

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

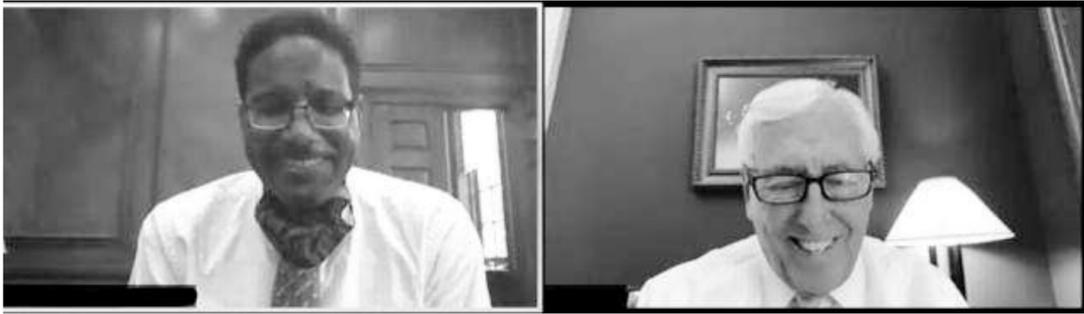
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Prince George's County, Maryland

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25 cents



Hoyer Welcomes New President of the University of Maryland, College Park Dr. Darryll J. Pines

"I was so glad to welcome Dr. Pines to his new role as President of the University of Maryland, College Park today. For more than 25 years, Dr. Pines has been an integral part of the Terp family. His leadership and experience serving as Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering has prepared

him well for this important new role. "Dr. Pines takes the helm of UMD at a critical time for our University, for our state, and for our nation as a whole. I am confident that he will put the needs of our students first and address the challenges we face without hesitation.

"Under Dr. Pines' leadership, I'm confident the University of Maryland will continue to be a world-class institution. I look forward to working with him to support the students, faculty, and staff at the University of Maryland."

—July 1, 2020



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Petty Officer 3rd Class Julian Ware, a native of Annapolis, Maryland and a 2015 graduate of Dr Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, recently celebrated his reenlistment in the U.S. Navy with a ceremony aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS James E. Williams.

Annapolis Native, Dr Henry A. Wise Jr. High School Graduate Reenlists Aboard USS James E. Williams

By MEGAN BROWN
Navy Office of Community Outreach

ARABIAN SEA (July 1, 2020)—Petty Officer 3rd Class Julian Ware, a native of Annapolis, Maryland and a 2015 graduate of Dr Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, recently celebrated his reenlistment in the U.S. Navy with a ceremony aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS James E. Williams. The ship is currently on deployment in the Persian Gulf.

"I learned back home something that most people wouldn't understand until they are older," said Ware. "Nobody is going to get anything for you, you have to get those things for

yourself. For example, qualifications, appointments and motivation."

Ware joined the Navy four years ago to travel the world and experience new opportunities. Now he is serving as a culinary specialist responsible for being the supervisor in the kitchen aboard the ship.

"In my profession, I control the morale of the crew," said Ware. "My favorite part is know they have had a good day because of a good meal away from home."

James E. Williams is the namesake of Chief Petty Officer James Elliott Williams, one of the Navy's most highly decorated enlisted sailors. Through his 20 years of service, Williams earned 18 awards in-

cluding the Medal of Honor and Purple Heart (with two gold stars). The ship is currently deployed to the Atlantic Ocean and is capable of conducting Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare.

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community and career, Ware is most proud of earning the Good Conduct Ribbon.

"Growing up as a troublemaker, it's an accomplishment for me to know I can perform superbly in a professional environment," said Ware.

For Ware, serving in the Navy is a tradition passed down from generations and one Ware hopes to continue.

"My dad served in the U.S. Navy and the discipline that he has instilled in me carried weight," said Ware. "I feel like I would be missing out on a big investment if I didn't carry on the tradition."

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Ware, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

"Serving gives me a sense of honor, courage and commitment, protecting my country and my family," added Ware.

Aisha Braveboy Receives 2020 'Leadership in Law' Award

By DENISE SMITH
Office of the State's Attorney,
Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 30, 2020)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy received The Daily Record's 2020 "Leadership in Law" Award in recognition of her outstanding professional achievement, innovation and leadership yesterday at a virtual awards celebration.

"I am deeply honored to be named one of The Daily Record's 2020 Leadership in Law honorees and I am humbled to be among the 26 luminaries who received this award," Braveboy said. "This award recognizes not just those who have excelled personally, but those who have made a significant impact on the legal profession. So, this is confirmation that my office's work to reform our criminal justice system is moving in the right direction. I am extremely proud of the work we have done to reduce our jail population, spearhead bail and youth justice reform, advance the State's first sentencing integrity unit and expand diversion programs. Additionally, my office led in the passage of legislation

to strengthen Maryland's hate crime and strangulation laws, and mandate training requirements for Special Police Officers. What we have accomplished this first year and a half is amazing and we are just getting started."

Leadership in Law recognizes Maryland's legal professionals—lawyers and judges—whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding. During this event, The Daily Record also honors up-and-coming lawyers through the Generation JD award and identifies exemplary careers through the Lifetime Achievement Award. Winners are selected by an outside panel of legal and business leaders.

Normally more than 300 people attend this prestigious celebration annually. This year, due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements and to ensure the safety of winners and other attendees, Leadership in Law was hosted virtually. Each winner was celebrated for their achievements through video storytelling. Guests had the opportunity to participate in the program with their congratulations and cheers using social media platforms.

Bowie State University National Alumni Association (BSUNAA) Elects Darren Swain, Former Md. State Delegate, to Be Their Next President

By PRESS OFFICER
BSUNAA-Alumni Association

BOWIE, Md. (June 27, 2020)—On June 27, Mr. Darren M. Swain (1993) [was] sworn in as the 32nd President of the BSUNAA. Swain has a long history with Bowie State University serving as Student Body President in 1991–1992. He is a 2-time graduate of Bowie State University and served as an administrator with the University for almost 13 years.

"The significance of attending a Historically Black College and University becomes more pronounced with each passing year," said Swain, noting that the importance of this legacy was a cornerstone of his election effort. "One thing that has remained unchanged is the self-defining certainty that comes from attending a HBCU. Without institutions like Bowie State University, doors of opportunity would be shut to future generations. I look forward to working with our alumni and the community to increase support for Bowie in the years to come."

Swain's administration includes Monique R. White Chiselom (1993), Vice President; Anthony Jefferson (1994), Treasurer; and Deborah McFarland (1969), Recording Secretary. Mr. Swain is very enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve his alma mater and is looking forward to ushering in "new" energy that will expound upon the rich legacy of the BSUNAA. "I am excited to see my former legislative team member and fellow Bulldog continue his service to Bowie State", said State Senator Joanne C. Benson of the 24th Legislative District, "He LOVES BSU and has my full support". The breath of Mr. Swain's network is far-reaching, here is what At-

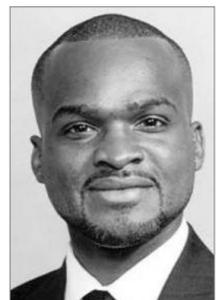


PHOTO COURTESY BALLOTPEdia.ORG

Darren Swain

See BSUNAA Page A8

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M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces Additional Amenities Available

"We continue to follow the guidance of health officials as we make available more recreational activities for our patrons ... states M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Bill Tyler.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: A Glory Glory Hallelujah Time?!

And isn't it past time to celebrate and protect the sanctity of all human beings oppressed by genocide, slavery and racial discrimination for any reason everywhere?

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Association for Justice Announces New Group for Civil Rights Attorneys

This immutable fact will only be truly recognized when the victims of civil rights violations are empowered to hold police officers and agencies truly accountable for their actions in courts of law.

Business and Finance, Page A5

TSA Administrator Pekoske Announces "Stay Healthy. Stay Secure." Campaign

As passenger volumes continue to rise, TSA recommends that travelers arrive early since new procedures, such as social distancing, may add time to the pre-flight experience.

Summer, Page A6

- July is Minority Mental Health Month
- Medicaid Program Innovation Increases Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Every Young Man Should Know About This Type of Cancer Prevention

Health and Wellness, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Colony South Hotel, now Capital Plaza Hotel

Colony South Hotel in Clinton has changed hands. On behalf of the Chiaramonte family, President Michael Chiaramonte wrote a letter thanking the community, guests and employees “as we sell the Colony South Hotel.”

He gave some background for the sale: “A few years ago when MedStar Health acquired Southern Maryland Hospital, they expressed interest in completing their health campus by purchasing the Colony South Hotel.” This transfer took place back in February 2020.

He continues, “We have been honored to serve our fellow Prince Georgians, as well as guests from the greater Washington area and beyond for the past 30 years. We feel especially privileged to have celebrated so many milestones with so many fine people.”

Over the years, I’ve attended some of those special milestones at Colony South, including the wedding reception of our daughter Sheila and John Mudd. I’ve enjoyed many Surratt Society banquets as well as good lunch buffets and dinners in the Wayfarer Restaurant.

The new owner, Capital Plaza Hotel, has big shoes to fill.

Neighbors & other good people

Congratulations to Prince George’s County’s State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy on receiving The Daily Record’s 2020 “Leadership in Law” Award.

Father Michael Moran, SMA, has been appointed administrator of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Seat Pleasant. He comes to the position from Venerable Fulton Sheen House of Formation, Chillum.

