BWC website <https://arenaweb.bwcumc.org/Default.aspx?page=3452&event=3805> by June 1.

### BODY RECALL

Clinton United Methodist Church at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735 is offering Body Recall Classes

See **BRANDYWINE** Page A3

## Neighborhoods

### Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils Approve WSSC FY 2019 Budget

LAUREL, MD—On May 10, 2018, the Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils today approved WSSC's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 operating and capital budget of \$1.4 billion. The budget calls for a combined 4.5 percent increase in water and sewer rates, resulting in an additional \$2.04 per month (\$6.12 per quarter) to the average residential customer bill.

"Our FY19 budget has been carefully developed to continue our investment in safe, clean, reliable drinking water, while improving customer service for the 1.8 million residents we proudly serve," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "Our budget also creates jobs, supports local businesses and fosters continued economic growth throughout Prince George's and Montgomery counties."

The two county councils held their annual joint bi-county meeting today at WSSC's headquarters to approve WSSC's budget, along with the budgets for the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Central Administrative Services and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

### Highlights of the FY 2019 budget include:

- \$99.9 million to replace approximately 45 miles of small diameter water mains
  - \$64.7 million to replace approximately 20 miles of small diameter sewer mains
  - \$40.7 million to replace large diameter water mains and valves
  - \$40.3 million to construct the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility Bio-Energy Project
  - \$27.7 million to continue implementation of advanced meter reading infrastructure
  - \$23 million to complete upgrades to the Potomac and Patuxent Water Filtration Plants
  - \$7.8 million to complete upgrades to Duckett and Brighton Dams
  - \$8 million to continue the rehabilitation of WSSC's 60 water storage facilities
- The FY 2019 budget is an increase of \$11.2 million (0.8 percent) more than the FY 2018 budget. The operating budget of \$781.6 million is an increase of \$40.4 million (5.4 percent) over the prior year, while the capital budget of \$656.3 million is a decrease of \$29.2 million (-4.3 percent) from last year.

The approved budget will take effect on July 1, 2018, and can be viewed on WSSC's website at <https://www.wsscwater.com/fin>.

### BGE Spends \$283 Million With Diverse Suppliers in 2017

BALTIMORE, MD—On May 9, 2018, BGE purchased \$283 million in goods and services from diversity-certified suppliers in 2017, which equates to 29 percent of total purchases. This is an increase of \$26 million over the amount spent in 2016.

"Engaging with diverse suppliers and contractors enhances our ability to serve our customers and strengthens our community. The growth in our spending with these companies shows our commitment to

both," said Calvin G. Butler Jr., chief executive officer for BGE. "As we've expanded our network of suppliers, we have also recorded our best performance in reliability, safety, financials and customer satisfaction. This shows it's an investment worth making."

In 2009, BGE voluntarily committed to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to allocate 25 percent of company spending with diverse suppliers. To help meet this goal, BGE created the Focus Forward supplier diversity academy to educate small businesses on how to navigate large business processes and competitively bid for contract opportunities. Since its launch in 2013, 29 companies have completed the program and 13 more are currently enrolled.

BGE is sharing the Focus Forward program with its BLocal partners to help them meet their commitments to build, hire, buy and invest in Baltimore City. Maryland businesses accounted for \$78 million of BGE's diverse spending.

Exelon also enables businesses to register with the company and include pertinent information, including their diversity status. To be considered as a supplier, companies can access the SMART by GEP tool via <http://www.exeloncorp.com/suppliers>.

### MD Anti-Drug Coalition Forms to Address Opioid Epidemic

ANNAPOLIS, MD—A coalition of Maryland leaders and health care advocates have launched a statewide coalition focused on reducing the number of people becoming addicted or dying from opioid use.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 1,800 Marylanders died in 2016 from opioid overdose. To help reduce those numbers, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Michael Busch along with a coalition of community leaders created the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative, or RALI Maryland. Retired General Arthur T. Dean, chairman and CEO at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, said part of their initiative is promoting the use of biodegradable pouches people can fill with water to safely dispose of their leftover prescriptions.

"And in the last week or so we've given out more than 150,000 of these pouches to Marylanders trying to help them rid themselves of these medicines," Dean said.

RALI Maryland's inaugural program is focused on educating patients on how to safely dispose of unwanted or unused medications.

Dean said the coalition also has been working with prescription drug manufacturers and physicians to curb the number of excess drugs that are given to patients that can ultimately lead to abuse. He said doctors used to give out a 30-day supply of opioids.

"So now the prescribing guidelines says that a doctor should give no more than seven days," he said. "And then if the patient needs more, they come back and get some."

State officials say there were nearly 2,000 fatal overdose deaths in Maryland last year. Dean said he hopes the

pouch, which can hold up to 45 pills and will dissolve them with just warm water, will be just one part of a universal effort to stop the opioid crisis from getting worse in the state and around the country.

### Troopers Triple Enforcement on Rt. 301 in Prince George's County

FORESTVILLE, MD—Maryland state troopers have more than tripled traffic stops on Rt. 301 in Prince George's County this year. Three of those involved pedestrians. Troopers attribute the causes of these fatalities to speeding drivers and careless pedestrians.

As May 1, 2018, there had been seven fatalities on Rt. 301 in Prince George's County this year. Three of those involved pedestrians. Troopers attribute the causes of these fatalities to speeding drivers and careless pedestrians.

During the first three months of 2018, Maryland state troopers made 1,722 traffic stops on Rt. 301 in Prince George's County, compared with 543 stops during the same period last year. This year's first quarter enforcement included 830 traffic citations, 649 warnings, 243 equipment repair orders and the arrests of 15 impaired drivers. During the first quarter of 2017, troopers issued 398 citations, 223 warnings, 142 equipment repair orders and arrested 19 impaired drivers.

Troopers will be continuing focused enforcement initiatives along Rt. 301 in the coming weeks. They are urging motorists to obey the speed limit and be aware of other traffic control devices along the highway.

Pedestrians are also urged to consider the risk before walking along or crossing Rt. 301, especially at night. Bright or reflective clothing is highly recommended for pedestrians. It is vital that they be as visible as possible to approaching motorists.

### BGE Employees Volunteer 1,200 Service Hours During National Volunteer Month

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE employees celebrated arts & culture, supported community development, championed the environment and supported education initiatives in celebration of National Volunteer Month in April, volunteering more than 1,200 volunteer hours to power a cleaner and brighter future for communities in company-sponsored service events throughout central Maryland.

"BGE employees have been strong supporters of our nonprofit and civic partners for many years, and this year is no different. It should come as no surprise to anyone that our employees rolled up their sleeves and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with community organizations working to enhance the lives of our customers in a myriad of ways," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs for BGE. "We're honored to continue this tradition of supporting neighbors and communities through volunteerism, not just for National Volunteer Month, but throughout every month each year."

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### It's Not Just Age That Brings On That Mid-Life Crisis

Have you reached mid-life yet? It's a simple question, but a difficult one to answer. Adolescents may see mid-life beginning at 30. Adults in their 40s may view 50 or 60 as when mid-life begins.

Although experts say that mid-life is usually somewhere between 35 and 65, age is only part of the equation. More important are the feelings you have of moving between youth and your senior years, and what you do with those emotions.

