

The Prince George's Post



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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT JACK HOGAN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Mary McManus, 77, of Clinton, Maryland, holds a sign honoring the late Sen. Mike Miller as she waits for the honor guard detail escorting his hearse to arrive at Surrattsville High School on Jan. 21, 2021.

Maryland Mourns Late Senate President Emeritus Mike Miller

By JACK HOGAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 22, 2021)—Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., the longest-serving state Senate president in U.S. history and titan of Maryland politics for decades, lay in state Friday as part of a multi-day memorial that will conclude with the family's private Mass and interment Saturday.

The Maryland-flag-draped casket of the late Senate president emeritus, who died of prostate cancer Jan. 15, at 78, was on display at the State House for three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon, with a state Senate ceremony at noon.

The Senate ceremony featured numerous prominent Maryland politicians, including Gov. Larry Hogan, R, Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore; U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, and former senator and cabinet secretary Bobby Neall, R.

An emotional Hogan detailed how Miller's job babysitting him as a child led to

their lifelong friendship, lasting six decades through passionate political battles.

"Within these historic walls, his indomitable spirit will live on forever, along with the values that he cherished and lived by," said Hogan. "Respect for tradition, separation of powers, the dignity of every Marylander, and the greatness of the state of Maryland that he loved so much."

Their friendship only strengthened through their battles with cancer, dating back to Hogan's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis in 2015.

"For many of us, a world without Mike Miller is a lesser world, less fun, less exciting, less stimulating," said Neall. "His passing leaves a void in many of our lives that can't be filled, only soothed by loving memories."

Friday's ceremony and public visitation followed an honor guard detail Thursday that escorted Miller's hearse to stops—including his law offices, the high school he attended and a fire station—throughout his district in Southern Maryland before reaching a con-

gregation of family, close friends and scattered onlookers at the State House.

Despite being known as a political force and for his firm hand running the upper chamber, members of the Clinton, Maryland, community who came out to pay their respects remembered Miller for his kind heart, constant generosity and endearing presence.

On Thursday afternoon, a crowd gathered at Surrattsville High School, where decades earlier Miller was a student.

Katrina Lamont, in her fifth year as principal, told Capital News Service that Miller almost never missed a graduation, bringing with him a big smile, a good laugh and a great story.

Miller called Lamont to apologize when he was unable to attend the school's graduation in 2019, the same year he stepped down as Senate president due to his declining health.

See MARYLAND MOURNS Page A4

Local Prince George's County Student Named Candidate in U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Presidential Scholars

Logan Marshall Jackson, a graduating senior at Chesapeake Math & IT (CMIT) Academy North High School has been named one of more than 4,500 candidates in the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2021.

Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

Logan has been a consistent recipient of his school's highest academic honors, and recently scored in the 92nd percentile nationally in the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing section of

the SAT. In addition to his academic achievements, Logan participated in the Matthew H. Ornstein Washington Summer Debate Institute where he won awards as a first time debater. A talented trumpet player since middle school, Logan has performed in the school band all four years of high school, and he revived and was student sponsor of the school's Game Club.

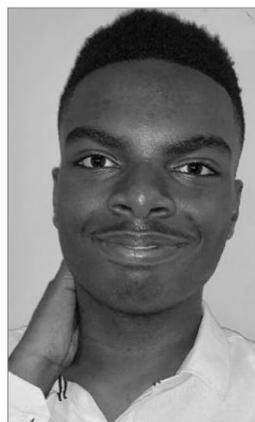
Logan has also been involved in a plethora of diverse activities, including playing in the first youth cricket league in the nation and serving as a beau in the Prince George's County Teen Cotillion. As an active member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Logan belongs to the Deaf Ministry's Youth Hands of Praise (YHOP) and has performed with deaf ministries from across the east coast.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize some of our nation's most distinguished

graduating seniors for their accomplishments in many areas: academic success, leadership, and service to school and community. It was expanded in 1979 to recognize students demonstrating exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts.

A distinguished panel of educators will review these submissions and select approximately 600 semifinalists in early April. The Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of up to 32 eminent citizens appointed by the President, will select the finalists, and the U.S. Department of Education will announce the Scholars in May. The Commission selects up to 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars each year. To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Logan is the son of Eduardo and Maria Jackson of Springdale, Maryland.



COURTESY OF MARIA JACKSON

Logan Marshall Jackson is a candidate in the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, parents and students can call the U.S. Presidential Scholars Office at 507.931.8345, or send an e-mail to PSP@scholarshipamerica.org.

Prince George's County Announces New Process for Scheduling COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments

County Is Ramping Up Vaccine Distribution and Opening a New Vaccination Site in the Coming Weeks

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Prince George's County Executive

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 19, 2021)—Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that individuals who live or work in Prince George's County and wish to receive a COVID-19 vaccine must fill out the County Health Department's pre-registration form (<https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>). The Health Department will follow up with individuals who have pre-registered with a link and instructions on how to schedule a vaccine appointment, as those appointments become available based on vaccine supply.

"I'm encouraging every Prince Georgian to pre-register for your COVID-19 vaccine so when your turn comes, you will be able to join us in being Proud to be Protected," said Alsobrooks. "Due to the current limited supply of vaccines, we urge everyone to be patient with this months-long process. We continue to work hard to ramp up our vaccine distribution efforts so when we receive increased supplies of vaccines, we will be able to administer them quickly and efficiently."