Jack Flaherty is graduating from the Maryland State Police Training School and will be stationed in La Plata. He’s the son of Terrence and Cherry Flaherty and the grandson of Jill Flaherty, formerly of Elmendorf Drive in Skyline.

Changing landscape

I made one of my rare (because of the virus) trips into Suitland last week and saw the beginnings of Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center, a 25-acre neighborhood just across Suitland Road from the Census Bureau, NOAA and other federal buildings. The master plan calls for residential, retail, a cul-

tural arts building and a walking trail. The trail will be a loop of the sidewalk system, shaded by canopy trees and connected to the three or four planned parks.

St. Barnabas Plaza, 3650–3676 St. Barnabas Road, has made improvements: new storefront framing, new roof, new 5-ton HVAC system, parking lot resurfacing, exterior light fixtures, new store front signage, exterior painting of store front and new landscape bed and planters.

B Thrifty shop has opened at the former Value Village site in Allentown Mall. To deliver donations, take your turn around the left side of the building.

Reopenings

The Museum of the Bible, 400 4th St SW, is opening for the first time since March. “Thou shalt wear a face mask” is one of the Museum’s “Covid Commandments.”

The International Spy Museum, 700 L’Enfant Plaza SW, has also reopened. The Museum provides a “spy gadget,” or stylus, for use with touch screens, elevator buttons and any other surface that might spread germs.

George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, is now allowing visitors to explore the farm, gardens and outbuildings. The museum is open but the mansion and theaters remain closed.

Outdoor swimming pools opened July 1 in Prince George’s County. A Parks Direct account is required to make a reservation. Info: <https://bit.ly/2YIUDuN>.

Request for baby boy clothing

More boys have been born here lately and the Forestville Pregnancy Center, at Marlow Heights, has issued a request for boys’ clothing. The Center reported that most clothing they’ve been receiving have been “really cute girl clothes.” Boys’ togs are needed for newborns to 6 months. If you can donate, call 301-423-0042. “Our babies thank you for your generosity and so do we!”

Remember WPGC-AM Morningside?

It was the call name for radio station WPGC when we moved here in 1958.

I kept looking for its transformer, or something.

The truth of the matter is, when the Federal Communications Commission licensed the station in 1954, “Morningside” was added to the call numbers. According to an article by Judy Colbert in the now defunct Prince George’s Magazine, “The long-forgotten person, who was granted this license, broadcast from a garage on a hill off Suitland Road. He needed a city for the application and Morningside was the closest.”

WPGC licensed its FM station in 1959 and by that time the transmitter had been moved to District Heights.

Lou Coppola played for 9 presidents

Louis “Lou” Coppola, 82, an accordion player and Air Force chief master sergeant who led The Air Force Strolling Strings ensemble, died April 20 at his home in Falls Church.

I well remember attending banquets at Andrews and dining to the sweet sounds of the Strolling Strings. And I remember the Coppola Accordion Studio on Piscataway Road in Oxon Hill.

Lou played for nine presidents and, on the side, ran his own strolling band, The Stereo Strings. For 44 years, he played weekly at Fort Myer Officers’ Club.

He’s survived by his former wife, Rose-Marie Bruno Coppola, sons Kevin and John and three grandchildren.

He said he wasn’t sure he even wanted to play the accordion. “It was only because my mother told me if I didn’t like the accordion after a month, I could quit. The only problem was, I forgot to stop.”

Milestones

Happy birthday to former Morningside Councilman Kevin Kline, Nicole Wade, Dee (Curcio) Brown and Dave Williams Jr., July 11; Kenard Simms, July 13; Laverne Peggy Simms, Krista Lanehart and Laura (Thompson) Hoffmann, July 14; Helen Jurney, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 16; my granddaughter Claire Mudd, Michael Busky, Mike Fowler Jr. and former Morningside Chief of Police Stephen Armhold, July 17.

Happy 45th anniversary to Dave and Carolyn Williams on July 11.

Around the County

PGCPS Board of Education Budget Passes: Maintains Commitments to Children

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. (June 30, 2020)—Prince George’s County educators, students, and parents recognize the work of the CEO Monica Goldson, School Board Chair, Dr. Alvin Thornton and Board Members in keeping the commitment to children by passing the Reconciled budget passed at the June 25 Board Meeting. In passing the 2021 budget, Goldson and the Board of Education honored the terms of the PGCEA 2019–2022 Negotiated Agreement despite adjustments to the original budget by the County Executive and the County Council. The nearly 10,000 members will receive promised salary step increases that the PGCPS employees lost in the 2008–11 recession. The steps were previously negotiated in a three year contract for 2019 to 2022.

PGCEA President Theresa Mitchell Dudley released the following statement:

“This demonstrates that the CEO and the Board of Education recognize that our children deserve to have the best and most stable educators in their classrooms, which only comes through investment in recruitment and retention. In Prince Georges’ County we can no longer wait to invest in our classrooms and fair pay for our educators who each and every day are shaping the next generation of leaders in our county and beyond.”

The reconciliation process has historically created great concern when the initial school system budget is not honored throughout the budget process. While the County Executive and County Council maintained Maintenance of Effort Guidelines, (maintaining prior year funding levels), the school system plans improvements that exceed the prior year’s budget. Many initiatives are cut during the process.

—Joshua Harris, Prince George’s County Educators’ Association

Prince George’s County Police Corporal Ivan Mendez Indicted for Misconduct in Office For Compromising an On-Going Police Investigation

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 30, 2020)—Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy announced today that a Prince George’s County police officer, Corporal Ivan Mendez, has been indicted for misconduct in office for disclosing sensitive and confidential information about an ongoing police investigation with a commercial sex worker in 2018.

“My Office has a zero-tolerance policy for corruption by public officials who unlawfully violate the public trust. I take this very seriously because the people of Prince George’s County deserve to be represented by people who operate with the highest degree of professionalism and integrity. That is why I created a stand-alone public integrity unit to prosecute these types of cases to the fullest extent of the law. There is no excuse for corruption and this case will be treated no differently. Corruption of any kind will not be tolerated in Prince George’s County,” said State’s Attorney Braveboy.

An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

—Denise Smith, Office of the State’s Attorney, Prince George’s County

Local Students Honored

Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (June 29, 2020)—The following students received degrees from Quinnipiac University:

Bowie, MD: **Austin Dikibo**, Master of Health Science/Physician Assistant; **Miranda Martin**, Master of Science in Instructional Design

Fort Washington, MD: **Shawn Torres**, Master of Science in Interactive Media and Communications

Oxon Hill, MD: **Elroy Murray**, Master of Science in Business Analytics

Area resident named to dean’s list for the Spring 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (June 29, 2020)—The following area student was named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Glenn Dale, MD: **Lydia Jones**

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

—John W. Morgan, Quinnipiac University

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

MEL FRANKLIN, COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

Council Member At-Large Mel Franklin presented Prince George’s County Economic Justice and Equity Tele-Town Hall Thursday, June 25, 2020. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the impact of COVID-19, the rise of the national Black Lives Matter movement has cast a spotlight on the generational disparities in economic equity and societal opportunities facing predominantly black communities like Prince George’s County. Council Member Mel Franklin town hall meeting was for a critical discussion about how we remove the barriers to equity, opportunity, and post-COVID-19, recovery for black -owned businesses, returning citizens under-funded schools, unemployed and under-employed residents families in poverty.

BOLD MOVES MADE AT BSU

Isaiah’s hometown is Laurel, Maryland. Major: Music Technology, classification: Senior. What are some BOLD moves you have made on Campus? “I’ve established myself with the professors. I make sure they know what I do and who I am: a musician, a producer, a creative, an engineer”. What are you passionate about? “I am passionate about creating and writing music because it is another way to express how I feel. I am not a person of too many words. I prefer music”. What do you look forward to doing after you graduate? “I want to open my own home studio and go into music production, recording, engineering and composition, things like that”. What makes Bowie State special to you? “It is a home away from home. It is a whole community of people who look like me and show me where I fit academically, creatively, socially”. What makes you BOLD? “What makes me bold is who I represent.” “I’m a Christ follower and I’m allowed to be bold with the confidence that gives me.”

2020 CENSUS

Please complete your census now. It is not too late to fill out the census, safe, easy, important. The Prince George’s County self-response rate as of June 23 is 63.3%. As a gentle reminder, on August 11, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin its door-to-door follow-up operations for residents who have not completed the Census 2020 forms. To minimize door to door, please consider calling five (5) family members or friends and encourage them to complete the Census online, by phone or via mail.

The next Census will not take place again until 2030, so let us make sure Prince George’s County gets the federal funding and resources we need over the next 10 years. #Proud to Be Counted, #PGCensus2020. Information from Prince George’s County Council.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2020

The first-ever Virtual Commencement Ceremony for the class of 2020 was held Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 3 p.m. This was a memorable and historic occasion approximately 700 graduates received their degrees and became our newest alumni. Their Bold, Driven and Resilient Bulldog Spirit paved the way for their future and that of the next generation.

MAKING THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE

Gema Howell class of 2014, major Computer Technology. Activities include Cybersecurity Team and the Women in Computing Club. For Gema (*14) there is no higher calling than becoming an ethical hacker, trained to detect and repair weaknesses in the nation’s data security systems. She began her college career on another path, but later found the computer technology program at Bowie State could take her where she really wants to go.

After graduation, she landed her first job as a member of the computer security team of a national agency. She is using the skills she learned at Bowie State to develop mobile and web applications to test public safety communications.