Mid-life period isn't necessarily just calendar-based. Often, it's more seeing you no longer look or feel as youthful and energetic as you once did. That realization can lead some people to start taking action to make them appear younger -- buying that sports car, for example.

Alfred Adler, a major counseling influence, emphasized mid-life is a period when it's important to separate wants from needs. That can help simplify life and keep you from chasing shiny new objects in a midlife crisis that really aren't going to make you younger or even appear younger.

The real "need" of this period is to accept mid-life as a normal part of life, and to see it as an opportunity where you can use the experience and wisdom you've gained to make a difference in people's lives and to contribute to society.

So while you might buy that sports car, there are better ways to make mid-life produce positive results. Start with making a list of lessons you've learned since adolescence and examine how this knowledge has served you and helped enrich your life and the lives of others.

It's also a good time to begin exploring activities to help you feel healthy and relaxed. Starting or maintaining an exercise regime, for example, won't make you 21 again, but is a means of making the best of where you actually are in life.

Mid-life is also an excellent time to examine your life goals. Maybe you want to think about a career move or to consider social or relationship changes. It may be a time to talk with a professional counselor if you find that you need guidance in understanding the changes mid-life has brought.

Mid-life is only a crisis for someone unable to accept the changes maturing brought. When handled correctly, mid-life can be an opportunity to explore who you are and what goals you want to achieve as your life moves forward.

*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

on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 AM. Telephone number is 301-868-1281. Website is cumcmd@verizon.net.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Delegate Michael A. Jackson Legislative Update included Gun Safety, School Safety, Earned Sick Leave, Protect Health Care, Create

Job Programs for Students and Saving Money on Prescription Drugs. They have passed a lot of bills in Maryland that could affect you and your family personally.

Please visit the website at [www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov) or [www.fomajackson.com](http://www.fomajackson.com) to check out full bill summaries and a vast amount of other helpful resources.

#### Empowerment from A1

defined needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors.

"There is no safety for survivors of domestic violence without economic security," said Erika Sussman, Executive Director of CSAJ. "We at the Center for Survivor Agency and Justice welcome the opportunity to work with the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence and their partners to strengthen their work and transform the economic landscape facing survivors of domestic and sexual violence throughout the State of Maryland."

MSCFV is a Maryland-based non-profit organization with nearly 40 years of experience, serving as a critical re-

source for those impacted by intimate partner violence living on the Eastern Shore in the counties of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot.

"These programs are committed to enhancing current economic civil legal advocacy and illuminating the unique economic ripple effect of domestic violence," said Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director of MSCFV. "The potential impact is profound, offering additional options for survivors to increase their economic security and safety through a statewide initiative that also helps to galvanize partnerships and foster system change."

For more information, please visit [mscfv.org](http://mscfv.org).

## High School Students Win \$4,000 at Annual Scholastic Olympics

By PRESS OFFICER  
MNCPPP  
Scholastic Olympics

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Students at Parkdale and Eleanor Roosevelt high schools won first place in U.S. History and math at the 8th annual Scholastic Olympics at the University of Maryland (5/5), while a homeschooled youth and a private school student topped the speech and spelling categories.

Roosevelt sophomore Marvellous Ogunsola dominated the math competition to win the \$500 cash prize. The math-a-thon, which is considered the signature competition, is played similar to the popular television Jeopardy game show where contestants select categories of an array of answers and then provide the questions. Last year, Ogunsola won first place in spelling as she wrapped up her first year of high school.

Ogunsola faced serious challenges from Di Chen, a junior at Northwestern High School who won the \$300 second place award and Tara Olowolayemo, also of Roosevelt who came in third and won \$200.

Andrew Brewster-Geiz of Parkdale won first place in history. This was Andrew's first time competing in the quadrathlon, which allows students the opportunity to compete in two of four competitions before adoring family, friends, volunteers and community leaders.

The spelling competition, the first of the day with 20 students participating, brought some hair-raising moments before Cara Ruffin, a junior at Riverdale Baptist School emerged from a marathon-like session to claim first place and the \$500 prize. Within an hour, contestants correctly spelled all 210 words in the special study guide, forcing the judges to search for choice words in a behemoth dictionary normally used to check word origin and parts of speech.

"I was absolutely floored with the fact that the spellers correctly spelled so many words," said Joe Holman, an English teacher at the Francis L. Cardozo Education Campus in Washington, D.C. who volunteers each year as the word pronouncer. "It was the best group yet."

The judges voted to award the \$300, second-place prize to each of the final three students left standing after the grueling event. Winning second place were Parkdale juniors Sarah Awang and Joyce Olaniyi, and Christina Flores, a sophomore at Northwestern High School. There was no third-place winner.

Caleb Clark, a homeschooled youngster, won first place in speech for the second year in a row.

"It was a great event," said Brenda Hundley, a South Nyack, NY, property manager who travels to Maryland each year to volunteer. "It gave not only the high school students an opportunity but the adults an opportunity to

come together to learn and appreciate the skills of our students. It was stupendous!"

County Councilwoman Mary A. Lehman kicked off the event with inspiring words for the students, parents and community leaders. She encouraged the students not only to do their best in the competitions but to support each other along the way. The District I councilwoman is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the UMD College of Journalism, where the 2018 event was held. She is serving her second and final term but also has announced plans to seek a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

High Bridge Foundation, Inc. renewed its partnership with Scholastic Olympics, Inc. again this year. High Bridge is a non-profit organization focused on empowering young people from underserved communities in the Metro Washington area. Foundation President Mayumi Hairston Escalante and Mencie Y. Hairston, M.Ed., founder and executive director, presented checks for the first, second and third place winners in the U.S. History category.

Scholastic Olympics is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that attacks learning deficits with alternative or unconventional programs. The quadrathlon is the signature event that has awarded more than 100 students over \$30,000 in the eight years sponsoring the program.

Other sponsors include: the Greater Washington Community

Foundation; Prince George's County Councilwoman Mary A. Lehman and Councilmen Obie Patterson and Todd Turner; Aunt Berta's Kids-in-need Educational Foundation; Nancy Evans and Johnnie Jackson of the 5 a.m. Bible Study Ministry; and, the Christian Education Ministry of First Baptist Church of Highland Park.

#### Winners of the 8th annual Scholastic Olympics:

##### Spelling

1st Place—Cara Ruffin of Riverdale Baptist School  
2nd Place—Sarah Awang, junior, Parkdale High School; Joyce Olaniyi, junior, Parkdale High School; Christina Flores, sophomore, Northwestern High School

##### Speech

1st Place—Caleb Clark, homeschooled  
2nd Place—Justina Blanco, junior, Parkdale High School  
3rd Place—Jeremy Mensah of Riverdale Baptist School

##### U.S. History

1st Place—Andrew Brewster-Geiz of Parkdale High School  
2nd Place—Nathan Mensah of Riverdale Baptist School  
3rd Place—Precious Ogunsola, junior, Eleanor Roosevelt

##### Math-a-thon

1st Place—Marvellous Ogunsola, sophomore, Eleanor Roosevelt  
2nd Place—Di Chen, junior, Northwestern High School  
3rd Place—Tara Olowolayemo of Eleanor Roosevelt

#### Homeless from A1

unemployment rate, improved data collection and performance measures, and increased collaboration and cooperation among County agencies, community organizations, and throughout the region. "While I am very pleased with our progress this year, there is still much work to do to continue on the path to end homelessness," says County Executive Rushern L. Baker.