Individuals who are in Phase 1B of the County's vaccine distribution plan MUST fill out the pre-registration form in order to receive an appointment. Phase 1B includes adults ages 75 and older, individuals in assisted living and other congregate settings, teachers and support staff (higher education included), childcare workers, and critical government leadership for continuity of operations. Individuals who were eligible in Phase 1A and did not already receive at least a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine must fill out the pre-registration form as well.

As appointments become available based on vaccine supply, the Health Department will

email links to those who are eligible and have pre-registered to schedule an appointment. Due to the current limited supply of vaccines, it may take several weeks or longer before individuals receive a link to schedule an appointment from the Health Department.

To make sure that Prince Georgians who are most vulnerable have access to appointments, the County is resetting all appointments currently scheduled after February 9 at the Sports & Learning Complex. The Health Department will send out notices to those individuals and they will be required to fill out the pre-registration form online to be able to reschedule their appointments. Individuals who have an appointment on February 9 or before should keep their scheduled appointment, and they will not need to fill out the pre-registration form. Anyone who has an appointment for a second dose of the vaccine after February 9 will not have their appointment changed.

For individuals who have appointments, the County is reminding them to bring identification to the appointment, as well as an insurance card if they have medical insurance. For those who receive a link from the Health Department to schedule a vaccine appointment, the County is asking that they do not use Internet Explorer, as it is not compatible with the State registration site. The County suggests using Safari, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or a smartphone.

Phase 1C is still set to begin in Prince George's County on January 25, 2021. Individuals in Phase 1C and future phases can

See VACCINE Page A5

15,000 Parents From 13 Maryland Counties Applaud Hogan Plan to Reopen Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Jan. 21, 2021)—The Coalition of Maryland Parents and Students (COMPS), 13 organizations representing more than 15,000 parents from Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Wicomico, and Washington Counties issued the following statement in response to Governor Hogan's call to every county school system in Maryland to immediately make every effort to return to hybrid in-person instruction as soon as possible:

"Today Governor Hogan, Superintendent Salmon and Dr. Chan provided clear guidance to our Boards of Education that it is safe to return students to the classroom. While millions of students across the country have safely returned to classrooms, Maryland has remained one of only six states with little to no in-person instruction. We have watched as our kids have suffered severe academic loss, declining grades, social isolation and an increase in mental illness. Last week, in desperation, we turned to Governor Hogan for help, and he listened, and in the past 24 hours we feel incredibly hopeful for our kids. We strongly commend Governor

Hogan for his leadership and commitment to both education and public health. He understands that the mitigation methods being used successfully in 44 states—masking and social distancing—can be used in Maryland, and he has granted our school districts the resources they need to make it happen. We call on our Boards of Education to heed the bipartisan calls from both state and federal leaders today, and in days, not weeks, take action to make this a reality. The time is now, the stakes couldn't be higher for our kids."

Parents for Reopening Allegheny Schools
Open Anne Arundel Schools
Re-Open Baltimore County Public Schools
Open Calvert County Schools
Reopen Carroll County Schools
Open Cecil County Schools
ReOpen FCPS
Open Hoco Schools
Reopen Harford County Schools
Open MCPS (TogetherAgain-MCPS)
Open PG County Schools
Open Wicomico County Schools
Open Washington County Schools

INSIDE

- Local Students Honored
- Chesapeake Contracting Group has been awarded revitalization project for Livingston Square
- CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: Black Male Prosecutors and the Dilemma of Consciousness

Around the County, Page A2

Gambling Risks for Youth May Be Taught in Maryland High Schools

Maryland Legislation Aids School Children Who Have Seizures

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: Newly Inaugurated, President Biden and Vice President Harris Confront Historic Challenges of Pandemic, Racial Justice

It was an encouraging sign from a President who campaigned on a promise to bridge the nation's racial divide.

Commentary, Page A4

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Covid-19 shuts Morningside's Speed Unlimited after more than 50 years

Speed Unlimited, the "In Stock Speed Shop" closed forever on Nov. 30. For more than half a century it has served the "street rodders, musclecars, off-roaders, and sport compact fans," offering a huge selection of parts, and has become one of the largest and best-known Speed Shops on the east coast.

George Mandes' father Pete opened the store back in 1967 and George—in his early teens then—started selling parts in the shop. The now-closed shop still stands there, on Allentown Road, opposite the Andrews AFB water tower, and next door to the popular Jiffy Sub Shop.

Officers listed on the website are: Pete Mandes, president; Susan Mandes, secretary & treasurer; Chris Mandes, purchasing assistant; and George Mandes, purchasing manager. Joseph Jilek, a local guy, is also on the staff.

The 5,000 square foot showroom was always filled with thousands of in-stock parts from hundreds of the industry's best manufacturers. As one of the owners said, "We have seen trends come and go and we have changed with them. Our passion is providing you with the high quality parts you need, at the low prices you want, with the great service you deserve."

He cited one of the factors that's hurt the business—the shutdown of local race tracks. One of the employees, when asked what he'll miss most, said "The people."

How I spent the Inauguration

Since the riot and deadly invasion of the Capitol, I had been nervous, worried. I live about 12 miles from the Capitol and about a mile from Andrews and these are my neighborhoods.

But the memorial service the evening of Jan. 19 was a changer. The lights lining the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the simple memorial service for the more-than 400,000 Americans who've died of the virus, was balm. The tributes paid by Biden and Harris made me reflect on Connie Madden, my longtime library assistant and classroom aide at St. Philip's, who was a Covid victim in the early days of the pandemic. As the sun sank behind President Lincoln, Lori Marie Key, a nurse from Michigan, sang a cappella Amazing Grace. It was a fitting close to a lovely service.