Gema had transferred from another university to pursue her passion for computers. At Bowie State, she found a program where she could be hands-on with computer systems and study network security.

“I want to be a cryptology, possibly with the National Security Agency, to decipher threatening messages and secure our national networks,” she said. “I want to be part of the team keeping our country safe.” As a member of Bowie’s Cybersecurity Team and Women in Computing Club, Gema says she found the support to grow in her dream profession.

“At Bowie there is a lot of more personal interaction and one-to-one time with professors than at my first school,” she said. “The students are more willing to help each other; we’re all learning together.” Contact: webmaster@bowiestate.edu

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COMMUNITY

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces Additional Amenities Available for Prince George's County Residents, Visitors

By KIRA CALM LEWIS
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 29, 2020)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation announces more amenities will be available for Prince George's County residents and visitors as the Department gradually reopens its facilities to the public.

Effective Wednesday, July 1, 2020, the Department will open:

- All outdoor pools, with reduced capacity. Pools will also have shorter operating hours on July 4.
- Trap and Skeet Center
- Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Patuxent River Park with limited access to the boat ramp, canoe, and kayak launch dock
- Playgrounds
- Select permitted athletic fields. For information on the select fields, patrons should email Athletic.Permits@pgparks.com.

Effective Wednesday, July 8, 2020, the Department will reopen Cosca, Fairland, and Watkins tennis bubbles with court reservations accepted, starting Thursday, July 2 by phone and online. The tennis bubble at Fairland is the only part of the complex that will open on July 8. The rest of the complex remains closed to the public.

"We continue to follow the guidance of health officials as we make available more recreational activities for our patrons. We are

excited to open our pools and provide a variety of activities for all ages as we continue to do our part to keep our community safe," states M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Bill Tyler.

The Department will also provide expanded services, hours and programs at its three golf courses, including restarting one of its junior golf programs, First Tee. For more details about First Tee, visit TheFirstTeeDC.org.

Additionally, the Department is cancelling all of its outdoor festivals and large events through October 31, 2020.

The Department continues to urge residents and visitors to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. As a reminder:

- Outdoor tennis courts are open.
- Parks and trails remain open for activities such as hiking, biking, or walking.
- Restrooms and portable toilets remain closed.
- Cookouts are not permitted in our parks, until further notice.
- Gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited in the parks

Customer Service can be reached at CustomerService@pgparks.com or at 301-699-2255.

Parks & Recreation
M-N-C-P-P-C

FACILITIES AND PROGRAM STATUS
EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST

 PERMITTED ATHLETIC FIELDS *	 BOATING **	 GOLF COURSES	 OUTDOOR POOLS
 PLAYGROUNDS	 OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS AND BUBBLES ***	 TRAILS	 TRAP AND SKEET
 COOKOUTS	 GATHERING OF 10+	 NON-PERMITTED GROUP SPORTS	 PORTABLE TOILETS
 FACILITIES ****			

* Select Fields
** Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Patuxent River Park with limited access to the boat ramp, canoe, and kayak launch dock
*** Tennis Bubbles open July 8th
**** Facilities, Community Centers, Arts Facilities, Indoor Pools, Museums, and Nature Centers

pgparks.com
PLEASE ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES. 06.25.20

VIRTUAL EVENTS

The Black Freedom Struggle in Maryland, A Discussion With the University of Maryland, Department of History

Tuesday, July 14, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

General Public and Educators Welcome!

This program will focus on the period from the early 19th to early 20th century, when African Americans faced significant challenges to their citizenship and legal rights in this country. Dr. Richard Bell, Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland and MdHS Trustee, will facilitate as his

colleagues Dr. Christopher Bonner, Dr. Michael Ross, and Dr. Elsa Barkley Brown address the Colonization Movement, African American soldiers in the Civil War, and resistance during the Jim Crow era in Maryland.

Register at <https://www.mdhs.org/civircrm/event/info?reset=1&id=549>

—Maryland Historical Society

Chesapeake Film Festival Comes to You Virtually This Year!

October 1–4, 2020

Our Mission: Celebrating Film, Strengthening Our Community

By PRESS OFFICER
Communications CFF

The Chesapeake Film Festival's commitment to bringing outstanding independent films to the people of the Chesapeake Bay area remains a priority despite the challenges of 2020. Because of the pandemic, CFF has had to figure out an alternate means of delivering those films to you. Our answer is a virtual festival, which extends

our potential audience beyond the physical boundaries of the Eastern Shore.

We're here this year to reach our community during these times of isolation. Inclusivity is our hallmark by uniting our audience in a celebration of cinematic achievement. During times of chaos and uncertainty unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. Mark your calendars

for October 1–October 4 for the 13th Chesapeake Film Festival coming to you at your home.

The mission of the Chesapeake Film Festival is to entertain, inspire and educate by bringing the finest in narrative, documentary, short film, environmental film and animation to the greater community. The films we showcase illuminate both the diversity and universality of humankind and the environment. We believe films can affect positive change, and through this medium, individuals and communities can gain a greater understanding of themselves and the world.

Stay tuned for the upcoming announcement of our offerings for the 2020 festival!

Maryland Entrepreneur Launches Free Hiring App to Help Businesses and Job Seekers Impacted by Covid-19

Hiring challenges at family's Dunkin' stores inspired Sunny Patel to find a better way to connect employers and job seekers during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.

By SCOTT WESTCOTT
for 1aJob?

COLUMBIA, Md. (June 29, 2020)—A Maryland entrepreneur has developed an innovative and cost-free way to match employers with job seekers as businesses look to recover amid the Covid-19 crisis.

Sunny Patel, a Howard County-based local cyber security expert, has launched 1aJob?, a smartphone app that dramatically streamlines the hiring process while offering a fully virtual experience that provides a safe and secure way to hire in the age of social distancing.

1aJob? (pronounced "Wanna Job?") matches employers with interested candidates and then facilitates the entire process virtually—including unique embedded video interviewing—without ever leaving the app.

Employers can create an unlimited number of free job posts. Meanwhile, for job seekers, the app eliminates the often-intimidating process of filling out complicated online applications and updating resumes. Instead, they complete a simple, one-time profile and are back in the active job market in under 10 minutes.

"Many of the existing hiring platforms end up being costly and time-consuming headaches for business owners," Patel said. "I wanted to create the most transparent, easy-to-use app that

doesn't charge any fees and doesn't even require any payment information from employers or job candidates."

1aJob is the product of a brainstorm that had been brewing in Patel's mind after hearing his father's ongoing challenge to find an efficient and cost-effective way to hire front-line employees at more than a dozen Dunkin' franchises he owns throughout suburban Baltimore.

When the magnitude of Covid-19 crisis became clear, Patel kicked into high gear, working around the clock to get the app built and live. Initially, Patel envisioned the app as a potential money maker, but quickly shifted to rolling it out as a public service to connect cash-strapped businesses with displaced workers to restart the economy.

"The last thing a struggling small business owner needs right now is to shell out more money for online job postings," Patel said. "We created something that can truly help both business owners and job seekers get through these tough times, so I made the decision to offer this app for free as a small way to help our communities and America get back to work."

The 1aJob? App can be downloaded at the Apple App Store (<https://lnkd.in/e6wkzn6>) or Google Play (<https://lnkd.in/eWJ-2FS>)

For more information visit, the 1aJob website www.1ajob.com/#home

How to Help Friends Vote Absentee From Anywhere in the World

(StatePoint) For military members and their families stationed away and U.S. citizens living abroad, family and friends are vital connections to life back home. For the 2020 general election, those friends can be an important source of voting information, especially for young people voting for the first time. And this year it's even more important to register and request an absentee ballot early to avoid potential mail delays or other disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

An easy way to help loved ones in the military or abroad vote absentee is by referring them to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which provides tools and resources to ensure that American citizens can vote from anywhere in the world.

Voters can visit FVAP.gov to find state-by-state official registration and ballot request deadlines, as well as information on completing a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which is the registration and ballot request form, and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), the backup ballot. Both forms are available at FVAP.gov and can be filled out with the online assistant or by hand. For additional information, visit FVAP.gov, email Vote@FVAP.gov or call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).

Important things to remember:

1. Submitting your FPCA early is the best way to help ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.
2. Using the FPCA provides our Service members, their families and overseas citizens with an option to receive balloting materials electronically.
3. Using the FPCA early grants voters the ability to use the FWAB as a backup ballot, if needed.

Did you know U.S. military, their families, and overseas citizens can vote absentee from anywhere in the world in

2 Simple Steps?

STEP 1

REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

HOW?
Fill out a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at FVAP.gov and send it in by your state's deadline.

October 5
on a ship at sea

STEP 2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN?
By the recommended 2020 deadline.

October 13
outside the U.S.

October 27
stateside

BALLOT NOT ARRIVING IN TIME TO VOTE?

Use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a backup ballot. Get it at FVAP.gov.

WANT TO MAKE SURE THE BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?

Check the status at FVAP.gov.

Have friends or family living abroad or stationed away from home? Share this info with them, especially if they're age 18-24 and voting absentee for the first time.

FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Americans can vote. Wherever they are.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Glory Glory Hallelujah Time?!

Is our long-awaited real United States of America baby about to be born?! The one our slave ancestors, grandparents, parents and community co-parents died and struggled for—a real United States of America—with liberty and justice for all?