In accordance with the Prince George's County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the County's team works strategically to engage in effective targeting through our Continuum of Care system. In addition, improved use of data guides the practice and informs efforts to shift from "shelter" to "housing". Building

on the success, over the past few years, rapid re-housing resources have assisted in the prevention of long term homelessness. In addition, targeted street outreach practices aim to move the chronically homeless off the streets and into supportive housing, with comprehensive wrap around services to address a number of life challenges these residents face.

George is a 63 year old veteran who was identified by one of the Point in Time teams at night in the Landover neighborhood of Prince George's County. He had been sleeping most nights behind a dumpster in the back of a shopping plaza. After finding ways to meet his immediate needs on the night of the Point in Time count, the County's Continuum of Care

Street Outreach team worked with George to connect him to services and housing. "They were good," he recently told a member of the team, "and they helped me find a place to live. It was a great help. I don't know what I would have done without them. [The Prince George's County Point in Time team] gave me blankets and food and got me in touch with the organizations that got me help. It was kind of rough on me for a while. I don't know what I would have done without them." George is now renting a unit in Prince George's County and is working with the Continuum of Care Street Outreach team to identify and help other County residents who are homeless.

The survey report also highlights Prince George's County's

intentional focus on five sub-populations for targeted program initiatives. They are: survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking; unaccompanied youth and young adults (ages 13-24); Veterans; chronically homeless individuals, including homeless residents who experience severe behavioral health challenges; and returning citizens. The result of these efforts, through partnerships and stakeholder investment, has significantly impacted the reduction of people experiencing homelessness.

Consistent dedication to ensuring that homelessness in Prince George's County is rare, brief and non-reoccurring is a high priority, yielding positive results.

For a complete report, visit [www.mwcog.org/homelessnessreport](http://www.mwcog.org/homelessnessreport).

#### Boxing from A1

The team went 8-13 their first year under coach William Whipp. Their star boxer was Bernard Keener, who stayed out of the loss column with a 3-0 record.

Just four years after it began, Maryland boxing had its first champion, as Stewart McCaw, who died in 2002 at the age of 92, became a Southern Conference Champion in 1934.

But the real celebration came in 1937 under first-year coach Maj. Harvey L. "Heinie" Miller, who died in 1967, when the southpaw Benny Alperstein fought to bring a national championship back to College Park.

He went up against Washington State's Bob Bates in the final. Bates was favored, the more experienced and harder puncher. But Alperstein, who died in 2017 at the age of 102, was prepared. He fed Bates a steady barrage of right jabs and left crosses, sending him to the ropes in the first and second round.

Unlike his previous bouts in the tournament against Joe Brocato of Tulane and Karl Drexel of San Jose State, Alperstein was unable to knockout Bates. But it

didn't matter, as Alperstein was consistent throughout the fight, keeping Bates off balance with right hooks when Bates was looking for left hooks, and scoring constant body shots.

In the end, the Washington Post said, Alperstein made the judges' jobs easy.

"There was no question as to the winner," the Post reporter wrote. "Alperstein, 21-year-old University of Maryland student, climaxed one year's experience in the ring by punching his way to the national collegiate title."

Due in part to Alperstein's success, boxing became one of the most popular sports at the university. Matches were held at Ritchie Coliseum, and were so popular that basketball games would be held directly after them, in an effort to increase basketball's attendance.

Alperstein repeated as champion the following year, and became one of three national champions to come from University of Maryland boxing; Gary Garber won in 1954, and Vince Palumbo won in '54 and '55.

But just as Maryland boxing was peaking, it came crashing down.

An article from the Diamondback from Oct. 13, 1954, mentioned the potential problems the boxing team could have finding competitors.

"With several schools having already dropped boxing from their varsity sports program and others planning to do so in the very near future, Maryland, the Eastern Intercollegiate champion, may face severe difficulty in slating a schedule this year," Hal Burdett wrote.

"If the Terps are forced to quit boxing it will be an especially sad blow to Maryland fans who saw their squad end Syracuse's long ring dominance and produce two National Champions—Garry Garber in the 125-pound division and Vinne (sic) Palumbo in the 132-pound class."

Six months later, Burdett's prophetic words came true.

On March 21, 1955, the university decided to end the boxing program.

"Maryland Drops From Boxing Competition," the headline in the Diamondback read.

James M. Tatum, the director of athletics at the University of Maryland at the time, announced the decision.

"The University's athletic council voted to discontinue boxing as an intercollegiate sport because of the impossibility of arranging a practical schedule," he said.

Penn State and Army had also dropped their boxing program, Tatum said at the time, and Virginia was contemplating dropping the sport, leading him to believe continuing was impractical.

According to Tatum, none of the members of the boxing team were on athletic scholarships, meaning the elimination of the sport would have no bearing on the athletes' financial status.

Boxing in the late '40s and early '50s had come under fire for its brutality, real or perceived. Boxers wore headgear, padded gloves and only fought three two-minute rounds, yet boxing was often called barbaric and inappropriate for universities.

In March of 1959, four years after Maryland ended their program, Sports Illustrated ran an article about the problems facing collegiate boxing titled "You Could Blame It on the Moms."

See BOXING Page A7

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# COMMENTARY

## Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



### County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Launches Campaign to Reduce the Stigma of Mental Illness in Our Communities

*The Step Forward Campaign Through Advertisements and Partnership is Designed to Empower Young People, Adults and Families to Lead Healthier Lives*

LARGO, MD—In conjunction with Mental Health Awareness Month, Prince George's County launched a public awareness campaign on May 14 that changes the conversation about mental illness in the hopes of reducing the stigma that often prevents individuals from seeking treatment. County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III joined the Health Department and representatives from a variety of partnering County agencies and non-profit organizations to launch Step Forward. The campaign aims to increase the understanding of mental illness, promote access to and the utilization of treatment services in the continuum of care, and improve stability and recovery.

"Ensuring that children and families are more aware of mental health issues and the resources available to address them is important," said County Executive Baker. "We have to erase the stigma that is associated with seeking help in our communities, so our residents view getting professional help for their mental health as important as getting help for their physical health. This campaign is about ensuring that our residents, including our young people, understand that they are not alone and that there are resources out there to assist them."

A series of advertisements and a newly designed website will educate the public about prevention and intervention strategies, as well as pro-

vide a map showing the location of mental health and substance use treatment providers with a summary of the services they provide.

"The most visible part of the Step Forward campaign are the countywide bus shelter advertisements," said Prince George's County Health Officer Pamela Creekmur. "The ads give a different perspective on mental health while also providing important information about finding immediate or long-term help."

The advertisements also highlight the County's new partnership with Crisis Text Line, a national crisis assistance service intended to reach residents ages 13 to 25, who are often most comfortable texting someone about personal problems.

During a campaign kick-off event in Landover, several area residents shared their powerful personal stories about living with mental illness as adults, teenagers, and families. Tiffany Jackson wrote a poem about her life that inspired the audience. Here's an excerpt: "Stigma doesn't define me. I'm a woman with a bachelor's degree. Mental illness didn't stop me."