The next morning I heard Marine One pass over the house on the way from the

White House to deliver President Trump to Andrews. I watched him as he delivered a few words to a small group of supporters and then boarded, with his family, Air Force One for the last time. The band struck up "YMCA" as the jet took off and Sinatra's "My Way" as it headed to Florida.

Meanwhile, in Washington the Inaugural Couple, Congressional leaders of both parties, and others attended Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. Cardinal Gregory was celebrant. The attendees sat near the floor memorial, marking the place where President John Kennedy's casket rested at his funeral Mass, Nov. 25, 1963.

For the rest of the day I sat engrossed in the pomp and circumstance of the Inaugural. I appreciated every minute and toasted the new President and Vice President with a glass of wine.

I traveled with them, and three other Presidents and wives—George & Laura Bush, Bill & Hillary Clinton, and Barack & Michelle Obama (President Carter was too frail to attend the Inaugural ceremonies)—to Arlington Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This ceremony made me miss my brother Joe who died in a helicopter accident in Korea. He is buried at Arlington.

As evening came on, I was still on the couch. Watching. Hoping the miles of razor-wire-topped fences and the many thousands of uniformed guards would soon go away.

I watched as President and Mrs. Biden entered the White House and Vice President Harris and Second Gentleman Emhoff visited her offices at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Later, very loud fireworks, set off behind the Washington Monument, jarred the neighborhood. I went outside to listen. And I slept well that night.

Changing landscape

The handsome and now-iconic arches of the new Frederick Douglass Bridge are becoming a favorite photo shot. The new 6-lane bridge over the Anacostia River is due for completion this year.

The house kitty-corner from mine is the parsonage for the Suitland Road Baptist Church, founded in 1953 as the Morningside Baptist Church. In the early 1960s the church purchased a prebuilt house and I watched as it arrived via a huge truck, which lowered the house onto the ready basement.

Over the years I came to know the pastors. Rev. Joseph Carr may have been the

first; most recent was Pastor (Dr.) Kelvin McCune. He and his family moved out of the house about 20 years ago, but live not too far away. Dr. McCune is still Pastor.

The house has sat empty, and growing ever sadder, since they moved. Now there's a complete renovation going on, a new sidewalk and only yesterday, a new roof. I look forward to meeting a new family before the year is out.

Covid report: 46 Maryland deaths

Maryland reported 2,166 new (in one day) cases, for a total, as of 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 21, of 334,519. The total number of deaths is 6,735, and in only the past day: 46.

For me the big news: I have a vaccine shot coming up February 4 at 3:24 p.m. at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover. Daughter Sheila did the search for this appointment. Sheila and my granddaughter Heather—both of them teachers—will be getting their vaccines the same day.

May they rest in peace

* Carol Mae Cropper, of Temple Hills, whom I came to know well when she was a member of St. Philip's Book Club, died Sept. 19. She was the widow of John W. Cropper, Jr.; mother of David, Christopher and Philip Cropper, grandmother of Jennifer, and sister of Dorothy Buckhorn. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's.

* Robert "Bobby" Jones, 75, of Huntingtown, a Suitland High graduate, died April 3, 2020. His wife Elaine Caffrey Jones (class of '63), son Steven, daughter Robin Lynch and two grandkids survive him.

* James F. Delpire, 93, member of Oxon Hill UMC and a retired engineer with RCA (later GE), died Nov. 10. His wife of 68 years Norma, three children, three grandchildren and one great-great, survive him. He was a Navy vet, member of the American Legion, amateur radio operator, self-taught auto mechanic, and fan of the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; Skyline President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; and Adam Cook, Feb. 5.

Happy 71st (!) Anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick who wed February 4, 1950.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

Breanna Downer Graduates From Northern Illinois University
DeKALB, Ill. (Jan. 19, 2021)—Over 1,300 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates was Breanna Downer of Upper Marlboro who earned a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law. Through its main campus in DeKalb, Illinois, and education centers for students and working professionals in Chicago, Hoffman Estates, Naperville, Oregon and Rockford, NIU offers more than 100 courses of study while serving a diverse and international student body of about 19,000. The 17 NIU Huskie athletic teams compete in the Mid-American Conference at the highest NCAA Division I level. For more information, visit www.niu.edu.

—Mary Spring, Northern Illinois University

Iowa State University Announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

AMES, Iowa (Jan. 20, 2021)—More than 11,000 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2020 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Students listed below are from your area.

Hometown, State; Name, Class Year; Curriculum

Bowie, MD, **Grace Toluwalope Ajisafe**, 3, Child, Adult, and Family Services

—Angie Hunt, Iowa State University

Chesapeake Contracting Group has been awarded revitalization project for Livingston Square in Prince George's County

(Jan. 20, 2021)—Chesapeake Contracting Group has been awarded the Livingston Square Project, located at 9580 Livingston Road in Fort Washington in southern Prince George's County. The revitalization project includes demolition of the 70,000 square feet of existing shopping center, excluding Giant Food, demolition of the existing fast-food buildings, site demolition, new grading for utilities and storm water management systems, delivery of new building pads for fast-food restaurants, and a complete façade and interior renovation of the existing 43,000 square feet Giant Food grocery store. For more information about CCG and their current list of projects, go to chesapeakecontracting.com.

"We are excited to work with The Velocity Companies on this innovative revitalization project that will bring an old center to back to life and will provide a new and improved grocery store to this part of Prince George's County. We enjoy working with partners to help build more sustainable and productive communities that will enhance the lives of those who live there," said Bobby Ginsberg, CEO, Chesapeake Contracting Group.