It's way past time to clarify which God we truly trust in our nation—the god of our money, currency and American capitalism as we know it—or the God of our Native American ancestors, enslaved ancestors, African and African-American ancestors, civil rights martyrs and mothers and fathers who taught us to love one another—not enslave, exploit, abuse, lynch, segregate or disrespect one another. Isn't it time to stop using God as a logo on our currency and follow the true God of our authentic faiths? And isn't it past time to celebrate and protect the sanctity of all human beings oppressed by genocide, slavery and racial discrimination for any reason everywhere?

I love Mississippi poet Margaret Walker's great poem "For My People." I think of all the people of every race, color and faith who have struggled to birth and build a real United States of America.

For my people everywhere singing their slave songs repeatedly: their dirges and their ditties and their blues and jubilees, praying their prayers nightly to an unknown god, bending their knees humbly to an unseen power;

For my people lending their strength to the years, to the gone years and the now years and the maybe years, washing ironing cooking scrubbing sewing mending hoeing plowing digging planting pruning patching

dragging along never gaining never reaping never knowing and never understanding;

For my playmates in the clay and dust and sand of Alabama backyards playing baptizing and preaching and doctor and jail and soldier and school and mama and cooking and playhouse and concert and store and hair and Miss Choomby and hair and company;

For the cramped bewildered years we went to school to learn to know the reasons why and the answers to and the people who and the places where and the days when, in memory of the bitter hours when we discovered we were black and poor and small and different and nobody cared and nobody wondered and nobody understood;

For the boys and girls who grew in spite of these things to be man and woman, to laugh and dance and sing and play and drink their wine and religion and success, to marry their playmates and bear children and then die of consumption and anemia and lynching;

For my people thronging 47th Street in Chicago and Lenox Avenue in New York and Rampart Street in New Orleans, lost disinherited dispossessed and happy people filling the cabarets and taverns and other

people's pockets needing bread and shoes and milk and land and money and something—something all our own;

For my people walking blindly spreading joy, losing time being lazy, sleeping when

hungry, shouting when burdened, drinking when hopeless, tied, and shackled and tangled among ourselves by the unseen creatures who tower over us omnisciently and laugh;

For my people blundering and groping and floundering in the dark of churches and schools and clubs and societies, associations and councils and committees and conventions, distressed and disturbed and deceived and devoured by money-hungry glory-craving leeches, preyed on by facile force of state and fad and novelty, by false prophet and holy believer;

For my people standing staring trying to fashion a better way from confusion, from hypocrisy and misunderstanding, trying to fashion a world that will hold all the people, all the faces, all the adams and eves and their countless generations;

Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born. Let a bloody peace be written in the sky. Let a second generation full of courage issue forth; let a people loving freedom come to growth. Let a beauty full of healing and a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the martial songs be written, let the dirges disappear. Let a race of men now rise and take control.

From This is My Century: New and Collected Poems (University of Georgia Press), copyright ©1989 Margaret Walker Alexander. Used with permission.

—July 2, 2020

Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



Congressman Brown Praises Passage of His Bipartisan Provision to Redesignate Military Bases and Infrastructure Honoring Confederate Leaders in NDAA

WASHINGTON (July 1, 2020)—Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04), praised the passage of his FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act amendment to establish a firm process to rename military bases and infrastructure honoring leaders of the Confederacy within one year. The amendment, co-led with fellow veteran Congressman Don Bacon (NE-02), and was adopted by a vote of 33-23.

The amendment would require the Secretary of Defense to identify bases and infrastructure (buildings, ranges, roads, etc.) currently named for individuals who served in the political or military leadership of the Confederacy and submit a report to Congress within 60 days of enactment. The amendment recommends the Department consider for new designations; Medal of Honor recipients, combat heroes, trailblazing troops from minority groups or individuals with links to the community where the base is located.

"Every day, Black soldiers work, train and live on bases named after men who fought to keep them in bondage. The cornerstone of the Confederacy was the preservation of slavery, white supremacy and the continued oppression of Black Americans. Renaming bases that honor these leaders is not erasing history, but acknowledging that the cause they fought for was unjust and a scar on this country. The United States military has many who should be honored with designations, those who betrayed their country do not deserve that distinction," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Congressman Don Bacon for their support of this important amendment."

The process that will be used to rename each installation, facility, or infrastructure will be set by the Secretary of Defense and secretaries of the military departments which could include establishing advisory panels with military and local stakeholders, historians and civil rights leaders.

The U.S. Army currently has 10 bases and facilities named after leaders of the Confederacy. Another amendment by Congressman Brown to prohibit the display of the Confederate flag on Department of Defense property and across military branches passed committee markup earlier today.

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In Memoriam

The Prince George's County Council extends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Commissioner and former Mayor of the Town of Upper Marlboro, Wanda Leonard. Commissioner Leonard was a respected public servant and while her sudden passing is a great loss to our community, her legacy of service will endure.



—COUNCIL CONNECTIONS, July 2, 2020

Statement: Council Chair Todd M. Turner Says Council Supports Full Review of Washington's NFL Team Name

The Prince George's County Council joins with County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks and countless others, who are pleased and encouraged by today's announcement that Washington's professional football team will conduct a formal and thorough review of the team name.

Amid our historic national and regional reckoning over racism, inequality and social injustice, addressing longstanding concerns over the team name, considered offensive by many, is the right thing to do. The team's recent decision to retire the jersey of one of its outstanding African-American

players, Hall of Famer Bobby Mitchell, only the second jersey to be retired in the franchise's 88-year history, and renaming a level of FedEx Field for him, expresses an important willingness by the organization to honor unity, rather than division.

Prince George's County is not only home of this NFL team, but also boasts of a diverse population that represents our human spectrum, encourages inclusion and respects our shared history. With today's action, the team gives hope to a new chapter that when it becomes reality, we can all take pride in.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Confederate Monuments and Symbols Are Advertisements for a Product No One Wants Anymore. #TakeEmDown, NOW.

"The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered. As a community, we must recognize the significance of removing New Orleans' Confederate monuments. It is our acknowledgment that now is the time to take stock of, and then move past, a painful part of our history. Anything less would render generations of courageous struggle and soul-searching a truly lost cause."

—New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu upon removal of the city's last remaining Confederate monuments, 2017

Mississippi's decision this week to eliminate a Confederate symbol from its state flag is the culmination of more than 40 years of activism, and a single step in the ongoing effort to eliminate white supremacist imagery and monuments from our public spaces.

It seems at last that we have the will, as a nation, to confront the ugly truth about these monuments built as symbols of resistance to racial equality. As long as they remain in places of honor, they remain symbols of resistance to racial equality.

More than 1,500 public monuments and memorials to the Confederacy remain in the United States, in 31 states plus the District of Columbia—far exceeding the 11 Confederate states. Almost none of these monuments or memorials were created in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, and almost none were intended to memorialize the dead. There were two huge spikes in construction: in the early 1900s, after Plessy v. Ferguson unleashed the terroristic system of Jim Crow, and then again in the 1950s and 1960s as the 20th Century Civil Rights Movement gained traction.

The current Mississippi flag was adopted 30 years after the end of the Civil War. The state's Civil War-era flag didn't even feature Confederate imagery.

The notion of "erasing history" is the hollowest of defenses. The

truth is, the reality of Black voices finally being heard is an unsettling development for people so accustomed to white privilege they can scarcely discern its very presence.

What respect for history really means is reckoning with the horror of two and a half centuries of chattel slavery and another century of the institutionalized terrorism known as Jim Crow.

The Cult of the Lost Cause, which draped the atrocities of the Confederacy in a gauzy lie about states' rights, infects our public discourse even today. The state of Texas finally voted in 2018 to teach that slavery was the central issue of the Civil War.

The illusion that Confederate memorials are anything but a celebration of white supremacy collapses under the slightest scrutiny. Take, for example the 1913 dedication of a Confederate monument at the University of North Carolina, later nicknamed "Silent Sam." University trustee Julian Carr urged the audience to devote themselves to the maintenance of white supremacy with the same vigor that their Confederate ancestors had defended slavery. He praised Confederate soldiers for their defense "of the Anglo Saxon

race during the four years after the war" when "their courage and steadfastness saved the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South." These four years refer to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, which Carr supported. He then boasted that "one hundred yards from where we stand, I horse-whipped a negro wench until her skirts hung in shreds because she had malign and insulted a Southern lady."

Students pulled the statue from its pedestal in 2018.

Confederate statues in public spaces, near government buildings—especially in front of court houses, where people go to seek justice—are a form of racial intimidation. They are meant to assure those who approach: "white supremacy reigns here." If we want to dispense with white supremacy, we must dispense with its signifiers. They advertise a product no one wants anymore.

In the Gettysburg Address, Abraham called on the nation to "strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds." More than a century and a half later, we are still striving to bind up the nation's wounds.

#TakeEmDown, now.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Widow Unsure About Her Social Security Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I am looking for information on my Social Security survivor benefits from my husband. I just turned 65 and have been collecting my Social Security widow's benefit since I was 60. Someone told me that I should take my own Social Security and half of my deceased husband's. I am not sure if that's what I should do. Should I stay as I am until age 70 and then look into this option? Is it even an option? I'm just not sure. I work part time because the widow's benefit just isn't enough to pay my bills. I know there must be others out there as unsure as I am. **Signed: Unsure Widow**

Dear Unsure Widow: It appears that you have been given some inconsistent information. If you are currently collecting a widow's benefit from your deceased husband and have been since you were 60 years old, you cannot "take my own Social Security and half of my husband's." You only have two options now - to continue your current surviving widow's benefit (which was reduced because you claimed it before your full retirement age), or to claim your own SS retirement benefit if that is more.