Samples of the bus shelter advertisements are included as an attachment to this release. Photographs of the kick-off event can be found at this link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pgcfamilyservices/albums/72157691054643140>

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Congressional Black Caucus Introduces Bill Based on Main Street Marshall Plan

*"Every man is our brother, and every man's burden is our own. Where poverty exists, all are poorer. Where hate flourishes, all are corrupted. Where injustice reigns, all are unequal."*

—Whitney M. Young

The Main Street Marshall Plan, the National Urban League's comprehensive blueprint for addressing lack of opportunity and economic inequality in America's urban communities, has been introduced as federal legislation by members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The National Urban League long has advocated for a major national commitment to alleviate poverty and expand economic opportunities in America's most neglected communities, modeled on the Marshall Plan that eliminated widespread poverty in Western Europe following World War II. Then-Executive Director Whitney M. Young first proposed a "Domestic Marshall Plan" in the 1960s; elements of that proposal were incorporated into President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

In 1990, National Urban League President John E. Jacob urged Congress to shift \$50 billion in defense spending—part of the so-called "peace dividend" resulting from the end of the Cold War—into an "Urban Marshall Plan."

The Congressional Black Caucus' Jobs and Justice Act, unveiled Thursday at a news conference at the U.S. Capitol, represents the most inclusive legislation of the Main Street Marshall Plan, first proposed as part of the 2016 State of Black America and finalized in detailed form last year.

Among the provisions of the bill based on the Main Street Marshall Plan, the Jobs and Justice Act:

- increases funding for programs that promote minority-owned businesses (MBDA and SBA).
- creates incentives for infrastructure spending bills to include development programs that recruit and train individuals from communities with high unemployment rates.
- authorizes states to establish local hiring bid specifications or consider the hiring of local workers in the evaluation of bids and

- proposals for federal-aid highway projects.
- invests in transportation infrastructure through the successful "TIGER" program, which provides competitive grants to local governments and transit agencies to fund innovative highway, bridge, and transit projects.
- funds the creation of more than 1.9 million jobs by addressing critical physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools.
- establishes new programs or amends existing programs for job skills training for older individuals and for workers in highly-skilled industries; and scholarships for students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) and teaching certifications.
- makes the work opportunity tax credit permanent
- allows states to assist, through Title XX Block Grants, low-income and long-term unemployed individuals with developing their own businesses and self-employment opportunities.
- incentivizes businesses to create apprenticeship programs.
- creates a grant program to subsidize summer jobs for in- and out-of-school youth ages 14 to 24 and year-round jobs for youth ages 16 to 24 who are out of school and work.
- Raises the federal minimum wage to \$15.
- Urges businesses contracted to rebuild infrastructure, to actively recruit, hire, and provide on-the-job training to African American men ages 18 to 39 through existing jobs, apprenticeships, and "earn while you learn" programs.

As I said when we introduced the detailed Main Street Marshall plan a year ago, it is time for the nation to treat its urban communities and cities as the jewels that they are. This comprehensive plan to rebuild and accelerate the growth of America's urban communities will accelerate the growth and progress of the nation as a whole.

I urge you to contact your member of Congress and urge him or her to support the Jobs & Justice Act.

## Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### OXON COVE PARK AND OXON HILL FARM

Part of the National Park Service, Oxon Cove Park is a historic district with buildings dating back to the early 1800's and a living farm museum. Learn about the property's evolution from a plantation to a hospital farm, to the park it is today and explore the history of Maryland and farming through the park's variety of hand-on activities, including living history programs. The park, including Oxon Hill Farm, is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except on January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25). Admission and activities are free, though groups of 5 or more require a reservation for participating in programs. Call 301-839-1176 for more information. Oxon Cove Park is located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Honoring Birmingham's Great Children's Crusade Which Changed Our Nation

"Daddy," the boy said, "I don't want to disobey you, but I have made my pledge. If you try to keep me home, I will sneak off. If you think I deserve to be punished for that, I'll just have to take the punishment. For, you see, I'm not doing this only because I want to be free. I'm doing it also because I want freedom for you and Mama, and I want it to come before you die."

This teenage boy overheard talking to his father by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the many hundreds of Birmingham children and youths who 55 years ago this month decided to stand up for their and all our freedom. They stood up to fire hoses and police dogs, went to jail, and finally broke the back of Jim Crow in that city known as "Bombingham." Last week, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. invited the Children's Defense Fund to come together with them and over 2,000 children, youths and families from across the country in Birmingham's Civil Rights District to commemorate that inspiring and courageous act of resistance and peaceful protest that played a pivotal role in changing American history. The anniversary celebration of the Birmingham Children's Crusade was designed to remember, honor and follow the example of those frontline child soldiers and transforming catalysts in America's greatest moral movement of the twentieth century—the movement for civil rights and equal justice.

The Children's Crusade happened at a critical time in the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. In April 1963 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, together with the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and its great and fearless leader Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, had started a direct action desegregation campaign in the city. There were mass meetings, lunch counter sit-ins, nonviolent marches, and boycotts of segregated stores during the busy Easter shopping season. Dr. King became one of several hundred people arrested in the first weeks of the campaign when he was jailed for violating

an anti-protest injunction on April 12, Good Friday, and four days later wrote his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." As the days went on with little response from city leaders a new idea was raised: including more children and youths.

Children didn't face some of the risks adults might, including losing breadwinning jobs, and college students had already proven to be extremely effective activists in cities across the South in desegregating lunch counters. But once it became clear that many of the children volunteering for meetings and training sessions in Birmingham were high school students and some even younger, concern was raised about whether allowing and encouraging them to protest was too dangerous. Dr. King later described the decision this way: "Even though we realized that involving teenagers and high-school students would bring down upon us a heavy fire of criticism, we felt that we needed this dramatic new dimension. Our people were demonstrating daily and going to jail in numbers, but we were still beating our heads against the brick wall of the city offi-

cials' stubborn resolve to maintain the status quo. Our fight, if won, would benefit people of all ages. But most of all we were inspired with a desire to give to our young a true sense of their own stake in freedom and justice. We believed they would have the courage to respond to our call."

The children's response "exceeded our fondest dreams." James Bevel, Andrew Young, Bernard Lee, and Dorothy Cotton helped identify and train the students. Black disc jockeys were key allies in encouraging and deploying their listeners. May 2 was "D-Day." Class presidents, star athletes, and prom queens from local high schools led the way as hundreds of children skipped class, gathered at the 16th Street Baptist Church, and marched into downtown Birmingham in groups of fifty, organized into lines two by two and singing freedom songs. More than a thousand students marched the first day and many hundreds were arrested. Virulently racist police commissioner Bull Connor's overwhelmed

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty—SSA Misinformation Leads to Lost benefits

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am 64, a widow and I'm hopping mad! I lost my husband a while ago and went to Social Security to apply for widow's benefits. That all went okay and I'm getting my benefit, but I just found out that I could have avoided a cut to my widow's benefit and maybe applied only for my own retirement benefit and let the widow's benefit grow until I reached 66 when it wouldn't be cut. To make matters worse, they never explained that I'd be applying for both my own Social Security and my widow's benefit, so my Social Security payment now is made up of both and they're both reduced because I took them early. If I had waited until I was 70 to take my own benefit, it would have been more than my widow's benefit. I feel that because they never told me my options, especially when I was grieving the loss of my husband, that it's their fault that I'm losing money. What can I do?