The renovated Giant Food will include expanded selections and services including a full-service pharmacy, Giant Pickup online ordering services, a full-feature floral, deli, prepared foods, bakery, seafood and meat departments with something for everyone. The Giant Food and revitalized shopping center is scheduled to open in the 4th quarter of 2021.

Chesapeake Contracting Group (CCG) is an award winning, privately held, value-add commercial general contractor supplying services throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. CCG is headquartered in Baltimore with an office in Annapolis and now also in Northern Virginia, where they have been actively engaged in construction projects for the past 40 years. CCG's expertise encompasses multi-family, senior living, mixed-use, retail, office, automotive, grocery, education, distribution centers and medical. Learn more at chesapeakecontracting.com.

—Press Officer, Chesapeake Contracting Group

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: Black Male Prosecutors and the Dilemma of Consciousness

Please join State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy, and the D.C. Chapter of the National Prosecutors Association for "CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: Black Male Prosecutors and the Dilemma of Consciousness" on Wednesday, February 10 from 6–8 p.m. This virtual town hall event will feature a panel discussion with esteemed Black male prosecutors who will share and discuss the issues, challenges and the dilemma of consciousness as it relates to being a prosecutor in a flawed criminal justice system as a Black man.

When: Wednesday, February 10 | 6–8 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

A. Scott Bolden (Moderator) Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General

Danny Carr, Jefferson County (AL) District Attorney's Office
Adam Williamson, Durham County (NC) District Attorney's Office
Terry Wiley, Alameda County (CA) District Attorney's Office
Perry Paylor, Prince George's County (MD) State's Attorney's Office

Please register in advance and join the conversation. This event will be virtual via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook. If you would like to attend, please visit https://www.eventbrite.com/event/caught-in-the-crossfire-tickets-137611705315?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery to register.

For more information, contact: Perry Paylor, plpaylor@co.pg.md.us
—Office of State's Attorney's for Prince George's County

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CGES HISTORY (PART 3)

The school had originally been built on land that had been part of the Surratt Farm. In August of 1878, a deed to the land was granted to the Board of School Commissioners. The building was similar to other Bureau schools in that it was a one-room frame structure. The original building remained in use until 1929, when it was replaced by a concrete structure.

The old building was not replaced without controversy and argument. Beginning in January of 1925, patrons of the Clinton Colored School No. 1, District 9, formally the Robeystown School, began petitioning for a new building. The first petition was refused, although the building had been in use for 58 years. In January of 1926, the board agreed to replace the building after the patrons offered to raise five dollars towards its construction. The board authorized construction including \$2,200 in the budget for the new school. The new building was completed in 1929 and remained in use until the 1950s, when it was sold to the Clinton American Legion Post #249 for \$43,000.

The new school, for two hundred students, was built on a farm in the Clinton Grove area, where it remains today with modifications made to it in the 1970s to accommodate six hundred students.

We hope you have enjoyed the history of the school. It is one of the oldest schools in Prince George's County, and its students should know about its history. You can login for editors at (<http://ektron.pgcps.org/login.aspx>). Clinton Grove Elementary School is located at 9420 Temple Hill Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Bowie State University "Office of Alumni Engagement" "Live at 5" Facebook Chat on January 13, 2021 was with Johnetta Hardy, Executive Director BSU Entrepreneurship Academy. This recognized "thought Leader" in entrepreneurship who has created four companies and counseled over 3000 businesses. This dedicated professional has leveraged her passion and dedication to create our amazing center that is home to the next generation of business leaders.

BSU AT A GLANCE

Want to stay in the loop with BSU? Make sure you check your inbox every Saturday at 7:00 a.m. for the latest issue of BSU news, events, and alumni profiles. BSU at a Glance is a quick read to keep yourself up to date with your alma mater. We are #Bowie BOLD, #BSU 4 LIFE.

CONGRATULATIONS

A Certificate was presented to Shonnita Lee to acknowledge the successful completion of the required course work from School of Certified Lay Ministry, Class of 2018-2020 from the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church on November 14, 2020.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

A message from Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, President, Bowie State University. "It is with great sadness that I share news of the passing of Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Sr., who served as the fourth president of Bowie State University from 1968-1977. Under his leadership, the university saw tremendous growth in enrollment, curriculum enhancements and a new program in social work. He also moved the university to the next level with the first offering of a graduate degree, the Master of Education, and establishment of a Graduate Division."

"After retiring from BSU, Dr. Myers remained a champion for historically Black colleges and universities, serving as president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education for more than 20 years. He later joined Minority Access, Inc. to promote diversity in universities and corporate workplaces".

"Dr. Myers has maintained his connection with Bowie State participating in the university's 150th anniversary celebration in 2015. I was most pleased with his attendance at my inauguration in 2018."

"All of us working in higher education today we owe a great deal to Dr. Myers. I ask all members of the BSU community to join me in offering condolences to his family during this sorrowful time."

"A memorial service is being planned for the spring. The family is also planning to establish endowed scholarships in Dr. Myers' name at Bowie State University and Morgan State University. Go to the Samuel L Myers Memorial Fund at Bowie State University, go to bowiestate.edu/give to make contributions to the fund. Donors may put in the comment box: Designated for Samuel L. Myers Memorial Fund. More information will be forthcoming." Informative received in my email address inbox from BSU.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Congratulations to Wendell and Florella Wallace, Steven and Denice Bouyer Carter who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in the month of February.