If you are now collecting your survivor benefit (only), your benefit from your own work record is still growing. The key question is whether your own benefit from your own work record will ever be more than you are now collecting from your deceased husband as his widow. If your own SS retirement benefit will be more, you can switch to it whenever it has grown to be more than your current widow's benefit. Your own benefit will reach maximum at age 70, so never wait beyond that to claim it. But if your current survivor benefit as a widow is more than your own benefit will be at any age, you should simply stay on that widow's benefit.

The easiest way to find this information out is to request a Statement of Estimated Benefits from Social Security. That statement will show you the amounts you are due on your own at your full retirement age and also at age 70 (if you were born in 1955 your FRA is 66 plus 2 months). If either or both of those amounts are more than your widow's benefit, you can continue to collect your widow's benefit until it makes financial sense to switch to your own. To request your Benefits Statement, contact Social Security directly at 1.800.772.1213, or your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator). You can also get this online if you have a "my Social Security" account, and which you can create at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

The 2.1 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org.

RATP Dev USA Begins Operations as New Contract Provider for TheBus

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (July 1, 2020)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) selected a new contractor, RATP-Dev USA, for the County's transit system, known as "TheBus". Effective, July 1, 2020, RATP-Dev USA will assume day-to-day control over the County's transit operations and maintenance functions. This multi-year contract includes a five-year base period and two option periods of three years each.

This change builds upon the new direction the County is taking to reimagine transit services so that it better meets the needs of County residents and to implement new transportation options for neighborhoods beyond the fixed route network. RATP-Dev USA is committed to improving the passenger experience through reliable service and enhanced maintenance protocols.

"We understand the importance of providing a reliable, safe and efficient transit system for Prince Georgians," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "RATP Dev USA has a proven track record for delivering successful operations and maintenance services, and they will provide groundbreaking technologies and services to our County that will serve our residents well."

Beginning July 1, RATP Dev USA will be responsible for all aspects of the fixed route system including maintenance of the 97-bus fleet. Service will be provided through a combination of traditional "big" buses and smaller, more flexible vehicles that will enhance service efficiency. Extensive safety, cleaning and social distancing protocols are in place that will provide for a safe transportation experience for riders and operators.

"A well-functioning and efficient transit service is a win-win for residents, commuters and employers in the County. It provides mobility for workers, students, and seniors and improves the quality of life for communities throughout the County. Our residents expect and deserve a first class, customer service focused transit system, and I am excited to welcome RATP Dev USA as our partners in delivering it," said DPW&T Director Terry Bellamy.

RATP Dev USA has managed and operated transit systems throughout the U.S. since 1972, and today supports over 40 cities and communities throughout North America.

Maryland Association for Justice Announces New Group for Civil Rights Attorneys

New resource will help attorneys prosecute civil rights violations, and expand access to justice, through collaboration, training, and outreach.

By BRANDON CORBETT
Maryland Association for Justice

COLUMBIA, Md. (June 29, 2020)—The Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ), the largest statewide specialty bar association in Maryland, with more than 1,200 dues-paying members, is announcing the establishment of a Civil Rights and Constitutional Law Section.

The Civil Rights and Constitutional Law Section is dedicated to the protection and expansion of the civil rights of everyone in the State of Maryland. Section lawyers fight the persistent and systemic injustice caused by police and correctional misconduct, unlawful discrimination and all forms of government wrongdoing. The Section will maintain a special focus on underserved and underprivileged populations.

We encourage all MAJ members and attorneys across the region who have an interest in fighting for the preservation of our civil rights to join this section. Dues for this section will be waived for the remainder of 2020.

"Today, we are at the start of a new phase of the movement in our society, both in Maryland and across the country, to address systemic racism, particularly within law enforcement," said MAJ President Amy Orsi of the Law Offices of Markey & Orsi. "As we stand on the front lines to protect individuals and families from wrongdoing and abuse, we will not remain complacent while members of our communities are subjected to hate and violence. Holding governments accountable for their unconstitutional actions against the citizens of this State remains paramount to meaningful reform of systemic racism."

Black lives matter. This immutable fact will only be truly recognized when the victims of civil rights violations are empowered to hold police officers and agencies truly accountable for their actions in courts of law. We stand against discrimination and racism in all its forms and will continue in our pursuit of justice and equality for all. Equal protection under the law is not just a catch phrase, it should be the aspiration of every trial lawyer in this State.

MAJ supports ending immunity doctrines and unfair damage caps that deny justice to victims of police violence and governmental misconduct and preclude any incentive for reform.

The Section will be led by Baltimore trial and appellate attorney and two-time Trial Lawyer of the Year Award winner Cary J. Hansel of Hansel Law, PC and staunch civil rights advocate and litigator **Megan Benevento of Joseph, Greenwald & Laake, PA in Greenbelt**. Serving as an advisor and honorary chair will be University of Baltimore School of Law professor F. Michael Higginbotham.

The current officers are:

Honorary Chair F. Michael Higginbotham, a Yale-educated lawyer, is the current Joseph Curtis Professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Professor Higginbotham's areas of scholarship and publication include constitutional law, human rights and race relations. Professor Higginbotham serves as a legal advisor to Senator Ben Cardin and frequently appears as a commentator on CNN and MSNBC. His most recent book, *Ghosts of Jim Crow*, examines race discrimination in America today. Professor Higginbotham is the former President of the Public Justice Center, the former chair of the Maryland Attorney General's Task Force on Electronic Weapons.

Chair Cary J. Hansel has been a Maryland civil rights lawyer for 20 years. Mr. Hansel has obtained some of the State's highest verdicts in police and correctional misconduct cases. His appellate career includes some of Maryland's most-cited civil rights cases, including the creation of a new cause of action to fight patterns of police misconduct. Mr. Hansel is being honored this year for his civil rights work with the Maryland Daily Record's "Leadership in Law" Award.

Chair Megan Benevento is a civil litigation attorney, with a specific emphasis on civil rights litigation. She has represented victims of police misconduct across Maryland and Washington, D.C. and has held local, state, and federal governments accountable to the constitutional rights of all. She has been recognized by the Daily Record as one of Maryland's "Very Important Professionals" under the age of 40 for her litigation and legislative advocacy.

Vice Chair Larry Greenberg has been representing Marylanders who have been injured by the negligence of others for over 25 years. He is a past president of MAJ and is an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore, School of Law. He has

won multiple awards for his work in the legal community.

Vice Chair James L. Rhodes has been practicing law in excess of 20 years. He has successfully fought and had cases reported in the court of special appeals and court of appeals aiding in the fight for civil rights. He is a native of Baltimore City and dedicates his time in the city, volunteering personally as well as professionally advocating for victims of civil rights violations.

Vice Chair-Elect Michael Winkelman has practiced as a civil trial and appellate lawyer for more than 22 years in Prince George's County. He practices civil rights work throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia and has lectured and published on civil rights issues in Maryland. He has also participated as amicus curiae on civil rights matters at every Court level in Maryland.

Student Chair Tiana Boardman is a student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Ms. Boardman has worked for 5 years as a civil rights paralegal. She was recently awarded the prestigious J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship. Ms. Boardman's advocacy includes a recent National Public Radio interview during her participation in protests following George Floyd's murder.

Current members can join the MAJ Civil Rights and Constitutional Law Section by visiting www.mdforjustice.com/JoinCRCL. For non-members, to join MAJ and the Section at no additional cost for the remainder of 2020, please take advantage of our Summer Sale of 50% off normal dues at www.mdforjustice.com/SummerSale.

For questions and more information, please contact MAJ's Offices at 410-872-0990 or info@mdforjustice.com.

Originally founded as the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association in 1954, the Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) is the preeminent specialty bar association in the state representing plaintiff attorneys and those that work to uphold the civil justice system. MAJ represents over 1,200 trial attorneys throughout the state of Maryland. MAJ advocates for the preservation of the civil justice system, the protection of the rights of consumers and the education and professional development of its members. More information is available at MDforJustice.com.

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Announces Volunteer Maryland 2020-2021 Applications Extended to Support Nonprofits During COVID-19 Relief

AmeriCorps Members Address Critical Needs for Maryland Communities

By PRESS OFFICER
Governor's Office of
Community Initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 2, 2020)—Volunteer Maryland, an AmeriCorps program and unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, today announced they will be extending their application deadline for the 2020-2021 service year to support organizations and the communities they serve on the road to recovery from COVID-19. Any Maryland 501(c)(3) nonprofit, government agency, or school in need of volunteers is eligible to apply to become a Volunteer Maryland Service Site.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us, and more Marylanders than in recent memory are experiencing job loss, food insecurity, and other heightened needs as a result," said Sharon Lewis, Director of Volunteer Maryland. "Maryland nonprofits,

government agencies, and schools are meeting these needs in new and innovative ways. Partnering with Volunteer Maryland can help these entities serve more Marylanders by expanding their volunteer program capacity and helping Maryland continue on the road to recovery."

Volunteer Maryland Service Sites host Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members for an eleven-month term to serve as Volunteer Coordinators. Volunteer Coordinators serve full time and help organizations address critical community needs by building and expanding their volunteer program capacity. Currently, there are AmeriCorps members at 17 Service Sites across Maryland addressing education, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, disaster relief and services to veterans. For the 2020-2021 service year, Maryland plans to place 20 AmeriCorps members.