**Signed: Hopping Mad**

**Dear Hopping Mad:** It looks as though you were caught in the same miscommunication web that Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recently investigated and found that Social Security Administration (SSA) staff had often misinformed or failed to explain all available options to those applying for survivor's benefits. That, in turn, has been responsible for a lot of "dually-entitled" people getting less than they're truly entitled to. Thanks to a savvy SSA whistleblower, the OIG investigated the allegations and found that those who were entitled to both Social Security retirement benefits and survivor's benefits were often not told that they could apply for either benefit and allow the other to grow to its maximum amount. In your case, you could have simply waited to apply for your widow's benefit until it reached maximum at your full retirement age (FRA); or, if you needed the money, applied for your own reduced retirement benefit first

See ASK RUSTY Page A6

## Leaders From All Around the Country Descend Upon PG County For Annual Brainstorming Session

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

GREENBELT, MD—On Thursday, May 3, 2018, the National Organization for Black County Officials (NOBCO) kicked off their 34th Annual Economic Development Conference at the Greenbelt Marriott in Greenbelt, Maryland. Leaders from as far as California convened in Prince George's County to launch a 4-day discussion about how policies and initiatives can be collectively implemented to serve and improve each leaders' respective municipality. On hand to welcome NOBCO to Prince George's County were County Council member Andrea Harrison and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and Chief 'Excitement' Officer, Jim Coleman.

"We are honored to have NOBCO in Prince George's County," said Coleman. "We're proud of all of the economic development taking place in this great County and we can't wait for everyone from around the country to experience what makes us so proud. Not only are we happy to be this year's host, but we're also poised to take part in important discus-

sions that affect how all of us live, work, and play. At the EDC, we look forward to being a part of the collective effort to continue pushing the American economy forward."

The National Organization of Black County Officials is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization. Founded in 1982, its mission is to provide resources to empower and transform communities. Participants in the NOBCO Economic Development Conference are members of the National Association of Black County Officials which connects African American elected officials from around the United States. Prince George's County Council member Andrea Harrison is a longtime active member of NOBCO and was pleased that its Economic Development Conference is taking place in Prince George's County.

"I'm so excited to have my colleagues from around the country here in Prince George's County," said Harrison. "This is a great opportunity for us to share and learn from one another as well as individuals from other organizations. We are having many discussions and forums about how we can continue to build our communities and what will make us better elected and



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE  
**Prince George's County Welcomes 34th Annual National Organization for Black County Officials Economic Development Conference.**

appointed leaders when we go back to our communities."

The 34th annual NOBCO Economic Development Conference is a chance for members from across America to get together and talk specifically about Economic Development policies and strategies that have worked in various local communities. Honorable Roy Charles Brooks, Chairman of the NOBCO Board, expressed his hope that, while in Prince George's County, each member will hear something that they can take home and implement in their communities for the benefit of the people they serve.

"We're looking forward to seeing the vibrant activities that are a part of the sustainable economic recovery in Prince George's County," said Brooks. "We are looking forward to our visit to the National Harbor area. There are many things that we're going to be doing at this conference to learn about the Prince George's County miracle."

#### More information

Learn more about Economic Development opportunities in Prince George's County by contacting the EDC at (301) 583-4650 or by visiting [www.pgcdec.com](http://www.pgcdec.com).

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Ready Player One

Ready Player One

Grade: C

Rated PG-13, moderate  
profanity, action violence  
2 hrs., 20 min

*Ready Player One* is set in a future where people spend most of their time in a virtual-reality world called OASIS that allows them to play games and have adventures in whatever fictional settings and with whatever fictional characters they choose (provided the filmmakers could get the rights). Our hero, 18-year-old Wade (Tye Sheridan), tells us real life is so drab that, apart from bathroom breaks and sleep, a lot of folks basically live in the OASIS and have most of their social interaction there. For all intents and purposes, it is their world.

The problem with “Ready Player One” is that the OASIS is not our world. To us (or to me, anyway; I can’t speak for you) it’s just a cool game with a lot of options, being played by people who are not us. No matter how valuable it is to Wade and his fellow denizens of the year 2045, and no matter how vividly it’s created by director Steven Spielberg, it’s not actually real to them. For us it’s even less real—a fake world inside of a fake world.

So what happens when that fake world is threatened? I don’t care, that’s what.

The premise is that the designer of the OASIS, a soft-spoken space cadet named Halliday (Mark Rylance), hid a contest inside of it in the form of three challenges that must be discovered and conquered. Whoever does this first will win the now-deceased Halliday’s half-trillion-dollar fortune and ownership of the OASIS. Five years on, Wade is one of a handful of ordinary people still pursuing this goal, joined by his in-game friends, whom he’s never met in real life but who coincidentally live in his neighborhood.

Their main competition is a video game company called IOI, the second largest corporation in the world (behind Halliday’s) with an eye toward being the first. Headed by malevolent ignoramus Nolan Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn), the sort of n00b who writes his password on a Post-It note, IOI has an army of staffers called Sixers working round-the-clock to scour every corner of OASIS in search of Halliday’s challenges. Where normal players’ ability to re-enter the game after being “zeroed out” (losing all of one’s points; “dying”) depends on their ability to buy credits (which cost real-world money), the Sixers, with their corporate backing, basically have unlimited lives.

What’s more, IOI has a staff of nerds whose only job is to



ROTTENTOMATOES

**In the year 2045, people can escape their harsh reality in the OASIS, an immersive virtual world where you can go anywhere, do anything, be anyone—the only limits are your own imagination. OASIS creator James Halliday left his immense fortune and control of the Oasis to the winner of a contest designed to find a worthy heir. When unlikely hero Wade Watts conquers the first challenge of the reality-bending treasure hunt, he and his friends—known as the High Five—are hurled into a fantastical universe of discovery and danger to save the OASIS and their world.**

search Halliday’s digitized memories, journals, and other resources for clues as to where in the OASIS he might have hidden the challenges. This requires them to be experts in pop culture of the 1980s, the decade Halliday grew up in and the source of most of his personality—er, references. The widespread popularity of the OASIS means lots of average joes are also inordinately knowledgeable about the ‘80s. For a viewer who grew up in the ‘80s and has already been through an ‘80s nostalgia phase, this might get old pretty fast.

Wade’s avatar is a blond Timothee Chalamey type named Parzival. A hulking beast called Aech (Lena Waithe)—pronounced “H”—is his best friend, and they’re soon joined by a new girl, Art3mis (Olivia Cooke), for whom Wade develops the hots. There are two more, Sho (Philip Zhao) and Daito (Win Morisaki), who play no significant role in the story except to give the group five members so they can be called the High Five (because they score high, not because they are high). When Wade and the gang start making progress on the challenges, Sorrento takes note and targets them directly, sending a mercenary named I-R0k (T.J. Miller) to kill their avatars.

What little we see of the real world of 2045 suggests it’s overcrowded and polluted but not dystopian. There was no apocalypse. People continue to live and work and order Pizza Hut (delivered by drones). IOI owns their debtors’ prisons called “Loyalty Centers” where people work off what they owe by serving as Sixers, a system that no doubt needs

regulatory oversight and is dangerously close to slavery. But in general, and in spite of the ‘80s fixation, real life isn’t a living hell.