COMMUNITY

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should I Wait Until Age 70 to Claim?

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

Dear Rusty: I have read your answers to the commonly asked question of “When should I claim social security benefits.” You always say one should wait as long as possible (up to age 70) to get the maximum monthly benefit. But I have not seen you address the matter of all the money you could have collected if you start drawing sooner and how many years it will take, if you wait, to recoup all that money.

I am now 64. I have always planned to wait until at least 66 and possibly to 70 to start collecting. I have no health issues and expect to live well into my 90's. When I tell people this, they question why I am leaving so much money on the table by waiting. At age 66 I'd get \$1671 per month and, at 70, \$2161. Between those two ages I could collect \$73,524. It will take me many years to recoup all that money if I wait until 70 to begin, right? When I consider this, I question why I am waiting! Please help clear up my confusion and tell me whether I am doing the right thing by waiting to claim.

Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused: You are correct that I always try to make people aware of their option to get a bigger Social Security benefit by waiting longer to claim. But I also always stress that the decision to do that should consider several things - most notably, current need for the money, health, and anticipated longevity. Said another way, delaying until age 70 doesn't make much sense if you won't live long enough to at least “break even.” Nevertheless, your point is very well taken - not a lot is written about benefits not taken when you wait until a later age to claim. I actually have written about that before, but I'm happy to evaluate your specific personal situation.

Using the numbers you provided, if you were to claim your \$1671 benefit starting at your full retirement age (FRA) you would collect \$73,524 over the 44-month period to age 70, when you could get the \$2161 benefit. So how long would it take to break even if you wait until age 70 to claim? Well, the difference between your age 70 benefit and your FRA benefit is \$490. So, if you wait and get the higher benefit at age 70, it will take you about 12.5 years to recover that \$73,524 (\$73,524 divided by \$490 = 150 months = 12.5 years). So, here's where longevity comes in. According to Social Security, average longevity for a man your age today is about 84, so if you meet or exceed average longevity, you'll collect more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim. And you'll be getting that higher monthly benefit amount throughout your later years, a good way to offset inflation. Indeed, that higher benefit lasts for the rest of your life, and it also means a larger survivor benefit for your wife if you predecease her. As your widow, your wife will get 100% of the amount you are receiving when you pass, if she has reached her full retirement age and if her widow's benefit is more than her own. And 100% of your age 70 benefit is quite a bit more than 100% of your earlier benefits.

I hope this helps clarify your confusion about whether to claim now, or at your FRA, or to wait even longer to age 70. Here is a link to an article I previously published on this topic: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-doing-a-breakeven-analysis/. But from what you've shared with me, I don't see anything wrong with your plan to continue waiting until at least your FRA—and possibly until age 70—to claim, especially since you expect to live well into your 90s.

The 2.3 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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)/PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

ONLINE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION SCHEDULE

2nd Saturdays at 11:00 am
4th Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Contact:
recruitment@pgcasa.org

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CHILD'S STORY.™



www.pgcasa.org

#EYESONKIDS

Gambling Risks for Youth May Be Taught in Maryland High Schools

By PATRICK HAUF
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan 21, 2021)— Maryland high schools may soon be required to adopt a curriculum on gambling addiction, depending on the fate of one bill in the state legislature.

SB0243, sponsored by Sen. Bryan Simonaire, R-Anne Arundel, directs the Maryland State Department of Education to develop a program for local schools to teach high school students the dangers of gambling.

Local school districts would have the option to use an existing gambling curriculum or to establish a new curriculum, according to Simonaire.

“From a governmental policy standpoint, the state receives money from gambling revenues that can be used to help other priorities in our state, but also adversely enables many citizens to become gambling addicts, which creates other issues for the state,” he told Capital News Service.

Simonaire cited numerous studies in arguing the need for required education on the risks of gambling.

Multiple studies (<https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/documents/22/risk-factors-for-problem-gambling.pdf>) have shown (<https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FY16CPGAnnual%20Report.FINAL.pdf>) that people aged 18 to 34 are at the highest risk of developing a gambling addiction.

The risk of gambling addiction is higher among those in lower socioeconomic classes and increases the earlier they begin gambling in adolescence, according to the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, in Australia.

The Maryland Health Department raises revenue to treat gambling addiction through the Problem Gambling Fund. (<https://case-text.com/statute/code-of-maryland/article->

[state-government/title-9-miscellaneous-executive-agencies/subtitle-1a-video-lottery-terminals/section-9-1a-33-problem-gambling-fund](https://case-text.com/statute/code-of-maryland/article-))

Annual payments of \$425 per slot machine and \$500 per table game go to this fund every year, according to Maryland law.

Simonaire expressed support for these funds, but said there should be a greater focus on educating young people before they get addicted.

Simonaire proposed a similar bill last year that was passed nearly unanimously by the Senate but was not voted on in the House of Delegates due to the early ending of the legislative session amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's bill is identical to the amended version from last year, according to Simonaire.

“I have worked extremely hard to provide consensus among the stakeholders,” he told Capital News Service. “At this point, I believe there won't be any opposition to the bill this year.”

Two lawmakers opposed Simonaire's bill last year: Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, and Sen. Cheryl Kagan, D-Montgomery.

Kagan told Capital News Service that she will oppose the bill again this year.

“It is a widely held philosophy that the state should not mandate curriculum requirements on our 24 local school systems,” she told Capital News Service. “Our Local Boards of Education were elected to represent their communities and are best equipped to decide the curriculum for students in their county.”