Nonprofits, government agencies, and

schools interested in partnering with Volunteer Maryland to become a Service Site are encouraged to apply by July 30th. Interested organizations may contact Nathan Cabrera, Volunteer Maryland Outreach Manager at nathan.cabrera@maryland.gov to learn more.

Volunteer Maryland has built more than 350 partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and schools across Maryland, placing and training more than 700 Volunteer Coordinators to bridge the gap between communities facing critical problems and citizens who want to volunteer to solve those problems. These partnerships have resulted in over 135,000 volunteers mobilized to serve 2 million volunteer hours in communities around the state. Learn more by visiting our website at volunteer.maryland.gov and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Resources:

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Coronavirus (COVID-19): Small Businesses Guidance & Loan Resources - SBA encourages small businesses to do their part keeping their employees, customers and themselves healthy and safe: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

Minority Business Development Agency: The U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency is currently accepting nominations for the 2020 Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards. The MED Awards are the highest level of national recognition that a U.S. minority-owned firm can receive by the U.S. Department of Commerce. To make your nomination, please visit <https://www.mbd.gov/2020medweekawards>

Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the first online **Veteran Entrepreneurial Training and Resource Network Streetwise MBA program** to provide virtual training for veteran small business owners and their immediate families beginning in August 2020. To learn more about the VETRN Streetwise MBA online program, see testimonials and videos, or to apply, visit www.vetrn.org. Applications may be completed on the VETRN website or by sending an email to either info@vetrn.org or lelandg@vetrn.org

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) will be hosting a virtual conference during National Minority Enterprise Development Week on September 13-19, 2020. Registration opens in July 2020.

—The Office of Communications Business Opportunities,
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

SUMMER

TSA Administrator Pekoske Announces “Stay Healthy. Stay Secure.” Campaign

By PRESS OFFICER
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

WASHINGTON (June 30, 2020)—During a virtual media roundtable with reporters today, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator David Pekoske joined leaders from three airport and airline industry associations to announce the agency’s “Stay Healthy. Stay Secure.” campaign. This campaign represents airport checkpoint modifications to contain the spread of COVID-19, comply with CDC guidelines and support healthy and secure summer travel.

“TSA remains committed to the health and safety of our frontline workers and airline travelers,” Pekoske said. “We anticipate these prudent changes in our screening procedures, which seek to limit physical contact and increase physical distance, will achieve the security standard the public expects and facilitate the increasing population of travelers this summer.”

Pekoske was joined today by Nick Calio, President & CEO of Airlines for America; Kevin Burke, President & CEO of Airports Council International – North America; and Todd Hauptli, President & CEO of the American Association of Airport Executives. During the call, they outlined key changes implemented at airports across the country to ensure the safety and security of travelers. Specifically, Administrator Pekoske highlighted TSA’s close partnership with industry stakeholders as well as changes already in place at airport screening checkpoints in response to COVID-19.

“It is noteworthy that every partner with a stake in the passenger travel experience is equally committed to ensure the safety and health of transportation workers and airline travelers,” Pekoske said.

On April 14, 2020, TSA recorded the lowest travel volume in its history—approximately 87,500. Since then, daily passenger volumes have steadily increased. The agency anticipates passenger volumes to continue to increase through the July 4th holiday and into the summer travel season. However, the TSA anticipates volumes well below the 2.5 million passengers it screened, on average, per day in prior years.

TSA’s “Stay Healthy. Stay Secure.” campaign builds on its checkpoint updates announced on May 21. The agency continues to evaluate additional safety measures in close coordination with federal partners.

Travelers who have not flown since March may notice various changes already implemented at airport screening checkpoints nationwide. They include:

- Social distancing among travelers in the checkpoint line and among TSA officers.
- ID verification without physical contact between the TSA officer and the traveler.
- Plastic shielding installed at various locations throughout the TSA checkpoint.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched checkpoint surfaces and screening equipment, including bins.
- All TSA officers wearing masks and gloves at the checkpoint, and they may be wearing eye protection or clear plastic face shields, depending on location.
- TSA officers changing gloves after each pat-down and at the request of any passenger.
- TSA is allowing one liquid hand sanitizer container, up to 12 ounces per passenger, in carry-on bags that passengers will need to remove from their bags before screening.

Beyond TSA checkpoint area changes, many airlines and airports are providing specific COVID-19 and summer travel season guidance. Please check with your airline prior to your trip. As passenger volumes continue to rise, TSA recommends that travelers arrive early since new procedures, such as social distancing, may add time to the pre-flight experience. This practice ensures adequate time for checking bags, completing security screening and getting to the departure gate on time.

For more information about the TSA response to COVID-19 and other adjustments TSA has made at security screening checkpoints, please visit tsa.gov/coronavirus.

Mercury Widespread in Chesapeake Bay Headwaters Fish

By JEREMY COX
Bay Journal News Service

Nearly half of all gamefish in freshwater lakes, streams and rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed may be unsafe to eat because of high levels of mercury, a new study suggests.

In the first study to examine mercury across a spectrum of fish in the six-state region, scientists found that the pollutant remains prevalent in the environment in its most toxic form despite years of declining mercury emissions.

The totals vary widely by location, a possible indication that local conditions are raising or lowering the risk of contamination, according to the research conducted by three U.S. Geological Survey scientists.

“Our goal here was to really do a first cut of what we saw across the landscape,” said Collin Eagles-Smith, a USGS research ecologist. “Hopefully, that can be a springboard for future studies to get a better sense of why.”

The study centers on the type of mercury that is most toxic to humans: methylmercury. The neurotoxin is formed when inorganic mercury interacts with certain bacteria. It is particularly harmful to fetuses and children, potentially leading to intellectual deficits and problems with motor skills.

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, mercury is the main trigger for fish-consumption advisories. Coal-fired power plants and trash incinerators are the largest sources of the pol-

lutant in the region, scientists say. Once released into the air, mercury can travel great distances before getting deposited into waterways through rainfall or as a gas.

The Chesapeake watershed’s mercury levels—with 45% of all fish in the study exceeding the consumption standard—are similar to those found in many parts of the country, the authors say. The findings underscore the importance of checking for public health advisories before eating any wild-caught fish, said James Willacker, the study’s lead author.

“I would pay attention to your public health officials and be as informed as you can about the information they’re providing,” he said.

The USGS researchers culled fish contamination records from two sources: a 2013–17 study conducted by the agency in the watershed, and state monitoring programs with reporting dating as far back as 1990.

Together, the collections contained measurements from nearly 8,000 fish caught in 600 locations.

The researchers found that the basin with the highest mercury concentrations was the Susquehanna. More than half of the basin’s freshwater areas ranked among the most toxic spots across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which stretches from Virginia Beach, VA, to Cooperstown, NY.

Next was the Potomac, where 18% of waters landed in that tier. No water body outside of the Potomac and Susquehanna drainage

areas fell into the most-polluted category. In contrast, at least half of the water bodies in the James, Rappahannock and York watersheds—all in Virginia—placed in the category with the lowest levels.

Eagles-Smith said it’s unclear why the watersheds in the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay basin have higher mercury levels in fish than those in the south. Regional air patterns would suggest the opposite—mercury tumbles from the atmosphere to the ground at higher rates in the South than in the North, according to the study.

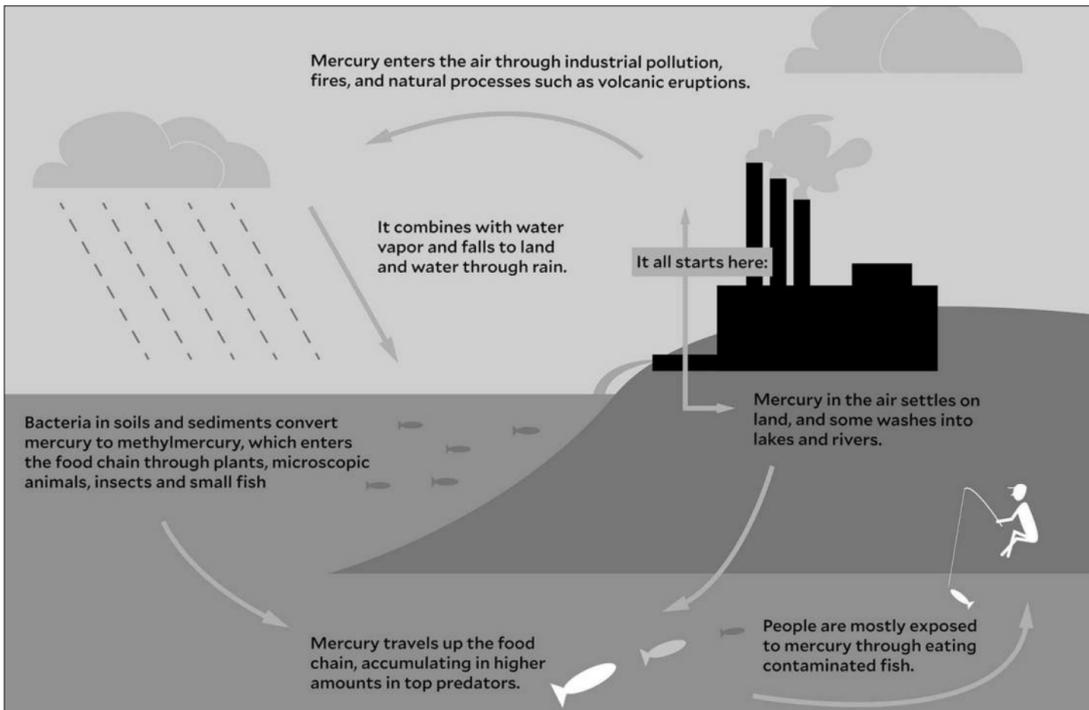
Because methylmercury levels intensify with each step up the food chain, the USGS scientists found the highest amounts in larger fish, including some of the region’s most prized sportfish.