Having shown us this unappealing but not hopeless real world, the movie then spends most of its time in a digital world where people are represented by computer-generated avatars. This creates emotional distance—it’s hard to feel connected to animated beings when we know their flesh-and-blood counterparts are out there—and lowers the stakes of the story: None of this is real. It’s not even a “you die in the game, you die in real life” situation. If you die in the game and can’t afford to buy back in, the only consequence is that you can’t play the game anymore.

This problem of low stakes drags down the entire film. Wade and his friends don’t just want to win the game, they want to prevent IOI from winning. Why would it be disastrous if IOI controlled the OASIS? Because they’d fill it with ads. They would ruin everything—everything in this fake computer world, that is. Real life would continue as before.

No matter how much fun your game is, I don’t care if it gets destroyed. I mean, maybe I can care for the length of a TV episode. But I don’t two-hours-and-twenty-minutes care.

It doesn’t help that Wade is a bland hero whose only motivation seems to be that it’s a game with a prize at the end. There is much good he could do with the money if he wins, but we never get the impression that that’s WHY he’s doing it. So we have a guy who’s on a quest for no

particular reason, where if he fails nothing particularly bad will happen. The film tries to up the ante by having Sorrento come after Wade’s real-world guardian, Aunt Alice (Susan Lynch), a character we barely met to whom Wade isn’t especially attached, but somehow that fails to generate sympathy.

The Ernest Cline novel this is based on is so full of ‘80s pop-culture references that it became the subject of mockery. The movie, adapted by Cline and Zak Penn, has to show them rather than just rattle them off, so plenty of Generation X memorabilia whizzes across the screen without drawing attention to itself. There’s an auto race that’s vintage Spielberg, the players speeding through a dizzying course in *Back to the Future* DeLoreans and other vehicles that you’d recognize from other movies if you could pause the action and look, with figures like Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees appearing in the periphery as other players’ avatars. The more overt references, the ones openly discussed and encountered by the characters, tend to be from properties owned by *Ready Player One* distributor Warner Bros. and don’t necessarily fit the book’s John Hughes and Atari vibe—*The Shining* and *The Iron Giant*, for example.

The film is thus busy and hectic but not cohesive, a game that’s nothing more than a game. There are moments of Spielbergian delight; fine, hammy performances by Mark Rylance and Ben Mendelsohn; and terrific visuals. But it’s all (to borrow a slightly older reference) full of sound and fury and signifying nothing.

### Ask Rusty from A5

and allowed your survivor’s benefit to grow to its maximum at your FRA and get that for the rest of your life; or you could have taken the reduced survivor’s benefit only and allowed your own retirement benefit to grow until it reached its maximum at age 70. In other words, you could have restricted your application to either one of those benefits and allowed the other to grow to its maximum amount (Social Security’s “deemed filing” rule doesn’t apply to survivor’s). That you are now receiving reduced benefits with no option to delay either one is, it would seem, a result of a failure by

the SSA to inform you of your options, exactly as the OIG found in its investigation.

I believe you have a strong case to challenge the SSA on your application choice due to them not informing you of the alternatives available to you. You can initiate this challenge by writing them a letter explaining that you would have made a different choice had you been told the alternatives available to you and request a hearing to resolve this issue. You will need to be specific about the who/when/where aspects of your original application, and you should be very clear about which other option you would have selected had you known – to either defer your widow’s benefit until it grew to maximum at your FRA,

or to take your widow’s benefit and defer your Social Security retirement benefit until you are 70. In any case, you should not have to suffer the financial consequences of the SSA’s failure to let you know that you had alternatives as a survivor.

For more on how to file a claim in writing due to the SSA’s failure to advise you of your options, go to: [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/cfr20/416/416-0351.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/416/416-0351.htm) and review Section (f) Claim for benefits based on misinformation.

*The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Founda-*

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## Summer Gardening

### Inspiration and Ideas for Summer Gardening and Home Improvement

StatePoint—With longer days and shorter nights come warm weather opportunities to make home and garden improvements. Become inspired to start working on projects, both indoors and out, with these new seasonal books.

#### Caring for Cacti

There’s much more to your little green plants than just keeping them alive, according to *Happy Cactus: Cacti, Succulents, and More*. Unearth the secrets of different cacti and succulents with profiles of more than 50 popular varieties—from the cute, flowering pincushion cactus to the wacky prickly pear. Discover what makes your plant unique and find out where to put it, when to water it, what to feed it, what to look out for, and how to encourage its distinctive traits, from flower stalks to fast growth.

#### Simplify Your Life

Living simply can mean living better, according to *Less: A Visual Guide to Minimalism*. Using, flow charts, icons and other graphics, the book demonstrates how to apply minimalism to your home, wardrobe, decor, cooking, cleaning and finances, to give you more time, space, money, clarity and overall enjoyment of your experiences.

#### Understanding Tools

Are you a DIYer or aspire to be one? Get a better handle on tools with *The Tool Book: A Tool Lover’s Guide to Over 200 Hand Tools*. This visual guide highlights how to use, understand and properly care for over 200 hand tools, and includes a foreword by Nick Offerman, host of NBC’s *Making It*. Discover why each tool is perfect for the job, through step-by-step illustrations and scientific explanations, and why it deserves a prominent spot in your shed, workshop, studio or makerspace.

#### Gardening Indoors

Learn where to place houseplants for the best effect in your home and how to properly care for them, with the trusted advice, creative inspiration, strong visual aesthetic and step-by-step detail found in *Practical Houseplant Book*. Two-hundred plant profiles provide information and care instructions for a variety of plants, including ferns, orchids and succulents, while a dozen photographic projects offer ideas for using plants to decorate your home or greenhouse—from eye-catching terrariums to a living succulent wall. With information on plant care, propagation, pests and diseases, pruning, and problem-solving, this is a useful guide for any indoor gardener.

#### Growing Food

Whether you’re a beginner or seasoned grower, *Grow Something Different to Eat: Weird and wonderful heirloom fruits and vegetables for your garden*, can give you confidence to grow, cook and preserve some unusually tasty crops. Learn to grow unique fruits, vegetables and grains, such as orange eggplants, quinoa, chia, and white strawberries. All plants can be started indoors and kept as houseplants, or grown outdoors in the garden.

This summer, discover creative ideas for improving your indoor and outdoor spaces with gardening, DIY projects, and more.



PHOTO © LUKESW/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

### Cannabinoids from A1

agulopathy. The Maryland Poison Center is collaborating with the Maryland Department of Health in the event more cases arise in Maryland.

If anyone who has used synthetic cannabinoids in the past three months develops unexplained bleeding or bruising, it is recommended they:

- Get immediate medical care at a hospital.
- Contact the Maryland Poison Center at 800-222-1222.
- Stop using and discard ANY synthetic cannabinoids.

Healthcare providers should be aware of this situation and if patients present with unexplained bleeding:

- Ask if they have used synthetic cannabinoids in the past three months.

• Refer them to a hospital for immediate medical care.

• Contact the Maryland Poison Center at 800-222-1222 to report cases and to obtain additional information on the appropriate recommended follow-up treatment.

For additional information please contact Dellia Williams at 240-417-8443.