Pinsky, who is the chair of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, did not respond for comment on whether he will oppose the bill again.

Simonaire told the committee during a Wednesday meeting that the Maryland As-

sociation of Boards of Education will no longer be opposing his bill as it did last year. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA7LVcSomv0&feature=youtu.be>)

However, there is still hesitation from some local school districts to adopt a statewide required curriculum.

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and Anne Arundel County Public School system each had a spokesperson testify against the bill last year.

A spokesperson for each group told Capital News Service that they will continue to oppose the bill this year.

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners provided Capital News Service with its written testimony against this year's bill, stating that the school system does not want a new, mandated curriculum to take time away from other health topics such as opioids, abuse, consent, and healthy eating.

Maryland has a deep history of gambling that goes back to the local popularity of the centuries-old tradition of horse racing.

(<https://www.onlineunitedstatescasinos.com/states/maryland-gambling/>)

Horse racing became legal in Maryland in 1870 and regulations were established in 1912, according to Maryland Matters.

Regulation of modern forms of gambling have been established in recent decades: The state lottery was approved in 1972 and casinos in 2008.

Maryland voters approved of legalized sports betting on the ballot in November via Question 2 with the implication that the government revenue goes to education.

Simonaire told the Capital News Service that he hopes for his bill to be voted on in the Senate by the end of January.

If passed, the local curriculums will begin being taught in the 2022–2023 school year, according to the bill. (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0243?ys=2021RS>)

Maryland Legislation Aids School Children Who Have Seizures

By TOM HINDLE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Jan. 21, 2021)— Brynleigh Shillinger's seizures started when she was just 9 months old.

And when she started Kindergarten, her mother began lobbying for a law that would mandate teachers are trained to help her daughter if she got into distress at school.

In 2019, Lauren Shillinger, of Frederick County, called her Maryland state lawmakers about a bill.

The legislation would increase protections for children who experience seizures in school and mandate at least two staff members are trained how to medically respond.

All teachers would need to take online seizure recognition coursework every year—provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

The bill has been dubbed “Brynleigh's Act” after Shillinger's daughter, whose rare genetic disorder, tuberous sclerosis complex, has caused her to have as many as 25 seizures per day.

Del. Kenn Kerr, D-Frederick, has sponsored the bill, HB0370, noting that approximately 10 percent of people will have a seizure in their lifetime.

He and his co-sponsors are preparing for the chance that a student could experience one for the first time during school hours.

“The likelihood that the first seizure will happen at school is pretty high,” Kerr said.

Per the bill—also filed in the Senate as SB0225—those who respond will benefit from a Good Samaritan clause, thereby removing them from civil liability if they act responsibly.

Additionally, the legislation denotes that students diagnosed with epilepsy or seizure disorders should have a full medical record on file—as well as any prescribed medication ready to be used.

That's not something Maryland schools have offered before.

“There's really an inconsistent and patchworked response to children's needs,” said Lauren DiBitetto, an advocate for the bill.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America will provide all the necessary coursework, which will be free.

“If an adult is in a room and a seizure happens, you can't wait for a nurse or other medical personnel,” Abbey Roudebush, senior manager of government relations and advocacy at the Epilepsy Foundation of America, told Capital News Service.

The foundation has sponsored numerous bills in states across the country, as a part of its Seizure Safe Schools Initiative.

Five states—Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, New Jersey and Illinois—have already passed similar legislation, and 18 others have bills pending that could address the same issue.

As of 2020, approximately 59,900 people in Maryland are living with epilepsy, of which 7,900 are children, according to a release from the Epilepsy Foundation of Maryland.

Sen. Ronald Young, D-Frederick, the Senate sponsor, said he hopes that this bill would help protect those 7,900.

“Brynleigh's Act helps ensure that students with seizure disorders have the resources they need to go to school without fear for their safety,” Young said in a release.

The bill also aims to inform students identify signs of a seizure and the appropriate response.

There are numerous types of seizures, and they are often mistaken with fainting, or in some cases, simply daydreaming.

“We need to know the signs of seizures,” said Diana Briemann, an educator at Anne Arundel County Schools.

Shillinger said she was also concerned about the stigmas surrounding epilepsy.

Per the American Academy of Pediatrics, seizures are one of the three most common emergencies in schools across America, yet there's a lack of understanding about them.

For young children, especially in school environments, overcoming those stigmas can be difficult.

“Everyone has something going on. Brynleigh's is TSC and epilepsy,” Shillinger said.

A state nursing association supports the legislation, pointing out that not every school in Maryland has a full-time nurse on staff.

“Until Maryland can have a full time registered school nurse in every school building all day and every day, it's impor-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN SHILLINGER

Brynleigh Shillinger at her home in Frederick County, Maryland, in January 2021. A bill in the General Assembly is named after her.

tant to have measures in place to keep children like Brynleigh... safe,” said Kristy Gorman, president of the Maryland Association of School Nurses.

Still, the bill has its skeptics. Numerous state legislators voiced concerns regarding emphasizing seizure disorders over other common conditions, such as diabetes.

“I like a lot of stuff in this bill and it makes a lot of sense,” Del. Eric Luedtke, D-Montgomery, said at a virtual hearing Wednesday. “But I do think it needs some amendments.”

Luedtke said the Good Samaritan clause in the bill may need clarification as that provision already exists in Maryland.

Shillinger said she'd be open to changes. Kerr and Young introduced a similar bill last year, but it was put on hold due to the shortened session brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They changed some specifics of the law, opting that only two people at every school need to be trained in seizure response—a shift from last year's proposal that every teacher had to be educated immediately.