Striped bass, a gamefish popular on restaurant menus, had the most mercury in its meat of the 32 fish tracked in the study, with a typical concentration of 0.31 parts per million. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a consumption limit for mercury of 0.3 parts per million.

“There are lots of people out there recreationally consuming that [fish],” said Betsy Nicholas, executive director of Waterkeepers Chesapeake. “These people don’t realize what they’re ingesting and how much of a detrimental impact that can have.”

Striped bass was followed, from more contaminated to less, by bowfin (0.2), walleye (0.19), largemouth bass (0.18) and flathead catfish (0.17), according to the report. The creek chub and three types of trout were among the species with the least mercury.

See MERCURY Page A7



GRAPHIC CREDIT REMY DAVISON, COURTESY OF PUBLIC SOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS)

An illustration showing mercury’s path to people.

COMMUNITY

Great Online Content Can Let You ‘Visit’ a Museum This Summer



PHOTO SOURCE: © PAUL MORIGI/AP FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

“Americans” at the National Museum of the American Indian is available online.

(StatePoint) If you are looking for new things to do this summer while staying home or social distancing, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian has you covered.

The museum has lots of free content available for both adults and kids, including digital learning tools for students of all ages and online versions of many of its most popular exhibitions. Access to this content is through the museum’s website: AmericanIndian.si.edu.

For Students

Native Knowledge 360° (NK360°) is the museum’s national education initiative to inspire and promote improvement of teaching and learning about American Indians. NK360° provides educational materials and teacher training that incorporate Native narratives, more comprehensive histories and accurate information to enlighten and inform teaching and learning about Native America. The initiative’s website has digital lessons for K–12 students, teacher guides, videos and websites. Several lessons are also available in Spanish.

Online Exhibitions

Many of the museum’s most popular exhibitions are available to explore online. “Americans” shows how American Indians have been part of the nation’s identity since before the country began. Visitors can click on some familiar images and learn why images of American Indians are everywhere in our country.

The bilingual exhibition “The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire” examines why the Inka Road was built more than 500 years ago, and how its construction—without the use of metal or iron, the wheel or stock animals to pull heavy loads—stands as one of the greatest engineering feats.

The exhibition “Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian,” which features some 700 works of Native art from throughout North, Central and South America, demonstrates the breadth of the museum’s collection and highlights the historic importance of many of these iconic objects.

“Developing Stories: Native Photographers in the Field” is the museum’s newest exhibition. It features the work of two Native photojournalists who are using photography to break down stereotypes and portray stories that show the diversity and complexity of their contemporary lives.

Explore the Collections

Through its online search, visitors to the museum’s website can learn more about the history of the museum’s holdings, which have their foundation in the collection largely assembled by George Gustav Heye, beginning in 1897. The collection currently contains more than 800,000 items from across the entire Western Hemisphere. And for more from the collections, visit the museum’s new Google Arts & Culture website.

Blog

For in-depth stories about objects in the museum’s collection, insights into new exhibitions, or news from Indian Country, visit the museum’s page on the Smithsonian Voices blog.

Shop

The museum’s online store offers an array of books for adults and kids, cards, CDs and DVDs. The best part? Your purchase helps to continue the museum’s important work.

You can also get more content from the museum by following it on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Thanks to great online exhibitions, educational materials, and yes, even shopping, you can spend this summer “visiting” an amazing museum from wherever you are.

Even though many restrictions are lifted, please continue to:

- Wear a mask
- Practice physical distancing
- Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Medicaid Program Innovation Increases Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Amid COVID-19 Crisis

Maryland Department of Health Awards Pilot Program Contract to Privia Health

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (July 1, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) Medicaid Program today launched the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) pilot program to reach, diagnose and treat HealthChoice patients who have access to primary care, but may not receive needed behavioral health care—as demand for services rise sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“One in five Americans have experienced mental health issues in the past year, but only a quarter are reported to have received effective mental health care,” said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. “The Collaborative Care Model is an opportunity to get more people into needed care for mental health or substance use disorders. It's another example of how Maryland's Medicaid Program continues to transform care for our most vulnerable citizens.”

“The premise behind the model is care integration—meeting a patient in their current care environment where treatment can be readily accessed and destigmatized—to improve the chance for success in treatment or recovery,” said Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director Dennis R. Schrader.

“Given that most people with behavioral health problems are seen by primary care providers and not behavioral health specialists, improving behavioral health treatment through Collaborative Care interventions is necessary now more than ever, especially during this unprecedented crisis,” said MDH Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Deputy Secretary Dr. Aliya Jones.

According to Dr. Jones, Maryland behavioral health partners and outpatient mental health clinics have experienced an upsurge in behavioral health care inquiries due to the COVID-19 pandemic as reported in a recent MDH BHA Provider Survey on People Seeking Health Care During COVID-19. Cases of anxiety and depression have been on the rise nationwide fueled by COVID related social isolation and unemployment stressors. Furthermore, during the first quarter of 2020, Maryland substance use related deaths increased after a promising downward trend the prior year according MDH Vital Statistics Administration reports.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have approved the CoCM pilot program. “We are committed to supporting states that seek to test policies that are likely to improve health because we believe that promoting independence and improving health outcomes is in the best interests of the beneficiary and is consistent with the fundamental objectives of the Medicaid program,” said Calder Lynch, Administrator and Director for Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services.

The Collaborative Care Model, which includes a primary, behavioral health and psychiatric care practitioner, will be tested in three diverse regional CoCM sites. The locations include an ob-

stetrics-gynecology practice, an urban site and a rural site, which can also provide services by telehealth to bridge resource gaps that often exist in rural communities. The CoCM pilot will run July 2020 through 2023.

Site operations and services will be managed by Privia Medical Group, which was selected by MDH through a competitive process. Privia Medical Group is part of Privia Health, a national physician organization caring for more than 2.6 million patients across the country.

“This pilot program expands services to the thousands of Medicaid beneficiaries we serve across the state. Through our partnership with Mindoula, we have been aggressively addressing the behavioral health crisis,” said Sam Starbuck, Vice President, Privia Quality Network. “This new program supports our efforts to expand that fight and bring much-needed assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations in new and unique ways. We believe this pilot is only the beginning of what will be continued expansion of available resources to people suffering from mental illness in Maryland.”

“It is an honor to make the Collaborative Care Model available to Medicaid beneficiaries through our partnership with Privia,” said Clare McNutt, Vice President of Partnerships and Collaborative Care for Mindoula. “By virtually integrating behavioral health treatment into the primary care setting, CoCM gives us a way to ensure that the behavioral health needs of vulnerable and underserved patients can be addressed in Privia practices, while simultaneously supporting self-isolation and social distancing as needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Medicaid uses pilot programs to test the effectiveness of new methodologies that would not be available under current state and federal regulations before statewide implementation. Pilot programs are evaluated on their ability to better serve and improve the health outcomes of Medicaid participants. HealthChoice is the umbrella over Maryland Medicaid's managed care organizations covering 85 percent of Medicaid participants.

Privia Health is a national physician organization that transforms the healthcare delivery experience for physicians and consumers. For more information visit www.priviahealth.com @PriviaHealth.

Mindoula is a next generation population health management company that scales the human connection through technology in addressing mind, body, and life challenges. For more information visit www.mindoula.com.

The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement. Follow us at www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept and www.facebook.com/MDHealthDept.

Men's Health

Every Young Man Should Know About This Type Of Cancer Prevention

(NAPSI)—Young men and those who care about them should consider the story of Max Mallory. At 22 he graduated from college and started his dream job in the video game industry. He landed the job before graduation at the company where he had interned for almost a year. Set up in his own apartment, he started to live his life on his own and navigate the nuances of that first professional job.

Life was fine until mid-October, when Max experienced what seemed like stomach troubles and minor back pain. After two visits to urgent care centers where doctors prescribed antibiotics, he came home to stay with his dad and visit a urologist. He never made it to that medical appointment. Doubled over with sudden pain the next afternoon, he called 911. Late that evening in the emergency room, he heard the worrisome diagnosis: late-stage testicular cancer.

His cancer journey lasted only seven hard-fought months. He had an aggressive testicular cancer, choriocarcinoma. He passed away three days after he received the first round of stem cells.

He couldn't have prevented his testicular cancer with self-exams, since he “was born with” one testicle that was healthy.

Be Aware of the Other Cause

Mallory was born with one undescended testicle, known in medical terms as cryptorchidism and identified as the most common genital problem pediatricians encounter (Medscape). He had exploratory surgery at age one. He and his parents were told he was born with one testicle, that the undescended testicle they were

looking for wasn't there. Over the years, no one questioned this situation—though he regularly saw pediatricians.

His cancer did not appear as a lump or tumor on his testicle. The malignant mass rested in his lower abdomen. The acute back pain became the catalyst for action. Unknown to him, his “missing” testicle existed after all and developed into the cancerous tissue. By the time he made it to the E.D., it had already spread to other parts of his body.

What Can Be Done?

For boys and men with two testicles, self-exam is key. Some schools, coaches and informed doctors have told these young men how to go about it. There are many sources online for the information; for example, the Mayo Clinic is a good place to check.