You can also visit one of the following: MDH websites: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/cannabinoids.aspx>,

Maryland Poison Center’s Synthetic Cannabinoids Update Page: <http://www.mdpoison.com/news/2018/synthetic-cannabinoids-updates/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: website: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/chemicals/sc/healthcare.html>

# Calendar of Events

May 24 — May 30, 2018

## Xtreme Teens: NBA 2K18 Basketball Tournament

Date and time: Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Who you got: LeBron and the Cavs?; KD and the Warriors?; or, are you rolling with John Wall and the hometown Wizards? Join us for this competitive—but friendly!—NBA 2K18 video game tournament to see whose 2K skills are the dopest!  
 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: Swimming Field Trip

Date and time: Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: No one's too cool for a trip to the pool! Your energy and positive attitude will determine the fun factor. Hang around the pool and have fun with your friends—oh yeah, don't forget your towel!  
 Transportation will depart Kentland Community Center promptly at 6:30 PM, and return no later than 10 PM  
 Cost: \$5/person  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center/  
 Rollingcrest-Chillum Splash Pool  
 6122 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Tacos and Taco Salad

Date and time: Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Join us as we celebrate the month of Cinco De Mayo with distinctly-flavored Mexican cuisine. Grab your friends and make a beeline for this event to enjoy making tacos and taco salads exactly how you like them. Deliciously tasty!  
 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

## Yoga & Jazz

Date and time: Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:00 PM–8:00 PM  
 Description: Breathe in! Breathe out! Relax and find your center at a yoga class with live jazz music. This class will focus on linking your conscious breathing while aligning body and mind flow. Yoga can help improve your flexibility, concentration and calm the mind. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Then, get ready to get lost in yourself.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: 18 and older  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Beach Ball Volleyball Challenge

Date and time: Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: This is a warm-up for good times to come; warm weather plus friends equals great fun!  
 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

## Glenn Dale Farmer's Market

Date and time: Saturday, May 26, 2018, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM  
 Description: Shop with your local organic food and produce vendors from the Glenn Dale area at the Farmer's Market, including C & E Farms, Rudy's Produce, The Baker's Table, and more! Don't miss out - see you there!  
 Cost: FREE admission  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Marrietta House Museum  
 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD  
 Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Fishing Trip

Date and time: Saturday, May 26, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Enjoy a relaxing day of fishing at the beautiful Bladensburg Waterfront Park! Peace, quiet and tranquility with friends - who can ask for more? Well, there is that little competition thing about who can catch the most fish!  
 Transportation will depart Kentland Community Center promptly at 6:30 PM, and return no later than 10 PM  
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park  
 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Soccer Skills 101

Date and time: Saturday, May 26, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Have you ever played soccer? Do you have an interest? Well, tonight is your chance to learn how to play. Wear your sneakers- no soccer cleats! - and get ready for a fast-paced game of soccer! Games will be played outside, weather permitting.  
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Beltsville Community Center  
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

## Chicago Style Steppin'

Date and time: Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: Chicago Steppin' is a specific form of swing dance. Learn to dance with a partner with stylish and soulful steppin'! Synchronize your movements to the rhythm and beat of the music. This class is taught using the eight-count method.  
 Cost: Resident: \$8; Non-resident: \$11  
 Ages: 16 and older  
 Location: Glenarden Community Center  
 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD  
 Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Greener Guitars: Sustainably Harvested Tonewoods & Alternative Materials Take Center Stage

Dear EarthTalk:

*I'm in the market for a new acoustic guitar and I'm wondering what are my options if I care about its impact on the environment?*

—Angelo Martinez, Scranton, PA

The fact that the so-called “tonewoods” (mahogany, rosewood, spruce, ebony) that guitar makers have relied on for almost two centuries are now harder and harder (and much more expensive) to come by has left guitar makers scrambling to support replanting efforts in far flung locales and looking for sustainable alternatives that still imbue their instruments with pleasing tonal characteristics and eye-catching good looks.

“Our beloved Brazilian rosewood was taken from us more than 25 years ago [and then] Adirondack spruce was logged out,” reports Bob Taylor, founder of Taylor Guitars, a leading manufacturer of top-quality acoustic guitars that has been on the front lines of greener sourcing. “Today we see the signs of our current woods being diminished to a point of unavailability.”

To help counteract this industry-disrupting trend, Taylor launched a project in 2017 in partnership with the non-profit Congo Basin Institute to help local communities in Cameroon develop and plant different varieties of ebony to boost stocks of the now rare wood prized for use in guitar necks.

“Our goal is to leave a lot more than we are taking,” says Taylor.

Cameroon wants to scale up the Ebony Project—lauded as a global model for how public-private partnerships can be leveraged to mitigate climate change—as a significant contributor to its overall deforestation and forest degradation emissions reduction goals.

Of course, Taylor isn't the only acoustic guitar maker going big into ethically harvested woods. Martin, the premiere American acoustic guitar manufacturer since 1833, is now deep into woods certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), not to mention ebony-alternative fretboards made out of a pressed paper/resin material called Richlite.

Likewise, Oregon-based Bedell makes all of its guitars in the U.S. out of woods certified to be “legally acquired in accordance with domestic and international regulations” regarding trafficking in rare or endangered species and are “ethically sourced” from trees “individually harvested in a manner that leaves the rest of the forest and ecological system as undisturbed as possible.”

And Canada's Seagull, which hires local talent at its factories and prides itself on its use of reclaimed wood and its support of replanting projects, is yet another pioneer in sustainable acoustic guitar manufacturing.

Another way to avoid depleting wood reserves is by going for a guitar made out of another



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

Taylor Guitars is one of the leaders in efforts to move the guitar industry toward “ethically harvested” tonewoods.

alternative material. Luna's Safari Bamboo is a 3/4 size acoustic guitar constructed out of sustainable bamboo and perfect for travelers. McPherson, Emerald, RainSong and KLOS all make high quality guitars out of carbon fiber. Meanwhile, Blackbird uses Ekoa, a bio composite derived from linen fiber and plant resin, instead of wood in its guitars.

Of course, the greening of guitars isn't limited to acoustics. Big electric guitar manufacturers like Fender, Gibson, PRS, Ibanez, Yamaha and others have also been shifting toward sustainably harvested woods and alternative materials as well. And eco-conscious rockers will appreciate Finland's Flaxwood, which makes svelte-looking electric guitars out of a proprietary composite that reinforces injection-

molded thermoplastics with flax-based natural fibers.

CONTACTS: Taylor Guitars, [taylorguitars.com](http://taylorguitars.com); Congo Basin Institute, [www.cbi.ucla.edu](http://www.cbi.ucla.edu); Martin, [martinguitar.com](http://martinguitar.com); Forest Stewardship Council, [fsc.org](http://fsc.org); Bedell, [bedellguitars.com](http://bedellguitars.com); Seagull, [seagullguitars.com](http://seagullguitars.com); McPherson, [mcpheersonguitars.com](http://mcpheersonguitars.com); Emerald, [emeraldguitars.com](http://emeraldguitars.com); RainSong, [rainsong.com](http://rainsong.com); KLOS, [www.klosguitars.com](http://www.klosguitars.com); Blackbird, [blackbirdguitars.com](http://blackbirdguitars.com); Luna, [lunaguitars.com](http://lunaguitars.com); Flaxwood, [flaxwood.com](http://flaxwood.com).

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## Boxing from A3

The article by Martin Kane put the blame on mothers; according to Kane, they believed boxing to be unethical, despite knowing nothing about the sport.