If passed, it would take effect in the 2021–22 academic year.

“We just want her and others to be able to be safe,” Shillinger said.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Newly Inaugurated, President Biden and Vice President Harris Confront Historic Challenges of Pandemic, Racial Justice

"A cry for racial justice some 400 years in the making moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear. And now, a rise in political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront, and we will defeat. To overcome these challenges—to restore the soul and to secure the future of America—requires more than words. It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity."

—President Joe Biden, Inaugural Address

Yesterday I had the honor of attending the Inau-

guration of President Biden and Vice President Harris.

It was an inauguration unlike any in my lifetime, and perhaps unlike any in American history.

The twin pandemics that plague our nation—COVID-19 and racially-motivated violence—meant there were no cheering crowds of hundreds of thousands. Those of us who were invited to attend were tested for COVID and required to wear masks. 25,000 National Guard members were on hand to prevent a repeat of the deadly riot of January 6.

But the inauguration was historic for other, more hopeful reasons, as well. Kamala Harris became the first woman, the first African American, and the first

person of South Asian descent to hold the office of Vice President. A 22-year-old Black woman, the nation's first Youth Poet Laureate, captivated the nation with her vision of hope and healing.

It was a ceremony that was at once uplifting and weighty with the life-and-death challenges that face the new administration.

Among the very first actions he took upon assuming office—after mandating masks and social distancing on federal property—was directing every federal agency to review its state of racial equity and deliver an action plan within 200 days to address any disparities in policies and programs.

The Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government reads, in part, "The Federal Government's goal in advancing equity is to provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Consistent with these aims, each agency must assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups. Such assessments will better equip agencies to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all."

The order also rescinds the Trump administration's 1776 Commission, which "sought to erase America's history of racial injustice," as well as Trump's order preventing federal agencies and con-

tractors from holding diversity and inclusion trainings, which the National Urban League sued to overturn.

It was an encouraging sign from a President who campaigned on a promise to bridge the nation's racial divide. He has assembled the most racially diverse presidential Cabinet in U.S. history, with people of color making up half of the nominees for Cabinet positions and Cabinet-level positions.

In a memo issued Saturday, the President's chief of staff promised "significant early actions to advance equity and support communities of color and other underserved communities." He was not specific about these actions, but President Biden has promised he would create a national police oversight commission in his first 100 days.

The National Urban League stands ready to assist and support President Biden and Vice President Harris as they tackle what the memo called the "four overlapping and compounding crises: the COVID-19 crisis, the resulting economic crisis, the climate crisis, and a racial equity crisis."

We also stand prepared to hold the Administration accountable to its commitments.

In the words of our Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, "We will not march back to what was but move to what shall be, a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce, and free."

—January 21, 2020

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

In This Defining Moment Truth Must Prevail

Two extraordinary voices, Sherrilyn Ifill, head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), and Bryan Stevenson, head of the Equal Justice Initiative and a Children's Defense Fund board member, recently conducted a public conversation called "This Defining Moment." As Ifill said: "I think it goes without saying that this is one of the most difficult moments that we have faced in this country, certainly in the context of civil rights and racial justice. I don't think it is any exaggeration to say that this is one of the most challenging periods of many generations and that what hangs in the balance is the very integrity of our democracy at this moment." Both agreed the political implications of the moment are linked to a long overdue national reckoning with our

nation's roots in genocide, White supremacy, and false narratives of racial difference.

Ifill asked Stevenson how he is diagnosing this moment: "Some people say we've entered the nadir; some people say this is the last gasp of White supremacy. How are you describing it?" He answered: "I think we are finally recognizing that the issues we have in this country are deep, and complex, and that the kind of superficial solutions that people have been proposing for a really long time are going to be inadequate. I think our long history of racial inequality has created a kind of smog that has polluted the environment. And it doesn't matter whether you live in California, or Mississippi, or Minnesota, New Hampshire—we're all burdened by this toxic environment

created by this long history of racial inequality. And Sherrilyn, you and I have heard for most of our lives that that stuff will just dissipate; if we just wait long enough, it will eventually go away. And I think what we now realize is that the kind of toxins we are dealing with are not going to disappear. We're actually going to have to do some things to clean this environment, to clean this air."

He continued: "We're going to have to do really difficult things over the next couple of decades. This is a 400-year problem. It's not just a moment. We can't just pass one law, just elect one person. Twelve years ago, you and I were constantly being asked, 'Aren't we post-racial now in America?' It was frustrating to both of us because it seemed so disconnected from this long history. And I think the encouraging thing about this moment is that many more people are now reckoning that we have a cancer, and this cancer will not go away without a very invasive, important treatment. We're going to have to go through the chemotherapy of truth telling. We're going to have to go through the really difficult process of dealing with this long history and the multiple manifestations of it. And that means that our work is just beginning."

Ifill agreed: "You describe this as a cancer that requires the chemotherapy of truth telling... I often talk about it as rot at the foundation, and how we have to

put our hard hats on. That's how I talk about civil rights work: that we're democracy maintenance workers, and we put our hard hats on, and we have to dig out, and sometimes there's real rot in the foundation. And when you find rot in the foundation, you have to dig it all out. You can't just paper it over and spackle it. You have to get in there, and get it all out."

So much of the rot in our national foundation was exposed over the last four years of Trumpism. Are we finally ready to do the difficult work required to fix it and lay a new foundation for the nation we say we want to become? Can we heal the preexisting unequal conditions exacerbated by the pandemic? Will we finally build the just, safe, strong, nurturing nation all of our children need and deserve?