For those who have had an undescended testicle, it's important to find out what was done about it. If it was surgically put in place (usually done in infancy), there is still a slightly higher risk of testicular cancer. Your doctor should know about this.

More Info

The Max Mallory Foundation was founded in 2017 and provides awareness of testicular cancer not identified “with a lump” and self-exam. It also assists young adults with cancer, an underserved group and works in association with other testicular cancer organizations. The Foundation is a 501c(3) organization. Mallory's full story is on the website, <https://maxmalloryfoundation.com>.

dusty along its banks.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element, but its burden in the environment has by some measures tripled since the Industrial Revolution. Levels of industrial emissions have been falling dramatically in the United States over the past three decades, largely because of pollution controls being implemented at power plants and the closure of others.

The Trump administration has moved to relax an Obama era mercury emission regulation at such plants, citing its cost. The regulation remains on the books, but the change—which removed the legal reasoning behind it—opens the protection to potential legal attacks, critics say.

The USGS paper was published in

March in the scientific journal *Ecotoxicology*.

Greg Allen, a scientist with the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office said the program remains in “looking and watching mode” when it comes to the contaminant.

“We expect the loads and concentrations in the fish to be coming down,” Allen added. “So, we intend to stand by and monitor. If that is the trend, then we can work on other pollutants.”

Jeremy Cox is a Bay Journal staff writer based in Maryland. You can reach him at jcox@bayjournal.com.

This story was originally published in the Bay Journal and was provided by the Bay Journal News Service.

This Minority Mental Health Month, NAMI Is Raising Awareness About Mental Health in Underrepresented Communities

NAMI Releases Three New Videos in the “Strength Over Silence” Series

By PRESS OFFICER
National Alliance on Mental Illness

ARLINGTON, Va. (July 1, 2020)—NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, has the goal of raising awareness about mental health care in underrepresented communities. Our culture, beliefs, sexual identity, values, race and language all affect how we perceive and experience mental health conditions. In fact, cultural differences can influence what treatments, coping mechanisms and supports work for us. It is essential for culture and identity to be a part of the conversation about mental health care.

In 2008, July was designated as the Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month by the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of the leading African American novelist and journalist, who sought to eliminate stigma among diverse communities.

In the wake of both the pandemic and racial violence, there's the potential for an increase in the number of people impacted by mental health conditions. NAMI's Statement on Racism emphasizes that the effect of racism and racial trauma on mental health is real. While anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their background, facing racial discrimination can significantly worsen symptoms. Additionally, background and identity can make access to mental health treatment much more difficult. Racism is a public health crisis, and we stand with all the families, friends and communities who have lost loved ones and experienced trauma.

To help raise awareness, NAMI is releasing the latest installments of the “Strength Over Silence” video series, highlighting three personal stories featuring courage, culture and community. Yulanda Ming Blackson lives with mental illness and shares her story about mental health and faith in the Black community. Poojah Mehta, a NAMI New York Board member, focuses on amplifying the voices of those in underrepresented communities. And Rosemary Ketchum, the first-ever trans woman to get elected in West Virginia, shares her family experience with mental illness and addresses the need for LGBTQ+ people to have a voice in the mental health movement.

“We want to raise awareness about disparities in the mental health system—and what we can do about them,” said Daniel H. Gillison, Jr., CEO of NAMI. “Mental health conditions don't discriminate, and neither should our mental health system. We are calling for systematic change and improved access to culturally competent care, so no one feels alone in their journey.”

The NAMI community is here to help and provide resources. Together, we can help people from underrepresented populations get the mental health care they need. For additional resources, please visit NAMI's identity and the cultural dimensions of mental health webpage: <https://nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions>.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Join the conversation at nami.org | facebook.com/nami | instagram.com/namicommunicate | twitter.com/namicommunicate #NotAlone

Mental Health America Announces New Young Mental Health Leaders Council

By PRESS OFFICER
Mental Health America

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (July 2, 2020)—Mental Health America (MHA) is excited to announce our new Young Mental Health Leaders Council. For the past three years, MHA's Collegiate Mental Health Innovation Council (CMHIC) has identified student leaders impacting campus mental health. By focusing on student-led programs that fill gaps in traditional mental health services, CMHIC highlighted the concerns of college students and model student-led programs to be expanded to additional campuses. Now, we are opening the program to all young adults ages 18–25-year-olds.

“Mental health concerns among young people are rising, yet traditional resources have not been able to keep up with the demand,” said Kelly Davis, Director of Peer Advocacy, Supports, and Services at Mental Health America. “The old ways of doing things are not working. We need new ideas, approaches, and comprehensive resources to support the wellbeing of young people.”

The new program will identify leaders who have created programs or initiatives that fill gaps in mental health supports and resources in their communities. Efforts could include starting a mental health and sports program, developing an app, launching a policy initiative, or more.

Selected members will participate in virtual meetings over a 6-month term. Members will have opportunities for mentorship, connect to a broader network of young leaders, and share their stories and work to MHA's over 800,000 social media followers, along with our affiliates and partners. Additionally, members will receive a stipend and contribute to a report highlighting significant issues and solutions in youth and young adult mental health.

“Young people are growing up in an incredibly different world. Their lived experience is essential in driving how we address mental health,” concluded Davis. “If we are committed to creating healthier communities and lives for young people, we not only have to integrate their ideas, but we also need to support them in leading the way.”



Mercury from A6

“Trout are a great choice if you're trying to avoid mercury exposure,” Eagles-Smith said.

James Smith and his 11-year-old son go fishing two or three times a week around the interior of Maryland's Eastern Shore. About once a week, the Wicomico County residents take home what they catch and eat it—usually white perch or catfish.

Smith said he isn't too concerned about whether those fish might contain mercury. “The government's not making a big issue about the tuna, and the tuna is at the top of the food chain,” he said, adding that he feels safe taking fish from his favorite spot, the Pocomoke River, because it has little in-

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BSUNAA from A1

Large Member Prince George's County Council, Calvin Hawkins said about Mr. Swain, "Darren is the right person for this position and I look forward to supporting him". "Darren has assisted the University in its fundraising efforts in many capacities, said Gordon Sampson, Bowie State University Foundation Board Chair, "I look forward to working more closely with him, as he leads our National Alumni Association, to grow our endowment even more".

Swain's Transition Team is led by Weyden W. Wedderburn (1996) and Renada Johnson (2002).

Mr. Swain plans to hit the road running by addressing the Bulldog Nation via a video message on July 1; followed by a series of Listening Forums to hear from all of his constituents:

- July 9: Listening Forum with Alumni & Friends of Bulldog Nation (7-8:30 p.m.)
- July 16: Listening Forum with BSUNAA Chapter Presidents (7-8:30 p.m.)
- July 23: Listening Forum with Bulldog Strategic Think Tank (7-8:30 p.m.)
- TBD: Listening Forum with Dr. Breaux & Administration (6-7:30 p.m.)

The primary purpose of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. are the following:

- (1) to advance the cause of education
- (2) to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Bowie State University and the National Alumni Association, Inc.
- (3) to financially aid students who wish to attend Bowie State University, and
- (4) to financially aid Bowie State University.

Hodges Promoted to Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal

STATEWIDE (July 2, 2020)—State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci promoted Deputy State Fire Marshal Dexter Hodges to Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal. Deputy Chief Hodges was promoted today by State Fire Geraci during a private, physically distanced ceremony at the Office of the State Fire Marshal headquarters in Pikesville. "Deputy Chief Hodges is a talented and dedicated individual who has earned not only my respect but those of his peers and fellow employees. He is a welcomed addition to this Department's management and leadership team," said Geraci

Before joining the OSFM, Deputy Chief Hodges was previously employed with Montgomery County Fire & Rescue for nine years as a career firefighter. During his employment with OSFM, Hodges has served as Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Southern and Upper Regional Offices, investigating hundreds of incidents.

In 2013, Deputy Chief Hodges was assigned to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as a Task Force Officer (TFO). As a Task Force Officer, Deputy Hodges was sworn with federal arrest powers and conducted in-depth and complex fire and explosive investigations. In 2018, Hodges was awarded the International Association of Arson Investigators - Fire Investigator of the Year Award. The IAAI is an international professional association of more than 10,000 fire investigation professionals. His nomination for the award came from an Assistant Supervisory Special Agent with the ATF for his hard work and dedication on a series of complex arson cases in Baltimore and Pennsylvania. In Hodges' nomination letter, the Assistant Supervisory Special Agent wrote, "TFO/Deputy Hodges' dedication and long-term commitment to bring this investigation to fruition demonstrate his tenacious investigative abilities and efforts. TFO/Deputy Hodges is an outstanding and exemplary fire investigator, which is evident by his accomplishments in this investigation."

Deputy Chief Hodges has continually placed emphasis on training, and in 2019, he was selected to become a Bomb Technician with the OSFM Bomb Squad. He attended the FBI Hazardous Device School in Huntsville, Alabama. Upon graduating, he immediately began assisting in the mitigation of suspicious packages and vehicles across the State.

Deputy Hodges volunteered to fulfill the role of Administrative Services Chief. A position that operates from the agency's headquarters, he will take on a variety of administrative tasks, along with handling significant incidents and investigations.

When asked what his goals were for his new position, Deputy Chief Hodges said, "Our agency is made up of talented people dedicated to protecting our citizens from fire and explosion. I'm looking forward to mentoring and encouraging our Deputy State Fire Marshals, Fire Safety Inspectors, and employees to achieve their own success and accomplishments."



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Brian S. Geraci and Dexter Hodges

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