Kane's article also traced college boxing's demise to a 1940 paper in the Research Quarterly by three members of the University of Illinois physical education department. The paper, titled “The Evaluation of Boxing as a College Activity,” concluded “boxing should not be included in the sports program of an educational institution,” though critics said its data had more to do with prizefighting than college boxing.

The report was based on a questionnaire sent to pathologists, coroners, neurologists, psychia-

trists, athletic directors and directors of health services. It suggested troubling things about college boxers being “punch-drunk.”

The symptoms of “punch-drunkness” were listed as “disturbances of equilibrium, vacant look in eyes, headache, dizziness, personality changes, deterioration of concentration and attention, impediment of speech, vomiting, unsteady gait.”

In other words, the symptoms of concussions.

The report also hinted that hidden brain injuries are a long-term effect of boxing.

While boxing fans derided the report, saying “many of (evaluators) knew nothing about boxing,” it is clear the report was ahead of its time.

Concussions are now considered a leading cause of Chronic

Traumatic Encephalopathy, more commonly known as CTE. Many former boxers suffer from CTE, according to Boston University CTE Research Center.

A month after the 1940 report Kane references, the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation adopted a resolution against high school boxing. According to the Sports Illustrated article, this negatively impacted college boxing.

In 1960, one year after the Sports Illustrated article came out, Wisconsin's Charlie Mohr, the defending national champion at 165 pounds, collapsed with a brain hemorrhage minutes after a bout. He died one week later, and the NCAA never sanctioned boxing again.

Today, the NCAA does not sanction any boxing. However,

the National Collegiate Boxing Association began in 1976 as a non-profit, autonomous organization for collegiate boxers. There are 35 teams in the NCBA, broken up into three regions.

Maryland is not in the NCBA, meaning their last season was in 1955, when director Tatum announced the end of the program.

In an odd twist however, Maryland's boxing team did not immediately disband after the announcement. Both Leo Coyne, who passed away in 2014 at the age of 82, and Vince Palumbo had advanced to the National Intercollegiate in Idaho at the end of March.

Palumbo would go on to win his weight class, giving Maryland another national champion—in a sport they no longer had.

## AAA rating from A1

County's AAA bond rating despite numerous challenges from the Great Recession including being the one of the hardest hit jurisdictions in the nation in terms of foreclosures.”

Moody's attributes the rating to the County's “above-average, diverse tax base” and its “stable reserve position ... from conservative budgeting and formal policies.” Fitch Ratings expects the County to “continue to maintain a high level of financial flexibility throughout the economic cycle, given its solid revenue and

expenditure flexibility and solid revenue and economic growth prospects.” S&P Global Ratings gives credit to the County's very strong management, “with strong financial policies ... indicating financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable.”

Thanks to the County's AAA ratings, the County successfully sold \$416.7 million in General Obligation Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds on May 1st achieving a true interest cost of 2.9958%. The County's bonds generated strong interest in the municipal market, as 7 major in-

## Morningside from A2

### Air Expo at Pax River

The Blue Angels will perform at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Air Expo June 2 and 3 in celebration of the base's 75th anniversary. The Expo will be a weekend of free family fun, aerial acrobatic performances, ground exhibits, food, vendors and kids' activities.

### Changing landscape: Rain!

We needed it, but (as I write this) we've had enough! On May 17, Paulette Jones, Public Information Officer for the Department of Public Works & Transportation, announced, “All activities for Bike to Work Day at the Largo pitstop

and the launch of Capital Bike-share in Prince George's County have been postponed due to the forecast of inclement weather on Friday, May 18.” She added that the event will be rescheduled.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Dennis Cook, Norma Edwards and my son John McHale, May 25; Christopher Nichols, May 26; Gary Lewis, Sr., Steven Busky, May 27; Teddy Burke and Kevin Nichols, May 30; Ruth Garner, Aiyana Poe, my granddaughter Sarah McHale and John Tierney, May 31.

Happy anniversary to John and Nichole Barbour on May 25.



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### Watch from A4

force started using school buses to take the children to jail. But that first wave was only the beginning. When hundreds more returned the next day, Bull Connor directed the police and fire department to begin using force on the child marchers. The decision surprised even those used to his meanness and brutality but it was not enough to stop the determined young marchers. The searing heartbreaking pictures of children being battered and tossed about by powerful fire hoses and attacked by police dogs appeared on front pages around the country and world and helped turn the tide of public opinion in support of Dr. King's local and the national civil rights movement's fight for justice.

Marches and protests continued in Birmingham with children leading the way. As some were arrested and attacked more and more kept coming to take their place, leaving Birmingham jails so overflowing that some child prisoners were held at the city's fairground and others in an open-air stockade where they were pelted by rain. On May 8 a temporary truce was called and on May 10 an agreement was reached that released the jailed children and others on bond and paved the way for desegregation of Birmingham's public facilities. But hateful White segregationists in the city did not give in quietly. Within hours the Gaston Motel where Dr. King and other SCLC leaders stayed and Dr. King's brother Reverend A.D. King's home were fire-bombed. Four months later, a bomb was placed under the steps of the 16th Street Baptist Church with a timer set to go off Sunday morning that exploded as children were in the church's basement preparing to lead Youth Sunday services. Fourteen-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley and 11-year-old Denise McNair were killed and more than 20 others were injured.

More than a year later, when one interviewer asked Dr. King how he felt after that bombing, he first described his despair at thinking that if men could be that bestial maybe there really was no hope. But, he said, time had eventually "buoyed me with the inspiration of another moment which I shall never forget: when I saw with my own eyes over three thousand young Negro boys and girls, totally unarmed, leave Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church to march to a prayer meeting — ready to pit nothing but the power of their bodies and souls against Bull Connor's police dogs,

clubs, and fire hoses." He told the same interviewer: "I never will forget a moment in Birmingham when a white policeman accosted a little Negro girl, seven or eight years old, who was walking in a demonstration with her mother. 'What do you want?' the policeman asked her gruffly, and the little girl looked him straight in the eye and answered, 'Fee-dom.' She couldn't even pronounce it, but she knew. It was beautiful! Many times when I have been in sorely trying situations, the memory of that little one has come into my mind, and has buoyed me."

The same example that buoyed Dr. King should inspire us today. It has been thrilling to see young people step forward to protest the egregious actions this Administration is taking against immigrants. It has been thrilling to see young people mobilized to reaffirm that Black Lives Matter. It was thrilling for those who participated in the March for Our Lives to hear so many young people from the stage speaking to the need to Protect Children, Not Guns and to see so many others taking part in school walkouts across the country — all nonviolently! And it was thrilling to be in Birmingham last weekend with Jack and Jill's wonderful families and see some of the original marchers standing up again along with a new generation of engaged children and parents to honor the sacrifices that changed Birmingham and America and pick up the baton and to sit next to the young African American Birmingham Mayor. And what an honor to arrive at the Fred Shuttlesworth International Airport named for the most courageous God fearing man I know, undeterred by multiple bombings of his churches and threats to his life. The Children's Crusade reminds all of us that children can be transforming agents of change who can show us adults the way to becoming a just and safer nation. Ending the violence of poverty and guns is the call before us. Let us join with our children and march and vote for freedom from both.

*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](http://www.childrensdefense.org). Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.*

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