Sherrilyn Ifill warned: "I think that this moment where what we're seeing is just an effort to create an infrastructure of minority rule, racial minority rule that would carry on in perpetuity, is really the alarm bell that we needed." That alarm is sounding louder every passing day as the unsuccessful illegal efforts to overturn the election and lies being set in place to justify future voter suppression are supported and condoned by those who would benefit from the infrastructure of minority rule. The integrity of our democracy remains under vicious attack. We must all keep our hard hats on and rise together to meet this moment.

Maryland Mourns from A1

He was never too big to reach out, even sending handwritten notes, Lamont said.

Also paying respects to Miller were people from Clinton whose lives he'd touched, profoundly.

Bonny Flowers, 61, lives in Waldorf but met Miller growing up in Clinton.

Left homeless after her divorce, [Flowers was housed in one of Miller's] apartments at his Clinton law office.

When Miller's sister needed the apartment for office space, the family moved Flowers into the space above the family grocery store, B.K. Miller's, where she remained for more than seven years.

"He had a heart for the community," Flowers said.

Miller's career was not without controversy.

He drew criticism for opposing a 2012 Senate bill that legalized same-sex marriage in Maryland, though he recognized at the time that he was on the wrong side of history, according to The Baltimore Sun (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-same-sex-debate-20120223-story.html>).

In 1989, Miller made profane remarks about Baltimore before a major fundraiser in the city.

Miller later apologized, but his remarks likely derailed any chances of becoming governor, according to The Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/mike-miller-dead/2021/01/15/92910810-34b6-11eb-a997-1f4c53d2a747_story.html)

While his political foes were met with forceful backlash, the general public often benefited from his good graces.

Mary McManus, 77, went to Miller's law office after her first car accident.

And after her second.

In fact, she said that almost any time she needed help, she felt she could go to Miller, who would greet her with an affectionate, "Hey girlfriend."

McManus still lives in Clinton, while her daughter, Lizbeth, 47, has moved minutes away to Upper Marlboro.

Miller's law office sponsored Lizbeth's beauty pageants when she was a student at Surrattsville.

Years later, Miller was heading the Senate that granted Lizbeth a scholarship to study journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she graduated in just three years.

Miller told Lizbeth he didn't give that scholarship to just anyone, she recalled, adding the pair regularly kept in touch.

After writing to Miller about her desire to work in politics, he helped her land an internship with Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Maryland.

Though Lizbeth no longer works in politics, hers certainly weren't the only political aspirations that Miller inspired.

"I looked up to him since I was a kid, I don't think I would have ever gotten into politics if it hadn't been for him," said Calvert County Commissioner Kelly McConkey. "You kind of went to Miller to get the okay."

McConkey remembers as early as 5 years old his parents telling him they'd be voting for Mike Miller.

Growing up in Camp Springs, McConkey knew Miller, who was a few miles away in Clinton, but the two men became close after both moved to Calvert County in 1999.

Last May, McConkey was flown to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore after a car slammed his vehicle's rear when he was stopped at a red light in Dunkirk.

He recalled that Miller called the hospital numerous times and tried to go see him, despite being in the midst of chemotherapy treatment.

"There's not gonna be another Mike Miller, I can tell you that," McConkey said.

Michael Eric Dyson to Keynote Annual Uplifting Black Men Conference

By PRESS OFFICER Virginia Tech News

BLACKSBURG, Va. (Jan. 21, 2021)—Virginia Tech's Student Success Center has announced that the Sixth Annual Uplifting Black Men Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, Feb. 27. Building upon previous thematic conferences, "I Got Next" has been selected as the theme for this year's virtual conference.

The mission of "I Got Next" is to inspire and empower this generation of Black men to achieve any goals that they want—to promote the importance of the journey and the work associated. This conference will provide a virtual space for participants to plan, execute, and assess their educational and personal goals with the help of renowned presenters.

The event's keynote speaker will be Michael Eric Dyson, Distinguished University

Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies, College of Arts and Science, and Distinguished University Professor of Ethics and Society, The Divinity School, and Centennial Professor at Vanderbilt University. Dyson is one of America's premier public intellectuals and author of more than 20 books, including seven New York Times bestsellers. A contributing opinion writer for the New York Times and political analyst for MSNBC, Dyson is recipient of two NAACP Image Awards and the 2020 Langston Hughes Festival Medallion.

Former President Barack Obama has said, "Everybody who speaks after Michael Eric Dyson pales in comparison."

"I Got Next" is a call to action—a phrase that keeps the dream attainable and focuses one on the goal at hand. Without that, dreams' purpose are lost, and without purpose, function is lost. "No matter where I am or where you

are, you have to know that there is always a next step," Dyson says. "We want to pose some specific questions to prepare our listeners."

How do you prepare for the next game? What game are you playing? (Either athletic or life situation)

What is the next step?

These questions and scenarios play a vital role in preparing for the next steps in life. It's more than just a game. It's applicable to life, and the journey awaits. Collectively, a theme has been curated to describe the preparation, planning, and execution necessary to master life's journey.

To register for the Uplifting Black Men Conference, visit <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/join/register/tJIsuqtqDMiE9UWzWCgx368-ca4Uq-uNcBd>. For those wanting to present at the conference, visit https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_be00LHXqhOLrFj.

Please direct questions or comments to Michael R. Williams at michaelrw@vt.edu.

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